

The Survey

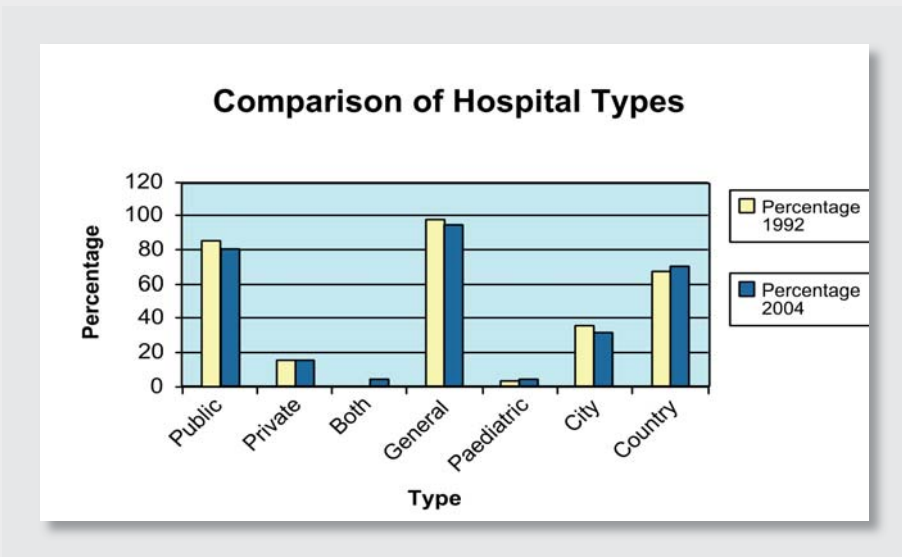
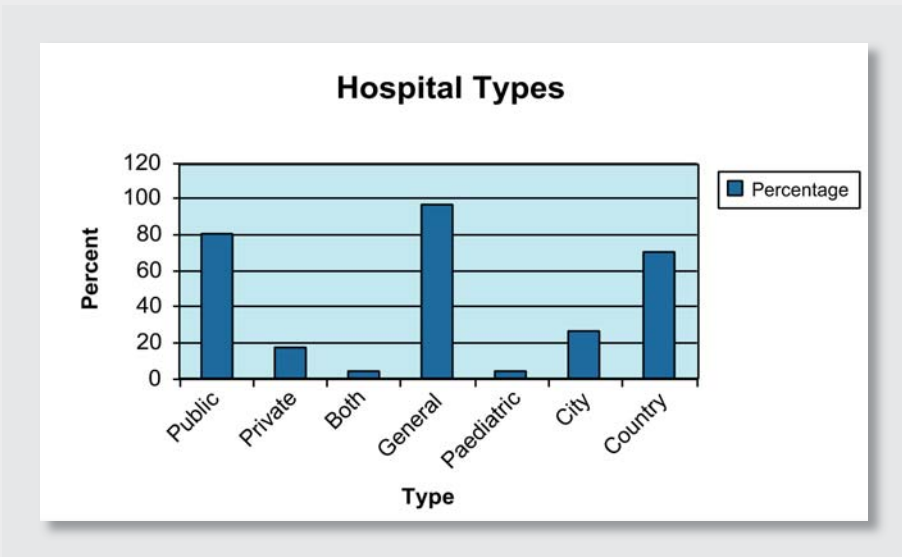
Respondents to the survey

AWCH greatly appreciates the responses of all those who completed and returned the survey questionnaire. A total of 465 questionnaires were sent out, and 239 hospitals responded to the survey (51.4%); of these, 18 surveys were returned to AWCH as unsuitable facilities (e.g. nursing homes) and 24 did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the survey (most commonly, such hospitals had too few paediatric beds to be included).

The 2005 report therefore represents an analysis of 197 hospitals, with every state in Australia represented. The table below shows the distribution of the respondents included in the analysis, and corresponds more or less with the distribution of the Australian population (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2004), with the exception of Victoria, which is under-represented in its response rate.

Of the hospitals included in the results, 79.7% are public, 15.5% are private and 4.8% have both public and private beds. Just over 70% of hospitals (70.9%) are country facilities, and 29.1% are city hospitals. The vast majority (95.4%) are general hospitals, with the remainder being specifically paediatric.

Hospital Type	Percentage
Public	79.7
Private	15.5
Both public and private	4.8
General	95.4
Paediatric	4.6
City	29.1
Country	70.9



The majority of hospitals completing the survey fall into the smaller range of bed availability, with 44.7% of respondents having between five and 12 paediatric beds, 20.1% comprising between 13 and 25 beds, and 6.3% having 26–50 beds. A further 1.9% of respondents each report having 51–104 and 105+ beds, and just over a quarter (25.2%) indicate that the number of paediatric beds they use is variable or flexible, depending upon how many children need hospital beds.

Comparison of paediatric bed availability over time

Paediatric Bed Availability	Percentage 1992	Percentage 2004	% change
5-12	57	45	-21.58
13-25	28	20	-28.21
26-50	11	6	-42.73
51-104	2	1.9	-5.00
105+	2	1.9	-5.00
variable	N/A	25	N/A