

Record Counts for Inpatient, Emergency Department, and Ambulatory Surgery Databases
HCAI Patient-Level Data Sets
v. 06/25/2026

Number of Discharges (PDD) or Encounters (ED or AS) by Year

YEAR	HOSPITAL INPATIENT (PDD)			EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED)			AMBULATORY SURGERY (AS)			AMBULATORY SURGERY (AS) - By License Type*				
	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	TOTAL	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	TOTAL	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	TOTAL	HospBased	% Chg	Freestanding†	% Chg	TOTAL
1983	1,777,151	1,774,723	3,551,874											
1984	1,779,100	1,758,994	3,538,094											
1985	1,748,466	1,758,377	3,506,843											
1986	1,748,606	1,755,700	3,504,306											
1987	1,766,939	1,776,069	3,543,008											
1988	1,798,478	1,798,244	3,596,722											
1989	1,810,627	1,816,579	3,627,206											
1990	1,852,230	1,859,563	3,711,793											
1991	1,839,185	1,885,874	3,725,059											
1992	1,866,311	1,845,744	3,712,055											
1993	1,824,070	1,840,559	3,664,629											
1994	1,817,688	1,807,801	3,625,489											
1995	1,813,596	1,815,726	3,629,322											
1996	1,825,108	1,807,059	3,632,167											
1997	1,839,264	1,846,442	3,685,706											
1998	1,862,069	1,863,353	3,725,422											
1999	1,886,138	1,889,573	3,775,711											
2000	1,910,991	1,905,896	3,816,887											
2001	1,939,463	1,924,627	3,864,090											
2002	1,954,654	1,961,709	3,916,363											
2003	1,980,176	1,999,449	3,979,625											
2004	1,973,912	1,983,728	3,957,640											
2005	1,991,072	1,999,183	3,990,255	4,297,515	4,259,184	8,556,699	1,410,865	1,380,288	2,791,153	1,738,755		1,052,398		2,791,153
2006	1,989,671	2,007,511	3,997,182	4,268,518	4,256,870	8,525,388	1,437,656	1,437,326	2,874,982	1,733,548	-0.30%	1,141,434	8.46%	2,874,982
2007	2,000,280	2,012,494	4,012,774	4,421,717	4,364,548	8,786,265	1,502,944	1,495,881	2,998,825	1,761,234	1.60%	1,237,591	8.4%	2,998,825
2008	2,024,188	1,993,810	4,017,998	4,581,653	4,444,934	9,026,587	1,491,325	1,360,969	2,852,294	1,808,748	2.70%	1,043,546	-15.7%	2,852,294
2009	1,989,688	1,995,478	3,985,166	4,904,704	4,964,209	9,868,913	1,210,746	1,165,126	2,375,872	1,813,517	0.26%	562,355	-46.1%	2,375,872
2010	1,980,349	1,990,573	3,970,922	4,872,877	4,857,571	9,730,448	1,106,671	1,068,912	2,175,583	1,816,746	0.18%	358,837	-36.2%	2,175,583
2011	1,979,998	1,953,241	3,933,239	5,080,856	5,034,792	10,115,648	1,056,550	1,017,249	2,073,799	1,830,315	0.75%	243,484	-32.1%	2,073,799
2012	1,951,487	1,940,284	3,891,771	5,259,604	5,309,739	10,569,343	971,115	963,100	1,934,215	1,852,353	1.20%	81,862	-66.4%	1,934,215
2013	1,911,326	1,895,585	3,806,911	5,500,690	5,397,195	10,897,885	979,656	984,786	1,964,442	1,876,864	1.32%	87,578	7.0%	1,964,442
2014	1,884,738	1,909,521	3,794,259	5,722,581	5,839,969	11,562,550	1,033,879	993,598	2,027,477	1,931,988	2.94%	95,489	9.0%	2,027,477
2015	1,918,408	1,914,635	3,833,043	6,298,309	6,069,407	12,367,716	1,036,451	1,061,001	2,097,452	2,005,595	3.81%	91,857	-3.8%	2,097,452
2016	1,920,122	1,922,499	3,842,621	6,408,522	6,236,515	12,645,037	1,076,523	1,078,285	2,154,808	2,051,286	2.28%	103,522	12.7%	2,154,808
2017	1,928,966	1,927,225	3,856,191	6,476,023	6,405,723	12,881,746	1,081,984	1,082,355	2,164,339	2,056,505	0.25%	107,834	4.2%	2,164,339
2018	1,916,661	1,902,720	3,819,381	6,439,783	6,220,650	12,660,433	1,101,457	1,090,437	2,191,894	2,085,487	1.41%	106,407	-1.3%	2,191,894
2019	1,918,275	1,908,925	3,827,200	6,449,144	6,398,166	12,847,310	1,107,514	1,123,648	2,231,162	2,136,876	2.46%	94,286	-11.4%	2,231,162
2020	1,700,576	1,743,956	3,444,532	5,140,544	4,883,307	10,023,851	825,654	1,035,997	1,861,651	1,785,120	-16.46%	76,531	-18.8%	1,861,651
2021	1,727,295	1,830,292	3,557,587	4,987,072	5,920,778	10,907,850	1,037,101	1,098,051	2,135,152	2,039,349	14.24%	95,803	25.2%	2,135,152
2022	1,762,767	1,840,654	3,603,421	5,874,911	6,405,131	12,280,042	1,099,613	1,122,076	2,221,689	2,120,863	4.00%	100,826	5.2%	2,221,689
2023	1,807,783	1,845,995	3,653,778	6,242,206	6,504,228	12,746,434	1,189,760	1,179,961	2,369,721	2,260,275	6.57%	109,446	8.5%	2,369,721
2024	1,857,594	1,880,705	3,738,299	6,619,267	6,688,190	13,307,457	1,220,358	1,232,885	2,453,243	2,334,952	3.30%	118,291	8.1%	2,453,243
2025	1,882,341	1,904,575	3,786,916	6,642,079	6,588,441	13,230,520	1,260,252	1,279,258	2,539,510	2,418,963	3.60%	120,547	1.9%	2,539,510

