



CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

Children's Hospitals Landscape Report

Q4 - 2023

Champions for Children's Health

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About Children's Hospital Association

Children's Hospital Association convenes clinical and administrative leaders from more than 200 children's hospitals and health systems to create meaningful change in child health. Through collaboration, improvement initiatives, and advocacy, we address issues facing children's hospitals and the communities they serve.

Learn more: [About Children's Hospital Association \(childrenshospitals.org\)](https://childrenshospitals.org)

Media inquiries?

[Elleni Almandrez](#), Vice President of External Affairs

About the Data

The Children's Hospitals Landscape Report reflects the national experience for high-level patient utilization measures. Key metrics were obtained from 50 U.S. children's hospitals through CHA's Pediatric Health Information System (PHIS[®]) database.

Averages are based on quarterly performance using the middle 80% of participants. The top 10% and bottom 10% of hospitals were excluded. Quarterly averages are aggregated into the specific time intervals used for comparison in the report.

- PHIS is a comparative database with clinical and resource utilization data collected monthly for inpatient and observation cases, surgery cases, and emergency department visits.
- [Report data definitions.](#)

KEY VOLUMES

INPATIENT DISCHARGES

INPATIENT CASE MIX INDEX

INPATIENT AND OBSERVATION CASES

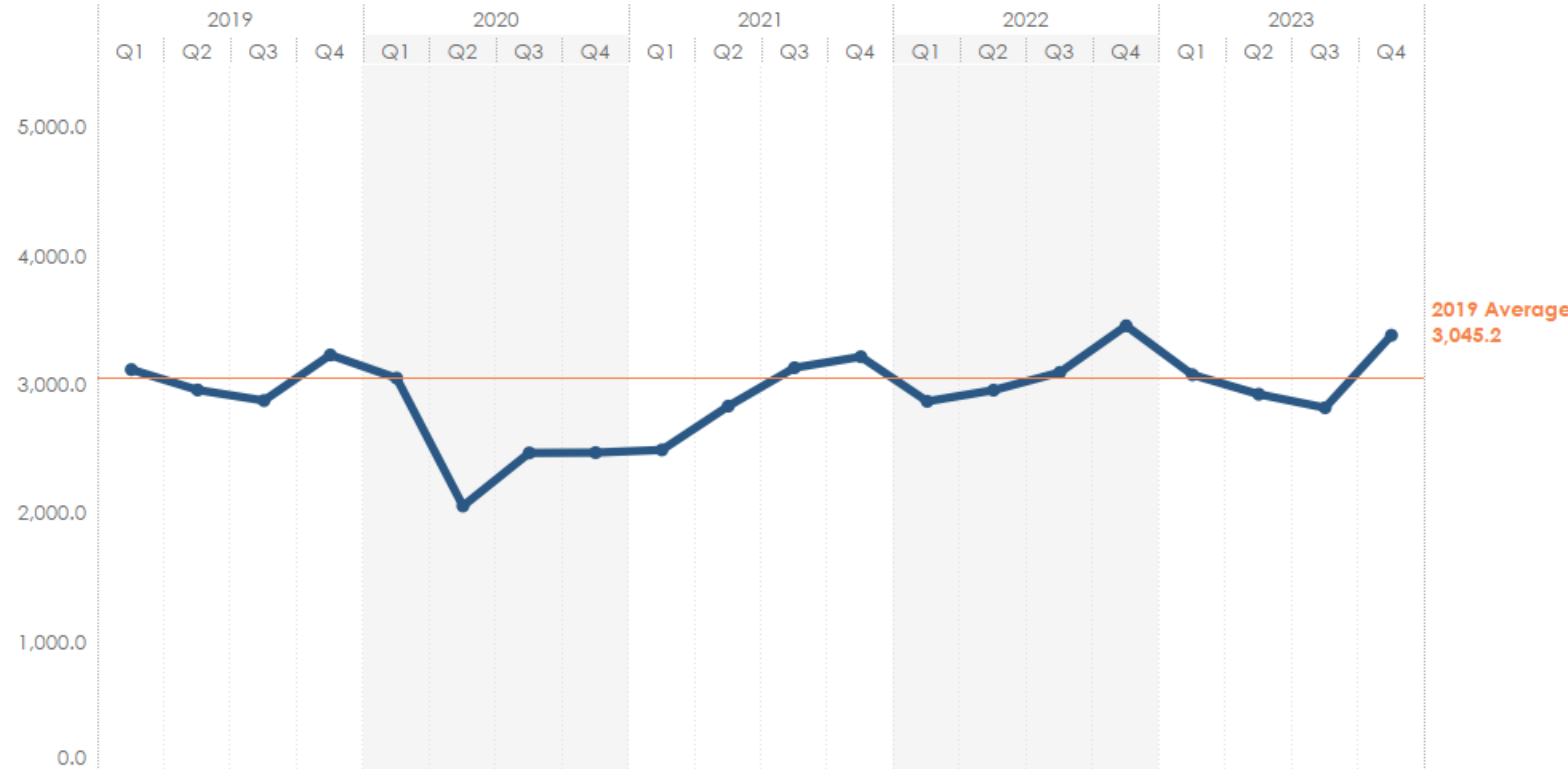
SURGERY CASES

EMERGENCY VISITS

Inpatient discharges have stabilized over the last two years and are currently 0.2% higher than 2019.



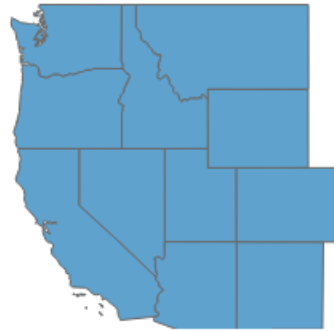
Inpatient Discharges



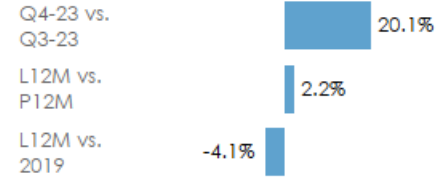
Q4-23 vs. Q3-23	20.0%
L12M vs. P12M	-1.4%
L12M vs. 2019	0.2%

Q4-23 vs. Q3-23 (10/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (7/1/23 - 9/30/23)
 L12M vs. P12M (1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/22 - 12/31/22)
 L12M vs. 2019 (1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)

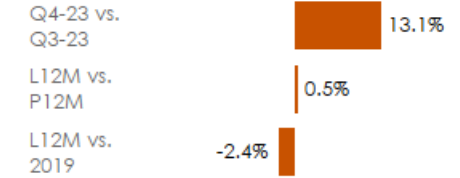
Compared to 2019, the inpatient discharge growth rate was mixed between regions. The Midwest and the South increased; the Northeast and West declined.



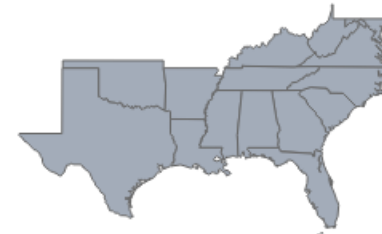
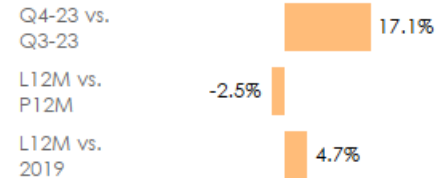
WEST Percent Change



