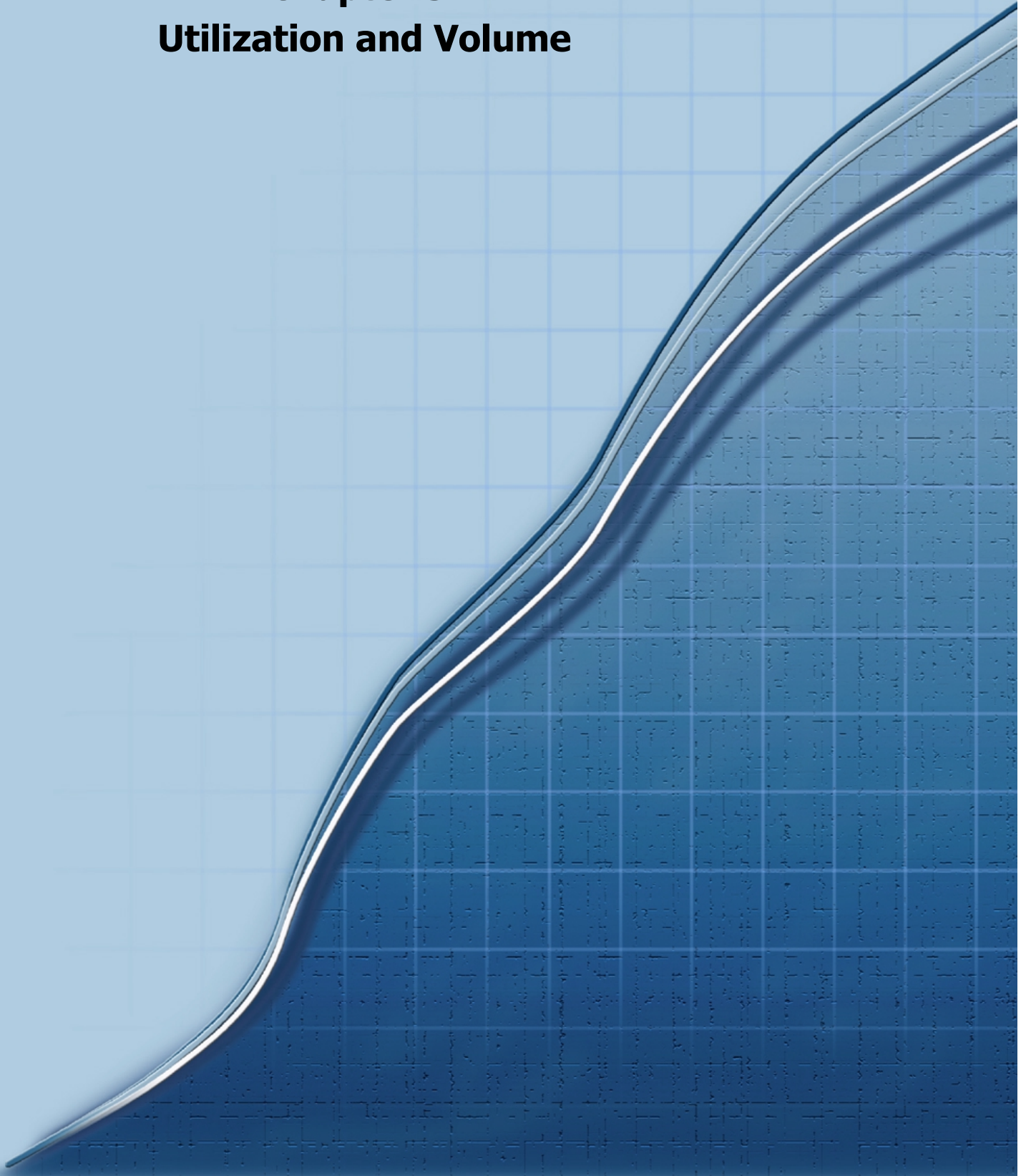


Chapter 3: Utilization and Volume



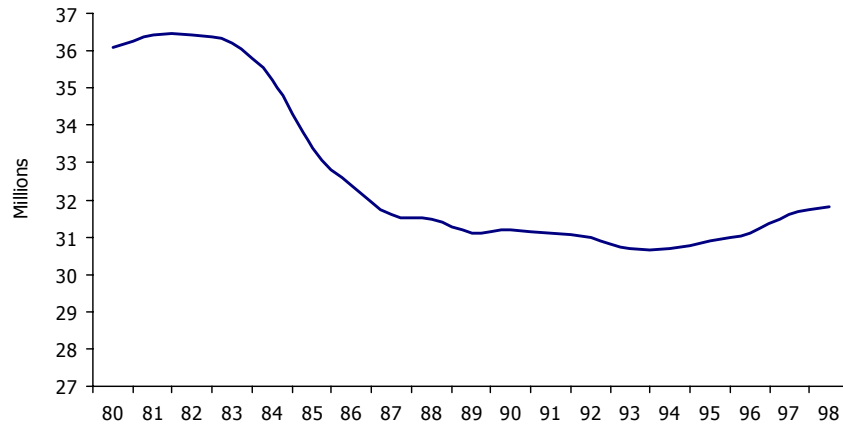
Chapter 3: Utilization and Volume

Community hospital acute care admissions declined 15 percent between 1980 and 1994 and then began slowly trending upward. After declining sharply in the 1980s and more modestly in the early 1990s, admissions per thousand have been flat. Average length of stay has dropped more than a day and a half (or 20 percent) between 1980 and 1998, but the pace of decline has slowed over the last three years. Length of stay by state varies from a high of 11.2 days in Montana to a low of 4.5 days in Oregon and New Mexico. Although inpatient days and days per thousand continue to decline, the rate of decrease has slowed as well (Charts 3.1 - 3.6).

