

2022 Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting: Updated Rates for Acute Care Event Reports

By **Shawn Kepner, MS¹**

Keywords: acute care, patient safety, reporting rates, hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities

¹Patient Safety Authority

Disclosure: The author declares that they have no relevant or material financial interests.

Submitted
August 11, 2023

Accepted
August 18, 2023

Published
November 15, 2023

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Kepner S. 2022 Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting: Updated Rates for Acute Care Event Reports. *Patient Safety*. 2023;5(3):88054. <https://doi.org/10.33940/011c.88054>

Introduction

In the article published on April 28, 2023, on patient safety trends in 2022,¹ reporting rates for 2022 were calculated based on Q1 and Q2 only, as denominator data for Q3 and Q4 were not yet available. This brief update provides the final rates for 2022 using all quarters of data, contrasting them with preliminary rates based on Q1 and Q2 only.

Methods

This analysis was performed using data extracted from the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Reporting System (PA-PSRS)^a on August 4, 2023, and data obtained from the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4)^b on July 20, 2023. Rates are calculated as the number of reports of events occurring in a given timeframe per 1,000 patient days for hospitals and per 1,000 surgical encounters for ambulatory surgical facilities (ASFs). Since rates

are based on the event occurrence date, and not submission date, some rates in this brief update are slightly different than previously published rates. This is due to reports for events that occurred in prior periods being submitted after the original data extraction dates.

Results

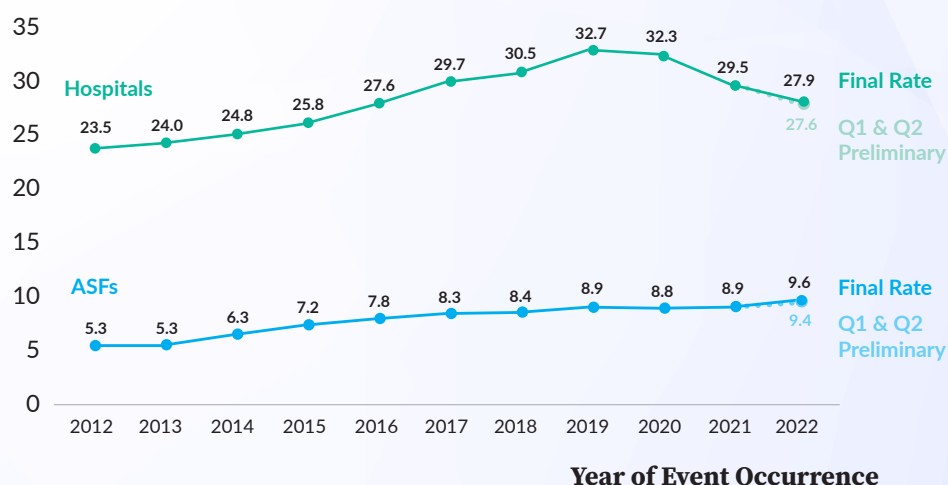
Figure 1 shows rates by year from 2012 through 2022. With the addition of Q3 and Q4 data, the final hospital rate for 2022 increased by 0.3 points from the rate using only Q1 and Q2. The 2022 hospital rate of 27.9 represents the third annual decrease and is a 5.4% reduction from the 2021 rate. For ASFs, the final ASF rate for 2022 increased by 0.2 points from the rate using only Q1 and Q2. The 2022 ASF rate of 9.6 is the highest rate since 2012, and it is the first time it has been above 9. The bar charts in **Figure 1** show rates for each of the four quarters of 2022 for hospitals and ASFs.

^aPA-PSRS is a secure, web-based system through which Pennsylvania hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities, abortion facilities, and birthing centers submit reports of patient safety-related incidents and serious events in accordance with mandatory reporting laws outlined in the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act (Act 13 of 2002).² All reports submitted through PA-PSRS are confidential and no information about individual facilities or providers is made public.

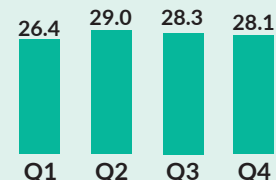
^bThe Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) is an independent state agency responsible for addressing the problem of escalating health costs, ensuring the quality of healthcare, and increasing access to healthcare for all citizens regardless of ability to pay. PHC4 has provided data to this entity in an effort to further PHC4's mission of educating the public and containing healthcare costs in Pennsylvania. PHC4, its agents, and its staff have made no representation, guarantee, or warranty, express or implied, that the data—financial-, patient-, payor-, and physician-specific information—provided to this entity are error-free, or that the use of the data will avoid differences of opinion or interpretation. This analysis was not prepared by PHC4. This analysis was done by the Patient Safety Authority. PHC4, its agents, and its staff bear no responsibility or liability for the results of the analysis, which are solely the opinion of this entity.

Figure 1. PA-PSRS Event Report Rates for Hospitals and ASFs From 2012 Through 2022

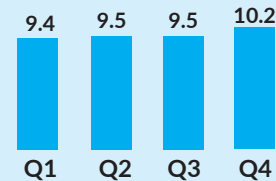
Event Reporting Rate



Hospital Rates by Quarter in 2022



ASF Rates by Quarter in 2022



Note: The dotted sections of the line chart lead to the partial 2022 rates based on Q1 and Q2, and the solid sections of the lines lead to the final 2022 rates based on all four quarters.

Note

This analysis was exempted from review by the Advarra Institutional Review Board.

About the Author

Shawn Kepner (shawkepner@pa.gov) is a data scientist at the Patient Safety Authority.

References

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2. Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Act, Pub. L. No. 154 Stat. 13 (2002). Pennsylvania Department of Health website. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Laws%20and%20Regulations/Act%2013%20of%202002.pdf>. Accessed August 18, 2023.