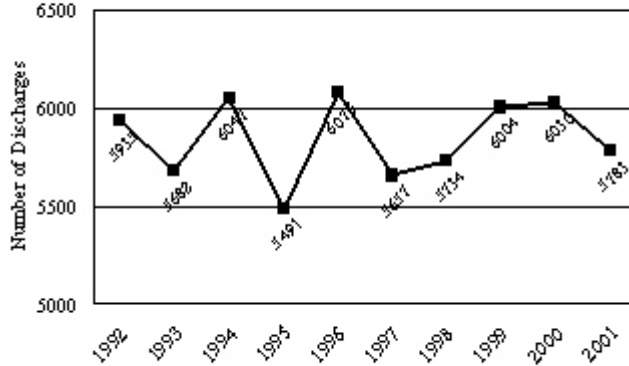


STROKE HOSPITALIZATIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA

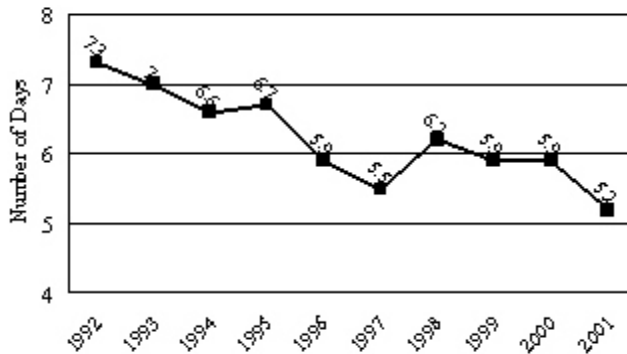
Figure 16. Total Hospital Discharges for Stroke*
WV Residents Discharged from WV Hospitals, 1992-2001



*Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) 14 and 15. See Appendix A for definitions.
Source: WV Health Care Authority

Data obtained from the West Virginia Health Care Authority show that in 2001 there were 5,783 hospitalizations of West Virginia residents in West Virginia hospitals due to stroke. Women accounted for 62% of these; 57% were among persons aged 45-64 and 19% among those aged 85+.

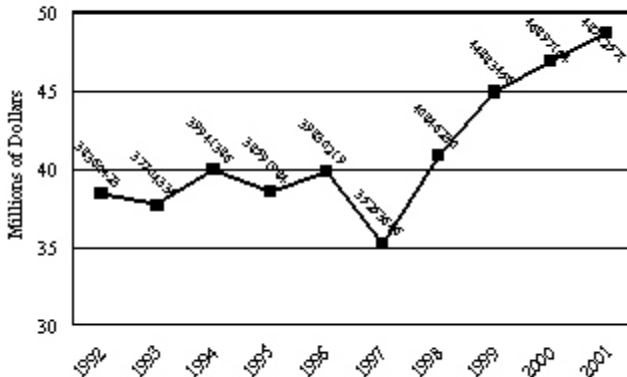
Figure 17. ALOS* of In-Patient Hospitalizations for Stroke**
WV Residents Discharged from WV Hospitals, 1992-2001



*Average Length of Stay
** DRGs: 14 and 15
Source: WV Health Care Authority

There was little variation in the numbers of stroke hospitalizations in the state from 1992-2001 (Figure 16). Over this same time period, however, the average length of stay (ALOS) for a patient with a stroke diagnosis decreased by 29%, from 7.3 days in 1992 to 5.2 days in 2001 (Figure 17). Charges, on the other hand, have risen steadily since 1997, from \$35 million in 1997 to \$49 million in 2001 (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Total Charges for In-Patient Hospitalizations for Stroke
WV Residents Discharged from WV Hospitals, 1992-2001