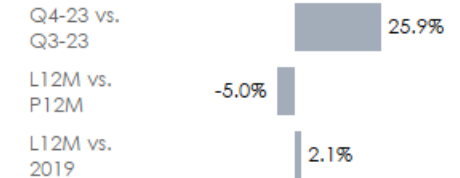
NORTHEAST Percent Change



MIDWEST Percent Change



SOUTH Percent Change

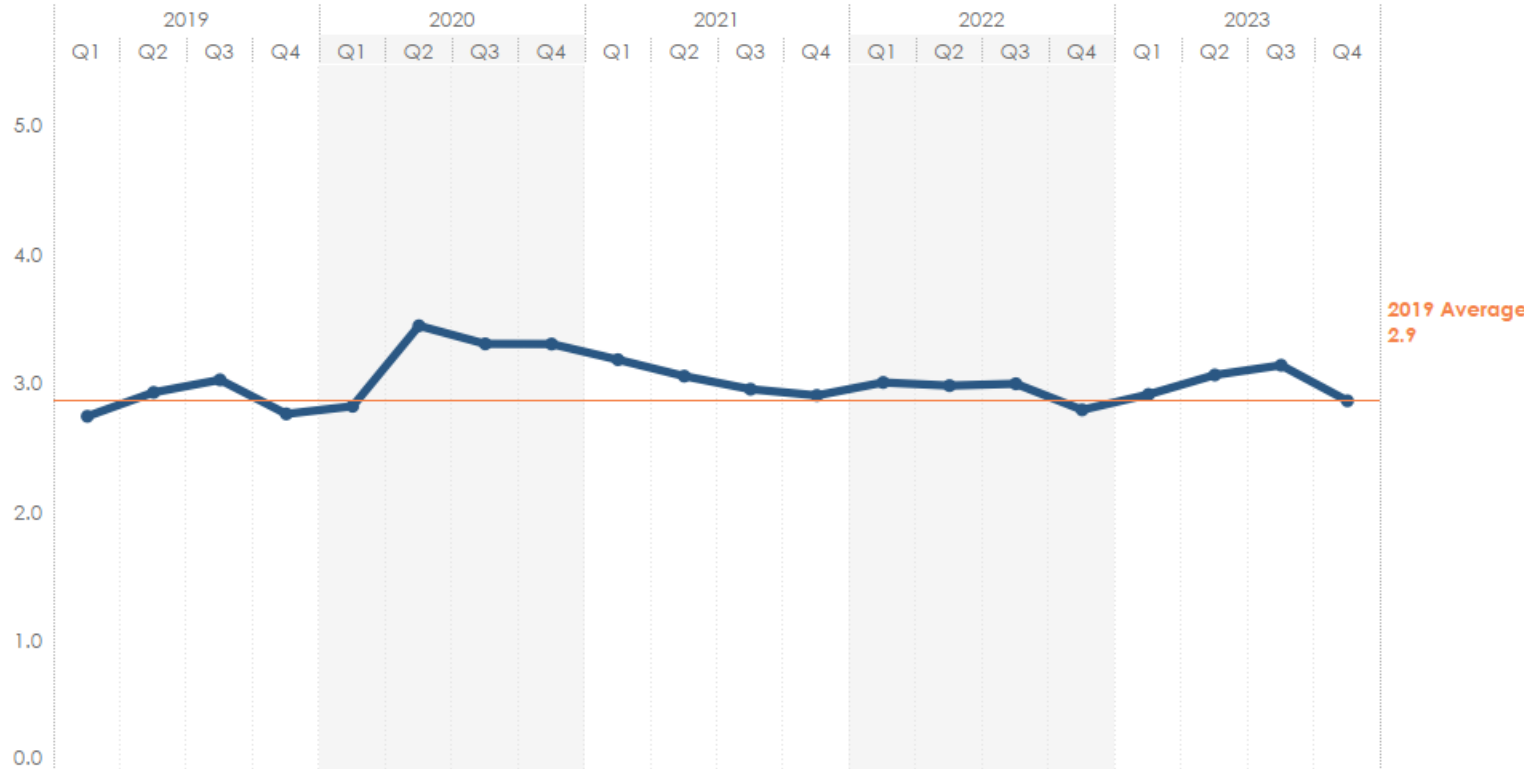


Q4-23 vs. Q3-23
L12M vs. P12M
L12M vs. 2019

(10/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (7/1/23 - 9/30/23)
(1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/22 - 12/31/22)
(1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)

Patients aren't as sick during their hospital stays as they were during COVID, but patient severity remains 4.5% higher than 2019.

Inpatient Case Mix Index (Patient Severity)

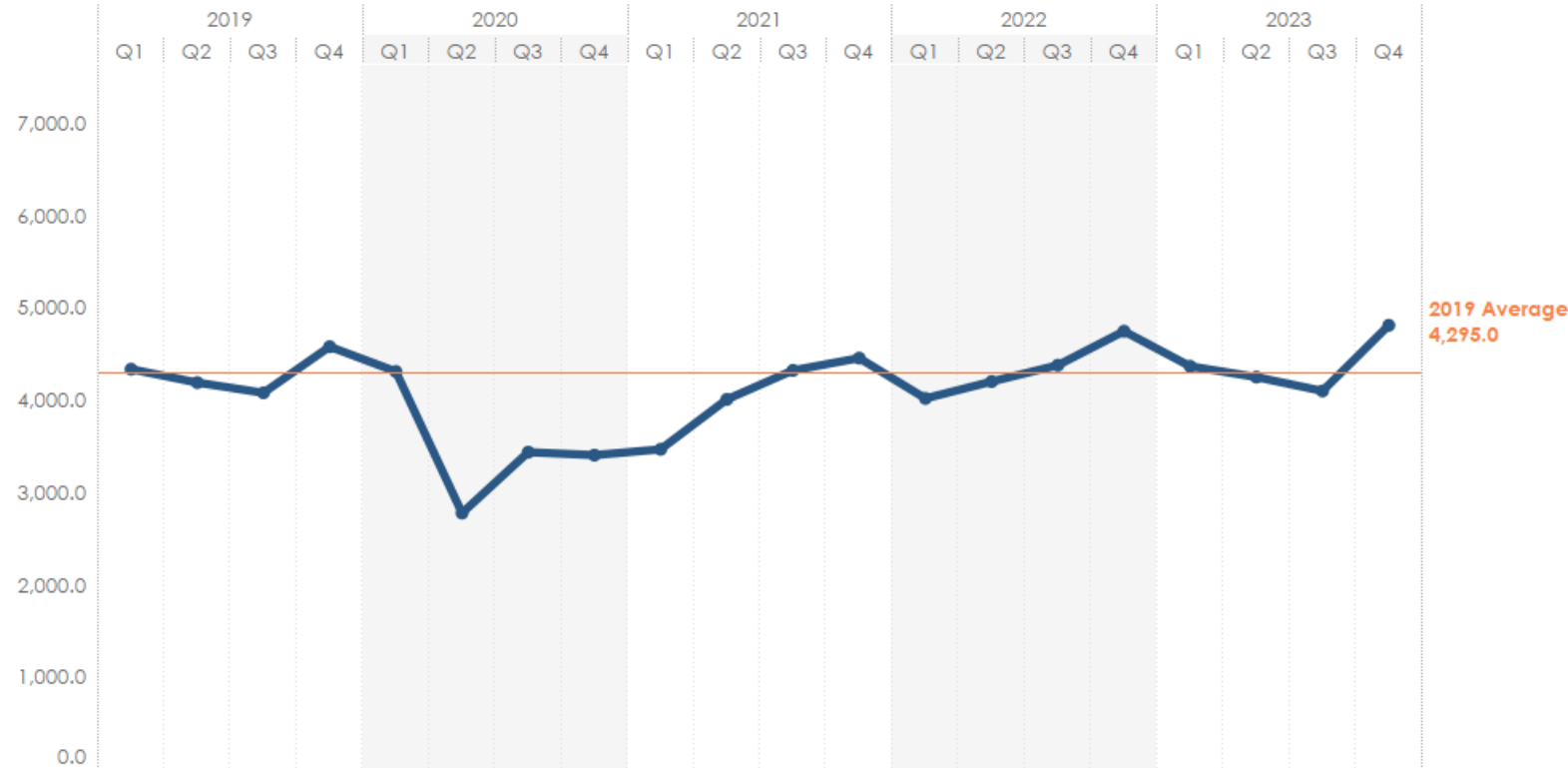


Q4-23 vs. Q3-23	-8.8%	
L12M vs. P12M		1.7%
L12M vs. 2019		4.5%

Q4-23 vs. Q3-23 (10/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (7/1/23 - 9/30/23)
 L12M vs. P12M (1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/22 - 12/31/22)
 L12M vs. 2019 (1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)

Inpatient and observation cases have increased since the pandemic and are currently 2.0% higher than 2019.

Total Inpatient and Observation Cases

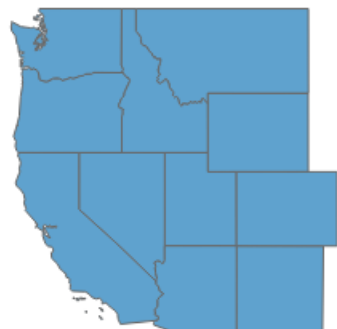


Q4-23 vs. Q3-23	17.3%
L12M vs. P12M	1.0%
L12M vs. 2019	2.0%

Q4-23 vs. Q3-23
L12M vs. P12M
L12M vs. 2019

(10/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (7/1/23 - 9/30/23)
(1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/22 - 12/31/22)
(1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)

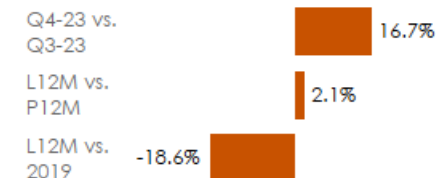
Compared to 2019, all regions increased inpatient and observation cases except for the Northeast, which declined by 18.6%.



