

NHPCO National Data Set Survey

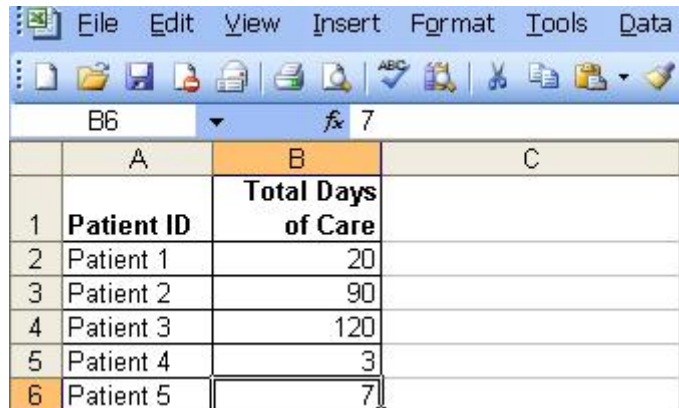
Alternate Methods for Calculating Length of Service

Average Length of Service (ALOS)

EXAMPLE: 5 patients died or were discharged in FY2006.

To Calculate:

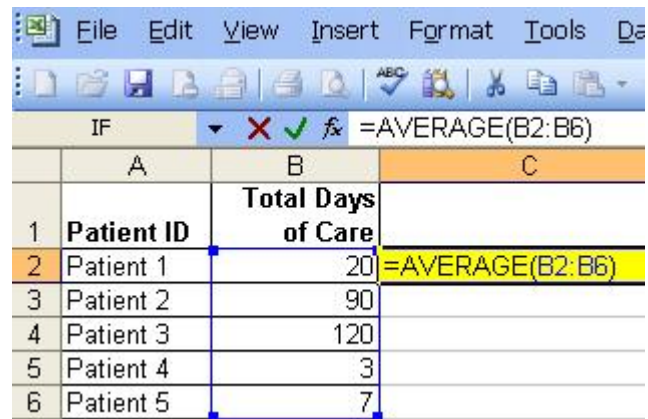
Step 1: Arrange the total days of care for each discharged patient in a spreadsheet (such as Excel) as follows:



A screenshot of an Excel spreadsheet. The active cell is B6, containing the number 7. The spreadsheet has columns A, B, and C. Row 1 is the header: A1 is 'Patient ID', B1 is 'Total Days of Care', and C1 is blank. Rows 2-6 contain patient data: Patient 1 (20 days), Patient 2 (90 days), Patient 3 (120 days), Patient 4 (3 days), and Patient 5 (7 days).

	A	B	C
1	Patient ID	Total Days of Care	
2	Patient 1	20	
3	Patient 2	90	
4	Patient 3	120	
5	Patient 4	3	
6	Patient 5	7	

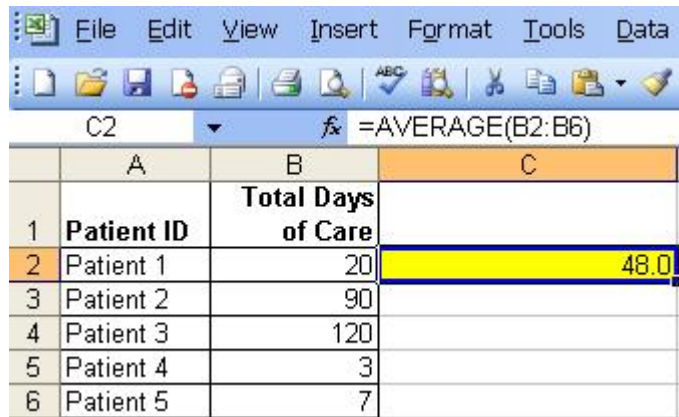
Step 2: In a new cell, type “=AVERAGE(B2:B6)”. This example assumes that your data are in cells B2 through B6; if your data were in B2 through B130 then you would enter “=AVERAGE(B2:B130)”. Then hit ‘Enter’ to calculate the average.



A screenshot of the same Excel spreadsheet. The active cell is C2, containing the formula =AVERAGE(B2:B6). The formula bar at the top shows the formula. The spreadsheet data is the same as in the previous screenshot.

	A	B	C
1	Patient ID	Total Days of Care	
2	Patient 1	20	=AVERAGE(B2:B6)
3	Patient 2	90	
4	Patient 3	120	
5	Patient 4	3	
6	Patient 5	7	

Step 3: The average equals “48”. So, your program’s average length of service would be 48 days.



A screenshot of the Excel spreadsheet. The active cell is C2, containing the calculated average 48.0. The formula bar at the top shows the formula =AVERAGE(B2:B6). The spreadsheet data is the same as in the previous screenshots.