Meanwhile outpatient visits have more than doubled since 1980, and outpatient utilization rates continue to increase at a rapid clip. Outpatient surgeries now represent nearly 60 percent of all surgeries (Charts 3.7 - 3.9).

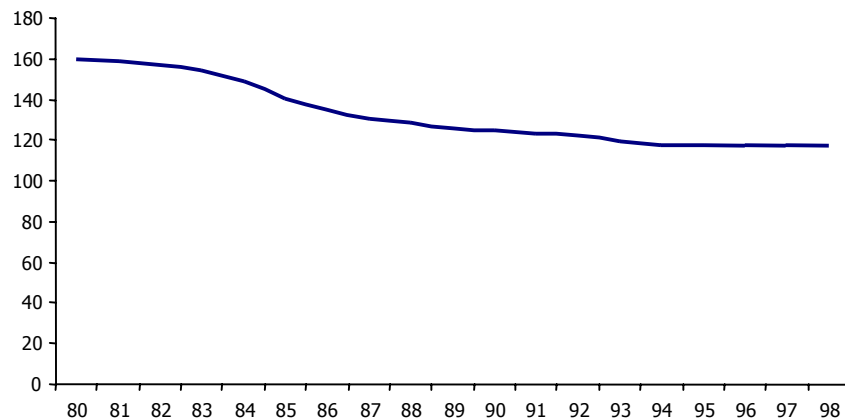


Chart 3.1:
Inpatient Admissions in Community Hospitals
 1980 - 1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1980 - 1998 for community hospitals

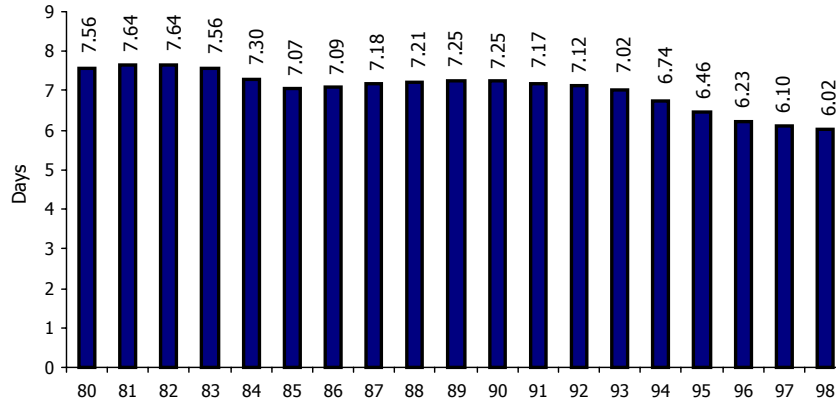
Chart 3.2:
Inpatient Admissions per 1,000 Persons
 1980 - 1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1980 - 1998 for community hospitals and US Census Bureau data