*Ambulatory Surgery (AS) data include encounters from general acute care hospitals and licensed freestanding ambulatory surgery clinics, during which at least one ambulatory surgery procedure is performed. A freestanding ambulatory surgery clinic is defined as a surgical clinic licensed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Many facilities that are called ambulatory surgery centers are not required to be licensed as surgical clinics, and do not report data to HCAI. Ambulatory surgery procedures are defined as those procedures performed on an outpatient basis in the general operating rooms, ambulatory surgery rooms, endoscopy units, or cardiac catheterization laboratories of a hospital or a freestanding ambulatory surgery clinic. If a procedure is done elsewhere (such as in a radiology unit), no ambulatory surgery record is required to be filed. If a hospital-based AS encounter results in a same-hospital admission, the AS encounter is combined with the inpatient record. A separate AS record would not be reported for that scenario. When analyzing hospital-based AS records, you may want to include the AS direct admissions, which are identified in the hospital's inpatient data as having ambulatory surgery at the same hospital as the source of admission. For more information see the documentation: <https://hcai.ca.gov/data-and-reports/submit-data/patient-data/edas-reporting/>

†The number of reported AS records declined in 2008 and 2012 because of California clinic licensing law. On September 19, 2007, the Third District Court of Appeals issued the Capen v. Shewry decision holding that all clinics that are owned by a physician or group of physicians are excluded from licensure by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) (see the California clinic licensing law pursuant to Section 1200, et seq. of the California Health and Safety Code). According to the decision, physician-owned clinics are subject to oversight by the Medical Board of California, which reviews certain "outpatient surgery settings," which use anesthesia. CDPH has interpreted the decision as stripping it of the authority to license or regulate any physician-owned surgical clinic, including the authority to issue licenses that physicians request voluntarily. Licensed freestanding ambulatory surgery clinics are required to report encounter data to HCAI; non-licensed clinics are not. Non-licensed clinics were allowed to report data through MIRCal through 2011. Starting in 2012, data from non-licensed clinics has not been accepted.