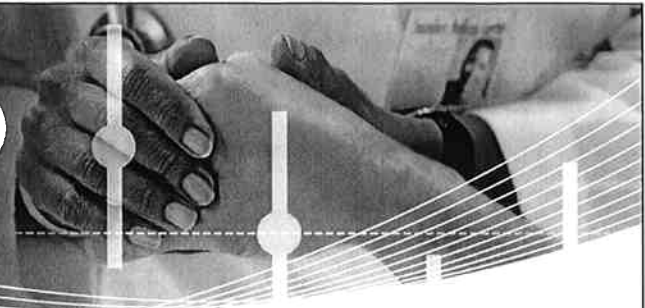


Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR)



HSMR: Information for the Public

The hospital standardized mortality ratio (HSMR) is an important measurement tool for hospitals and health regions that compares a hospital's mortality rate with the overall average rate. When tracked over time, the HSMR indicates how successful hospitals or health regions have been in reducing inpatient deaths and improving care. This measure is not designed to compare hospitals to each other or to guide consumers to a particular hospital. Rather, HSMR helps consumers indirectly by providing hospitals with a starting point to assess mortality rates and identify areas for performance improvement.

Calculating HSMR

The HSMR is a ratio of the actual number of deaths and the predicted number of deaths among patients in acute care hospitals.

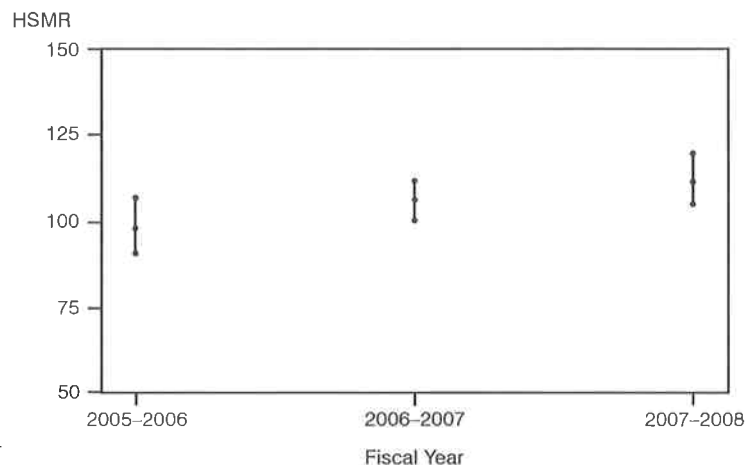
$$\text{HSMR} = \frac{\text{Observed Deaths}}{\text{Predicted Deaths}} \times 100$$

An HSMR equal to 100 suggests that there is no difference between the hospital's mortality rate and the overall average rate; greater than 100 suggests that the local mortality rate is higher than the overall average; and less than 100 suggests that the local mortality rate is lower than the overall average.

- The HSMR is based on diagnosis groups that account for 80% of all deaths in acute care hospitals, excluding patients identified by hospitals as receiving palliative care.
- The HSMR is adjusted for other factors affecting mortality, such as age, sex and length of stay.
- The number of predicted deaths is derived from the average experience of acute care facilities that submit to CIHI's Discharge Abstract Database (DAD).

Tracking Progress

The HSMR can be a real motivator for change. An initial HSMR result can help hospitals or regions to understand their mortality rates. As HSMRs are calculated regularly, a facility can track the change in its HSMR over time. In this way, the facility can assess how effective its implemented strategies have been in reducing overall mortality rates.



Getting to Safer Health Care

HSMRs are used by hospitals in several countries—including the United Kingdom and the United States—to identify strategies for reducing deaths, to monitor changes in performance and, ultimately, to strengthen quality of care. The Canadian HSMR, developed by CIHI, enables eligible acute care facilities across Canada to follow their HSMRs and track their success over time.

Want more information?

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