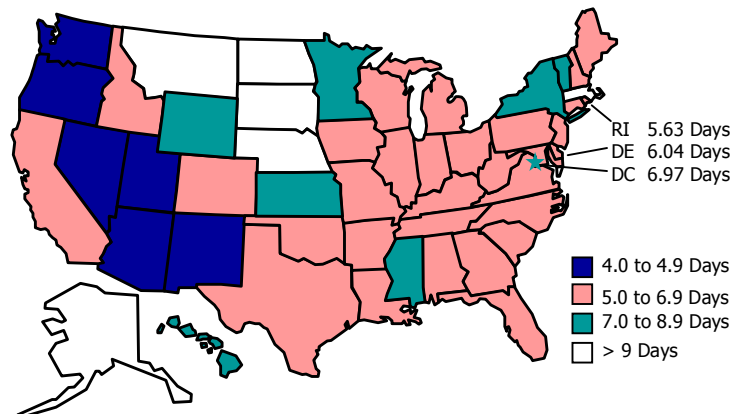


Chart 3.3:
Average Length of Stay in Community Hospitals
1980 - 1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1980 - 1998 for community hospitals

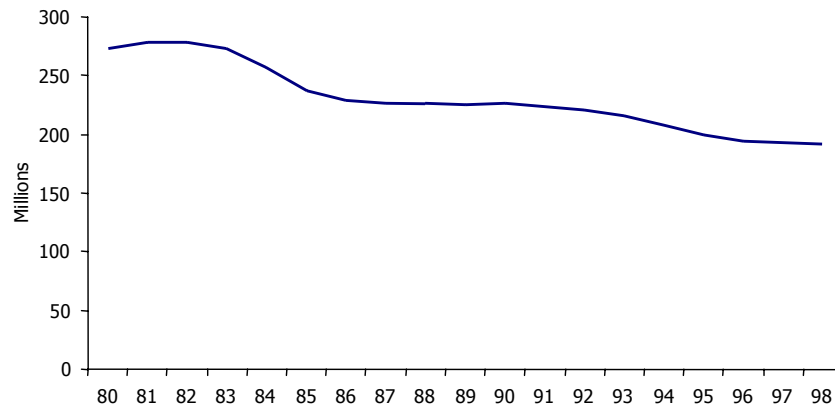
Chart 3.4:
Average Length of Stay in Community Hospitals
by State
1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1998 for community hospitals

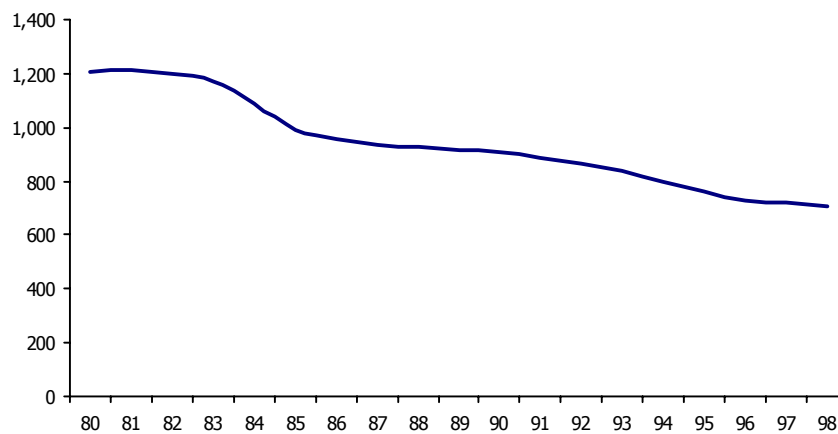


Chart 3.5:
Total Inpatient Days in Community Hospitals
 1980 - 1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1980 - 1998 for community hospitals

