

**AHRQ Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs), 2005-2014**  
**Area-Level 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. **Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs)** are measures that represent hospitalization rates for potentially-preventable adverse events that occur during a hospital stay. They provide a perspective on complications and iatrogenic events and help assess total incidence within a region.

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

- PSI #21 Retained Surgical Item or Unretrieved Device Fragment Rate
- PSI #22 Iatrogenic Pneumothorax Rate
- PSI #23 Central Venous Catheter-Related Blood Stream Infection Rate
- PSI #24 Postoperative Wound Dehiscence Rate
- PSI #25 Accidental Puncture or Laceration Rate
- PSI #26 Transfusion Reaction Rate
- PSI #27 Perioperative Hemorrhage or Hematoma Rate

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

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

The Excel PSI 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:**

All rates in the PSI module are "observed", not "risk-adjusted." Prior to 2010, Misadventure/Abnormal Reaction E-Codes (E870-E879) were not required to be reported in the source data, possibly resulting in the understatement of any PSI rates based on those E-Codes.

**Data Sources:**

Numerator = AHRQ, Patient Safety Indicators, Version 5.0; OSHPD CA Patient Discharge Data.  
Denominator = AHRQ, Population File, Version 5.0, U.S. Census Bureau.

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