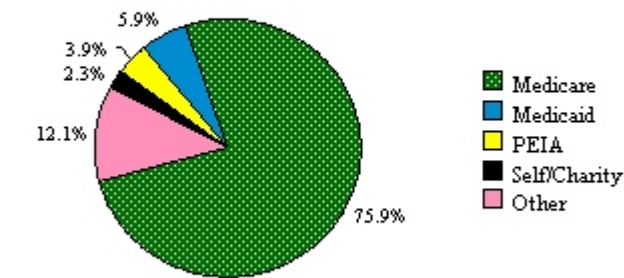


*DRGs 14 and 15
Source: WV Health Care Authority

A breakdown by payer of 2001 hospital charges (\$48,712,571) for stroke is shown in Figure 19. The bulk of the charges (76%) were billed to Medicare, 6% were billed to Medicaid, and 4% to the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA). The remaining charges were billed to other private and government insurance plans or covered by the patient or charity.

A comparison of 2001 rates of stroke hospitalization in the state and the nation is shown in Table 1. The state's overall rate of 32.1 hospitalizations per 10,000 population was higher than the national rate of 27.1. Both men and women were hospitalized for stroke at higher rates in West Virginia than in the nation as a whole. State rates were higher among elderly residents aged 85+.

Figure 19. Total Charges for In-Patient Hospitalizations for Stroke*
Distribution by Payer
WV Residents Discharged from WV Hospitals, 2001



*DRGs 14 and 15
Source: WV Health Care Authority

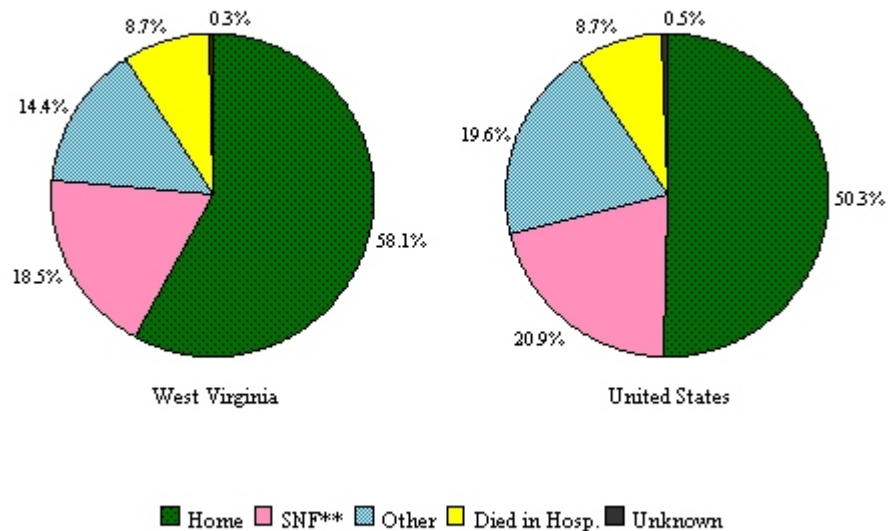
Table 1. Hospitalization Rates* for Stroke
West Virginia and United States, 2001

Characteristic	West Virginia	United States
Total	32.1	27.1
Male	25.2	23.8
Female	38.4	30.3
18-44	2.6	2.7
45-64	25.7	25.9
65-84	135.5	137.9
85+	350.2	345.7

*Rates per 10,000 population

While the same percentage (8.7%) of patients admitted with a diagnosis of stroke die in the hospital both state- and nationwide, a larger percentage of patients who survive and are discharged from hospitals in West Virginia go home, as opposed to a skilled nursing or other facility (116). Nearly six out of ten patients (58.1%) with a stroke diagnosis are discharged to their homes in West Virginia, compared with half of such patients (50.3%) nationally. Figure 20 below illustrates these differences.

Figure 20. Percentage of Hospital Discharges among Stroke* Patients by Outcome
West Virginia and United States, 2000



*DRGs 14 and 15
**Skilled nursing facility
Source: WV Health Care Authority

County rates of stroke hospitalization in 2001 ranged from a low of 6.7 hospitalizations per 10,000 population in Hampshire County residents to a high of 70.7 in Lewis County, as illustrated in Figure 21. The lowest rates were reported in the Eastern Panhandle of the state. Individual county rates are found in Appendix B.

