

**AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs), 2005-2013**  
**Area-Level Procedure Utilization Indicators for California**  
*Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)*



The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed four types of Quality Indicators (QIs), measures of healthcare quality, that make use of hospital inpatient discharge data. **Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs)** are measures that represent hospitalization rates for four medical procedures for which there could be possible over- or under-use and for which utilization varies across hospitals or geographic areas. High or low rates, by themselves, do not represent poor quality of care. Instead, the information is intended to inform consumers about local practice patterns or identify potential problem areas that might need further study.

**Area-Level (Statewide, County) hospitalization rates are provided for the following IQI measures:**

IQI #26 Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) (heart bypass surgery) (Age 40 and over)

IQI #27 Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) (widening of a narrowed or blocked artery in the heart using a device inserted in the blood vessel) (Age 40 and over)

IQI #28 Hysterectomy (surgical removal of the uterus or womb) (Age 18 and over)

IQI #29 Laminectomy (removal of part of a vertebrae) or Spinal Fusion (back surgery - joining together of two or more vertebrae) (Age 18 and over)

The technical specifications for the above indicators can be found at [www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Modules/IQI\\_TechSpec.aspx](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Modules/IQI_TechSpec.aspx).

**How to use the Excel IQI multi-year tool:**

The Excel IQI multi-year product allows you to select the data for a specific year or specific county. Use the pull-down arrow in the cells located just below the "Year" and "County" headers to make your selection.

**Technical Notes:**

The age-sex risk-adjusted rates are calculated per 100,000 state or county population. The program calculates age-sex risk-adjusted rates regardless of the number of cases available. However, IQI rates based on only a few cases should be interpreted with caution.

**Data Sources:**

Numerator = AHRQ, Inpatient Quality Indicators, Version 4.5; OSHPD CA Patient Discharge Data.

Denominator = AHRQ, Population File, Version 4.5, U.S. Census Bureau.

Risk-Adjusted Rate = The risk-adjusted rate is the rate the state/county would have if it had an age-sex case-mix like the reference population. The reference population is the 2010 State Inpatient Database (numerator), a large national file of hospital discharges from over 44 states, and the 2010 U.S. Census population of those states (denominator).

More information about the AHRQ Quality Indicators is available at [www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov).