

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLORADO HEART INSTITUTE

Data Comparison Tool

2022

What are pediatric cardiac surgery outcomes?

In the medical world, the term outcomes refers to success rates. Many, but not all, pediatric heart centers measure and report their surgical outcomes to help parents make the best decision about where to take their child for heart surgery.

Here, we evaluate our success by monitoring and comparing our cardiac surgery statistics with other top pediatric hospitals. We also routinely check and publish other quality and patient safety metrics outcomes to ensure families have the latest information when deciding who should care for their child.

Why transparency matters

We believe that families have the right to know every heart surgery program's outcomes. Our Heart Institute is the only comprehensive pediatric heart surgery program in Colorado, and one of the few in our region, to publicly report our cardiac surgery outcomes data. This transparency is one of our core values and our outcomes set us apart as one of the best hospitals for congenital heart surgery in the country.

When researching heart surgery program outcomes, parents should look for multiple measures, such as overall survival, survival by surgical complexity and length of stay. Be sure to consider these statistics together — no single metric should stand alone.

To help you ensure the best outcomes for your child's health, compare results for your child's diagnosis using the comparison tool below. Volumes and outcomes are indicators of experience, and the data inside can help you choose the best heart program to care for your child.



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Look for the following icons when using this guide.

 Look for the question mark symbol as you read. This signals questions to ask when seeking care for your child.

 **How many pediatric heart procedures do you perform each year?**

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STS benchmarks for high-volume centers



250+
Per year

 Higher is better

Cardiac center #2: _____
Volumes
Outcomes

Cardiac center #3: _____
Volumes
Outcomes

 **How many times have you and your program performed pediatric heart surgeries like the one you are recommending for my child in the last year? Over the last four years?**

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Ask us for volumes and outcomes associated with your child's diagnosis over one and four years.

 Higher is better

Cardiac center #2: _____
Per year
Per year

Cardiac center #3: _____
Per year
Per year

 **What is your overall survival rate for all cardiac surgeries, all age groups, at the time of hospital discharge?**

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STS benchmarks for high-volume centers



97.4%
Through December 2022

Cardiac center #2: _____

Cardiac center #3: _____

 Higher is better



What is your survival rate for this type of procedure at the time of hospital discharge? How do your results compare to other centers' results?

Cardiac surgery survival rate by procedure: January 2019-December 2022

n>=10

This data was taken only from hospitals that performed 10 or more of each procedure.

	Children's Hospital Colorado		STS benchmarks for high-volume centers	Cardiac center #2:		Cardiac center #3:	
	Volume	Survival	Survival	Volume	Survival	Volume	Survival
Arterial switch + ventricular septal defect repair	12	100%	95.4%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Arterial switch repair	25	97.9%	98.5%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Atrioventricular septal defect repair	50	98.0%	98.3%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fontan palliation	80	100%	98.9%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Glenn/hemi-Fontan palliation	108	99.1%	98.5%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Norwood palliation	80	96.2%	88.8%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Off cardiopulmonary bypass coarctation repair	97	97.9%	99.0%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Tetralogy of Fallot repair	74	98.6%	99.1%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Truncus arteriosus repair	14	92.9%	90.8%	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ventricular septal defect repair	138	92.9%	90.8%	_____	_____	_____	_____



What are your congenital cardiac surgery survival rates for each STAT category?

Congenital cardiac surgery survival by complexity category (STAT)

↑ Higher is better

	Children's Hospital Colorado		STS benchmarks for high-volume centers	Cardiac center #2:		Cardiac center #3:	
	Volume	Survival	Survival	Volume	Survival	Volume	Survival
STAT 1 Lower complexity	958	99.6%	99.4%	_____	_____	_____	_____
STAT 2	349	98.6%	98.1%	_____	_____	_____	_____
STAT 3	198	95.5%	96.5%	_____	_____	_____	_____
STAT 4	140	90.7%	92.2%	_____	_____	_____	_____
STAT 5 Higher complexity	104	94.2%	85.3%	_____	_____	_____	_____



What is your average length of stay?

Time in the hospital following pediatric heart surgery, by procedure: January 2019-December 2022

Lower is better

	Children's Hospital Colorado	STS benchmarks for high-volume centers	Cardiac center #2:	Cardiac center #3:
	Median Days*	Median Days*	Median Days*	Median Days*
Arterial switch + ventricular septal defect repair	15.0	19.3	_____	_____
Arterial switch repair	19.0	16.8	_____	_____
Atrioventricular septal defect repair	7.0	17.4	_____	_____
Fontan palliation	8.0	12.2	_____	_____
Glenn/hemi-Fontan palliation	7.0	19.2	_____	_____
Norwood palliation	42.0	57.9	_____	_____
Off cardiopulmonary bypass coarctation repair	6.0	13.9	_____	_____
Tetralogy of Fallot repair	7.0	12.5	_____	_____
Truncus arteriosus repair	11.5	36.2	_____	_____
Ventricular septal defect repair	6.0	11.1	_____	_____

*Children's Colorado median postoperative length of stay (in days), compared to STS median length of stay (in days)

Resources:



Questions to Ask Your Cardiologist Guided Questions tool



HD Wise Webinar, by Conquering CHD, "Transparency in Outcomes", October 2021



Children's Colorado Video: How to choose a cardiac surgery center

"Think twice if a center does not transparently publish or share their outcomes."

JAMES JAGGERS, MD

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