

THE IMPACT OF ONE-DAY SURGERY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ON HOSPITAL CAPACITIES IN HUNGARY

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OBJECTIVES

The role of one-day surgery is pivotal in today's modern healthcare system. Technological advances and continuing price increases require cost-effective care alternatives that can support sustainable financing. In the 2010s, one-day surgery was marginal in Hungary, but its share among surgical cases has been increasing from 2015 onwards. This study aims to identify the impact of one-day surgical care on public hospital capacities from 2013 to 2023 in the Hungarian healthcare system.

METHODS

The research database was provided by the National Health Insurance Fund Administration of Hungary, which has a monopoly status in Hungarian healthcare financing. The database included the number of hospital beds, the bed occupancy rate, the type of caregiver institution, and the number of surgical cases between 2013 and 2023. The study determined the annual change of hospital beds, the bed occupancy rates, and the number of surgical cases (breakdown by the type of caregiver institution). During the research, the market share of one-day surgical cases and its impact on hospital beds was evaluated.

RESULTS

The number of hospital beds in 2023 was 22% lower than in 2013 (-11,398 beds), while average bed occupancy decreased over almost the entire study period. The number of surgical cases increased by 2% (n=13,274) between 2013-2023, although cases in one-day surgery were 42% higher than in 2013 (n=92,379). In 2023, the market share of one-day surgery cases was already 40%. County hospitals performed the highest number of one-day surgery cases (n=2,614,282). There is an inverse correlation between the number of one-day cases and the number of hospital beds ($r=-0.384$). A significant relationship was found between the type of hospital and the number of one-day surgical cases ($p<0.05$).

CONCLUSIONS

The key performance indicators related to one-day surgical care increased remarkably however, the impact of one-day surgical cases is not significant on the hospital bed capacities.

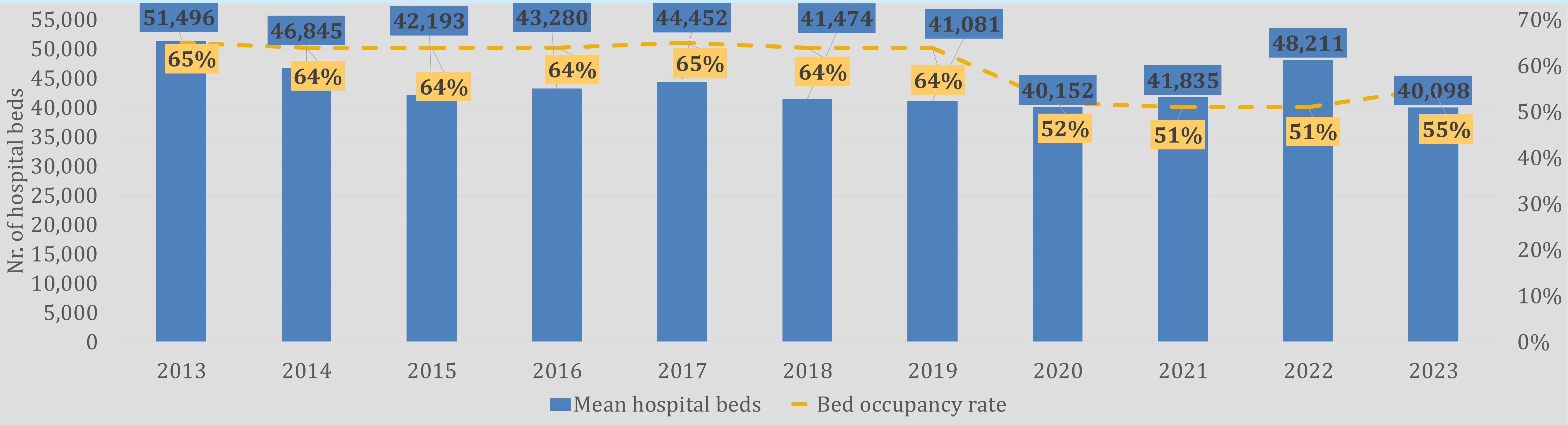


Figure 1.