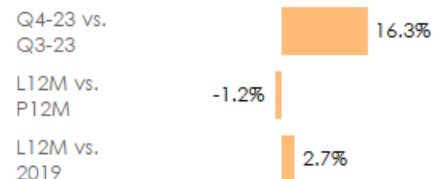
WEST Percent Change



NORTHEAST Percent Change



MIDWEST Percent Change



SOUTH Percent Change



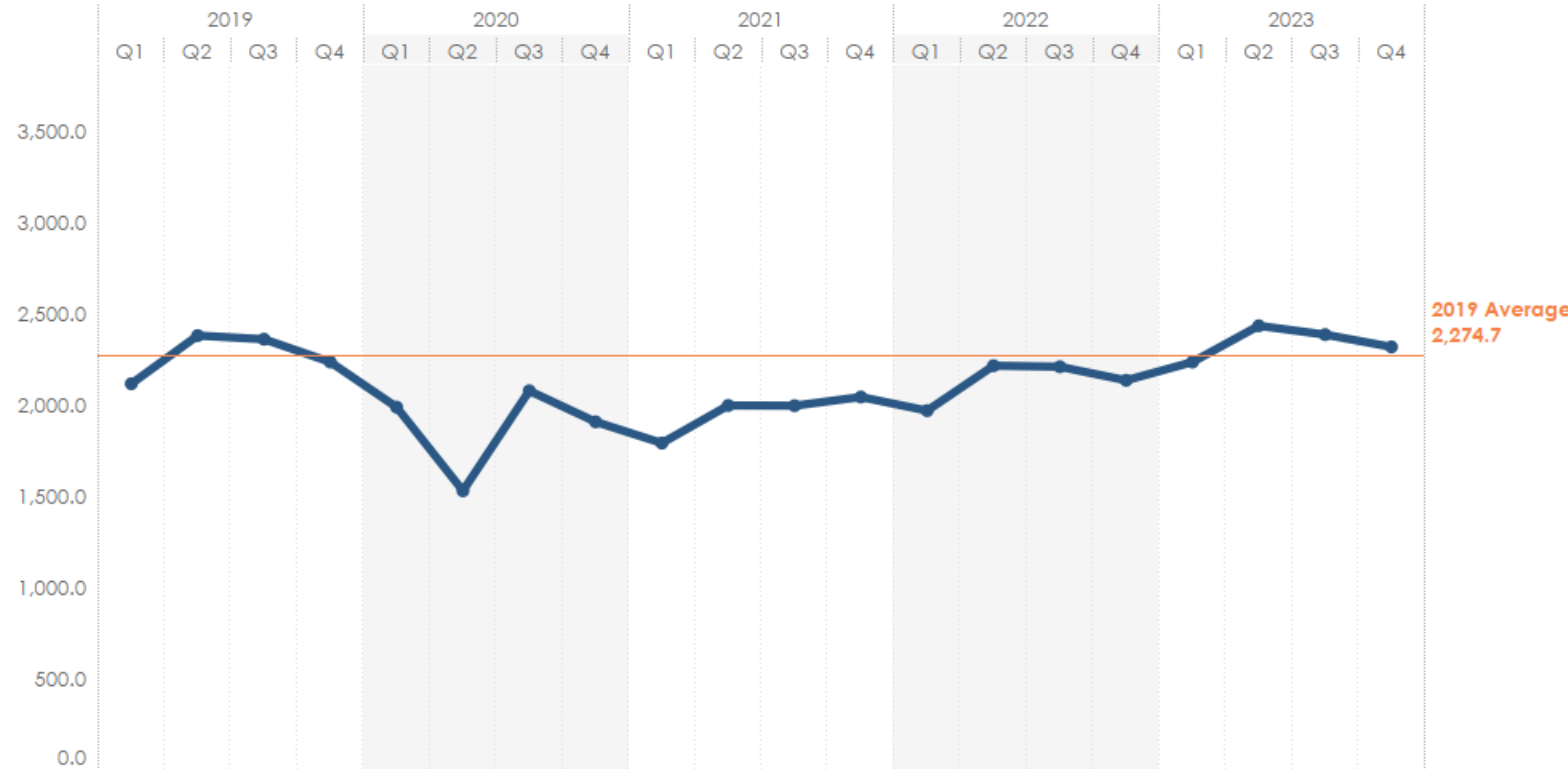
Q4-23 vs. Q3-23
L12M vs. P12M
L12M vs. 2019

(10/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (7/1/23 - 9/30/23)
(1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/22 - 12/31/22)
(1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)

After a long decline, pediatric surgeries have increased and are currently 3.1% higher than 2019.



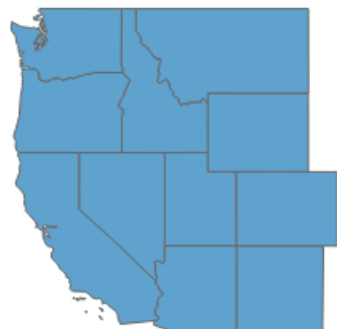
Surgery Cases



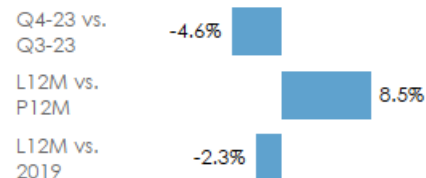
Q4-23 vs. Q3-23	-2.8%
L12M vs. P12M	9.9%
L12M vs. 2019	3.1%

Q4-23 vs. Q3-23 (10/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (7/1/23 - 9/30/23)
 L12M vs. P12M (1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/22 - 12/31/22)
 L12M vs. 2019 (1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)