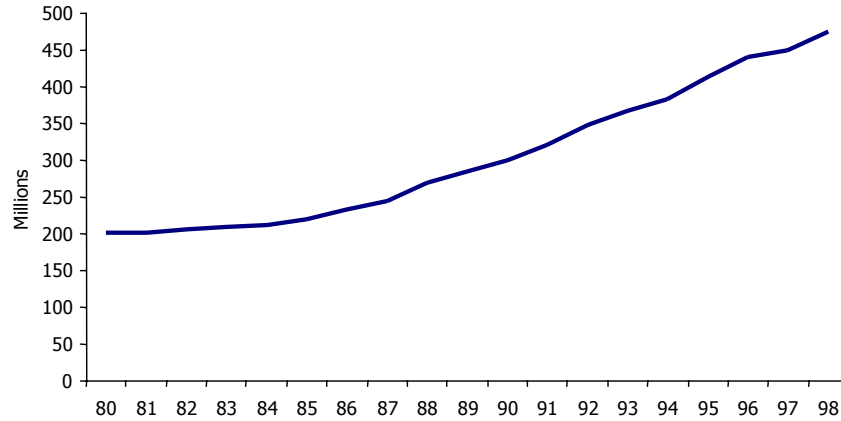
Chart 3.6:
Inpatient Days per 1,000 Persons
 1980 - 1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1980 - 1998 for community hospitals and US Census Bureau data

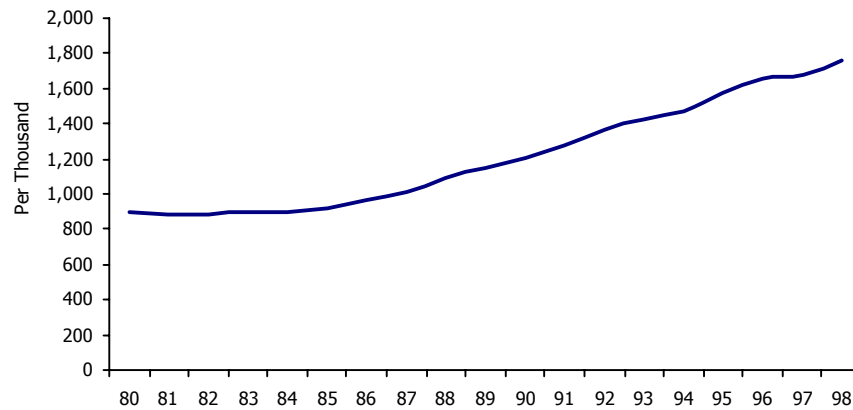


Chart 3.7:
Total Hospital Outpatient Visits
in Community Hospitals
1980 - 1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1980 - 1998 for community hospitals

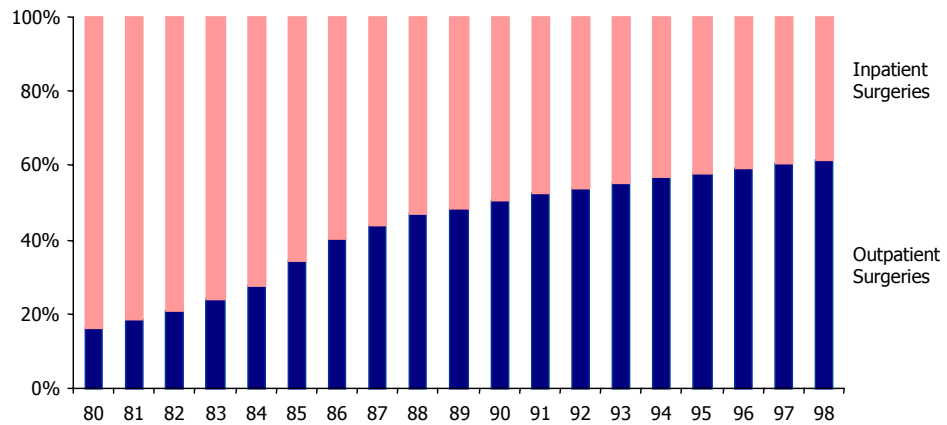
Chart 3.8:
Hospital Outpatient Visits per 1,000 Persons
1980 - 1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1980 - 1998 for community hospitals and US Census Bureau data



Chart 3.9:
Percentage Share of Inpatient vs. Outpatient Surgeries
1980 - 1998



Source: The Lewin Group analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 1980 - 1998 for community hospitals