Total number of inpatient hospitals beds and bed occupancy rate in the public-funded Hungarian healthcare system (2010-2023)

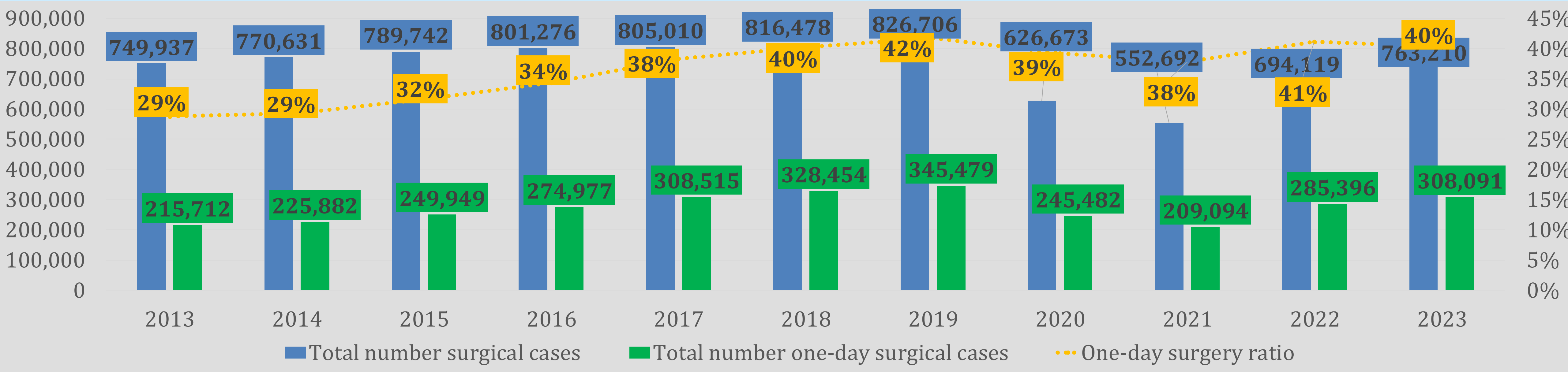


Figure 2.

Number of total inpatient surgical cases and one-day surgery's ratio on an annual basis (2010-2023)

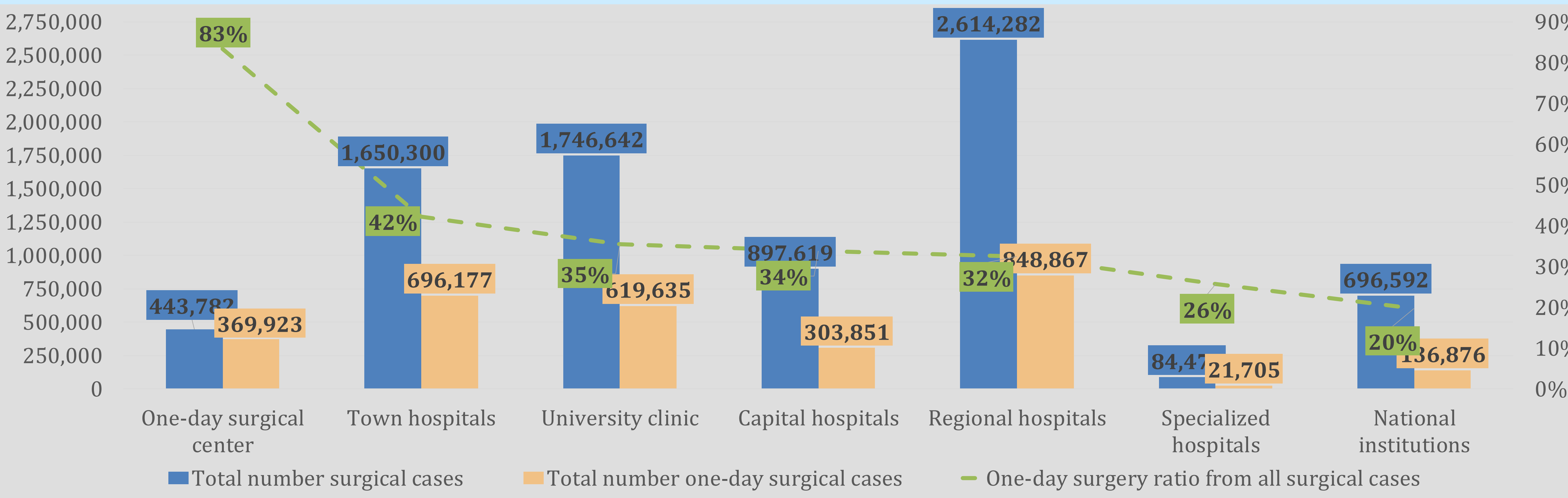


Figure 3.

Number of total inpatient surgical cases and one-day surgery's ratio by the type of the caregiver institution (2010-2023)

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