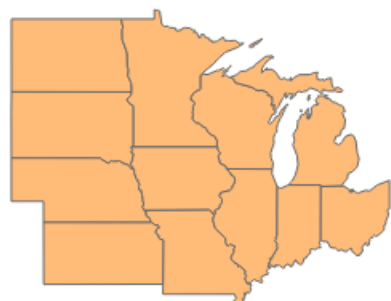
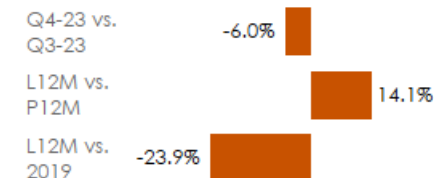
Compared to 2019, the surgery growth rate was mixed between regions. The Midwest and the South increased; the Northeast and West declined.



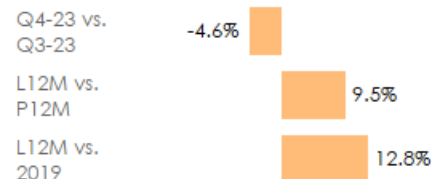
WEST Percent Change



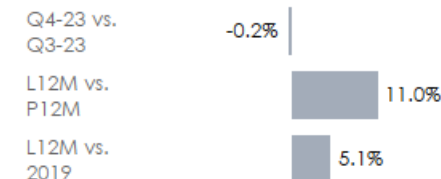
NORTHEAST Percent Change



MIDWEST Percent Change



SOUTH Percent Change



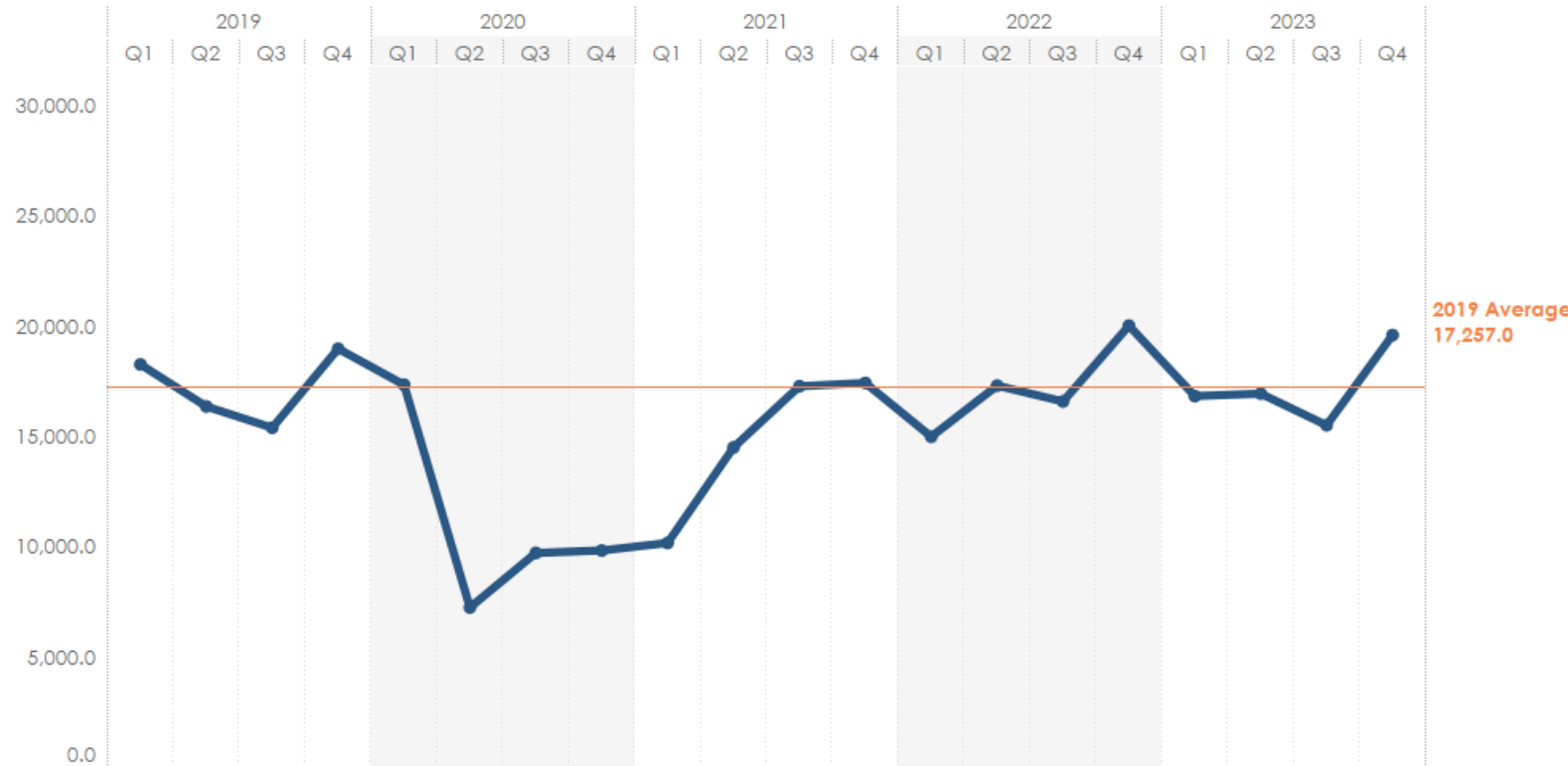
Q4-23 vs. Q3-23
L12M vs. P12M
L12M vs. 2019

(10/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (7/1/23 - 9/30/23)
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(1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)

Emergency department visits have increased since the pandemic and, for the last two years, are relatively the same as 2019.



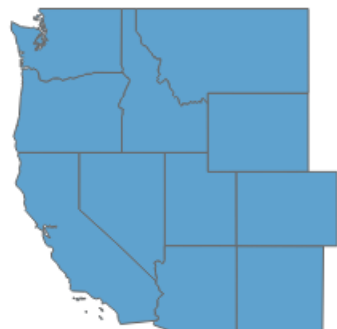
Emergency Department Visits



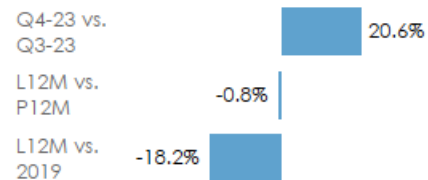
Q4-23 vs. Q3-23		26.4%
L12M vs. P12M	0.0%	
L12M vs. 2019	-0.2%	

Q4-23 vs. Q3-23 (10/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (7/1/23 - 9/30/23)
 L12M vs. P12M (1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/22 - 12/31/22)
 L12M vs. 2019 (1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)

Compared to 2019, all regions increased emergency department visits except for the West, which declined by 18.2%.



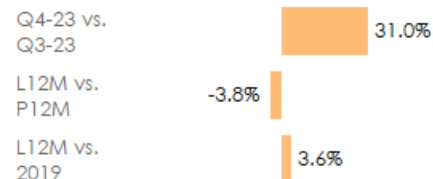
WEST Percent Change



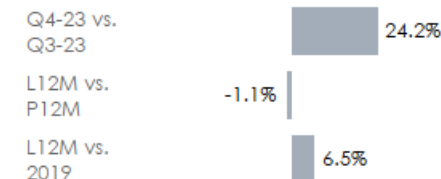
NORTHEAST Percent Change



MIDWEST Percent Change



SOUTH Percent Change



Q4-23 vs. Q3-23
L12M vs. P12M
L12M vs. 2019

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(1/1/23 - 12/31/23) vs. (1/1/19 - 12/31/19)



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