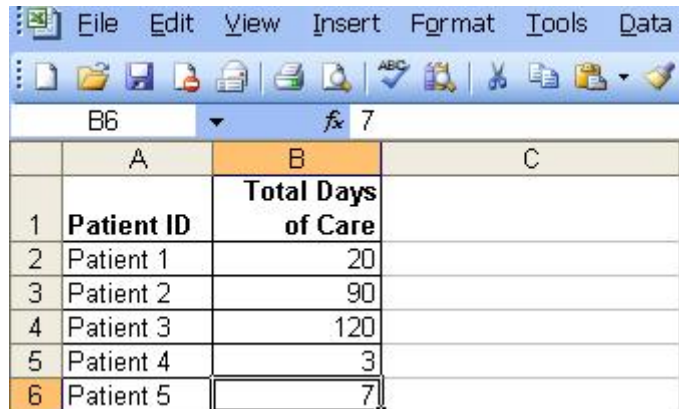
	A	B	C
1	Patient ID	Total Days of Care	
2	Patient 1	20	48.0
3	Patient 2	90	
4	Patient 3	120	
5	Patient 4	3	
6	Patient 5	7	

Median Length of Service (MLOS)

EXAMPLE: 5 patients died or were discharged in FY2006.

To Calculate:

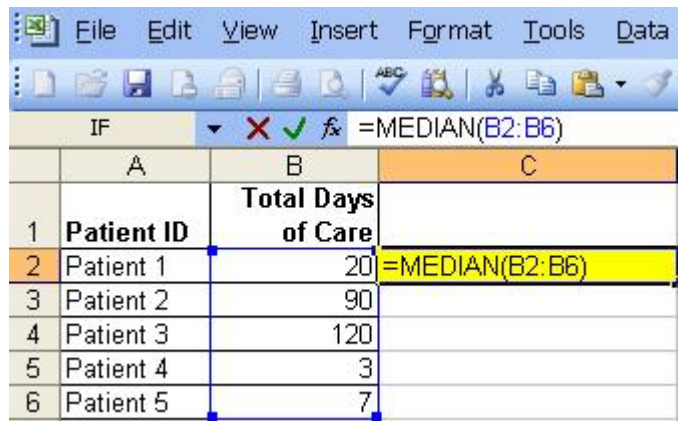
Step 1: Arrange the total days of care for each discharged patient in a spreadsheet (such as Excel) as follows:



A screenshot of an Excel spreadsheet. The formula bar shows 'B6' and the value '7'. The spreadsheet has columns A, B, and C. Row 1 is the header: 'Patient ID' in A, 'Total Days of Care' in B. Rows 2-6 contain data for Patient 1 through Patient 5 with values 20, 90, 120, 3, and 7 respectively in column B.

	A	B	C
1	Patient ID	Total Days of Care	
2	Patient 1	20	
3	Patient 2	90	
4	Patient 3	120	
5	Patient 4	3	
6	Patient 5	7	

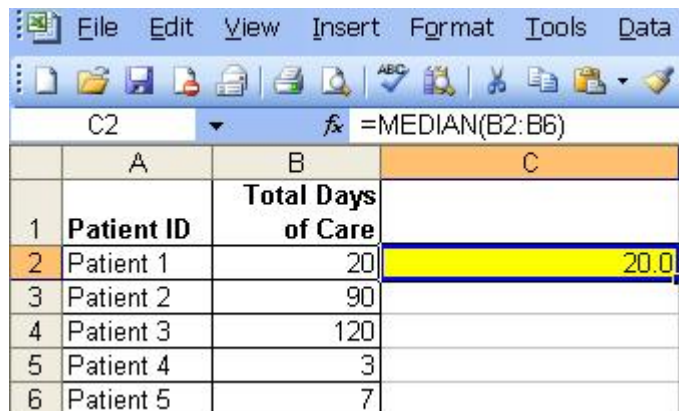
Step 2: In a new cell, type “=MEDIAN(B2:B6)” This example assumes that your data are in cells B2 through B6; if your data were in B2 through B130 then you would enter “=MEDIAN(B2:B130)”. Then hit ‘Enter’ to calculate the median.



A screenshot of the same Excel spreadsheet. The formula bar shows '=MEDIAN(B2:B6)'. Cell C2 is highlighted in yellow and contains the formula. The rest of the spreadsheet data remains the same as in the previous screenshot.

	A	B	C
1	Patient ID	Total Days of Care	
2	Patient 1	20	=MEDIAN(B2:B6)
3	Patient 2	90	
4	Patient 3	120	
5	Patient 4	3	
6	Patient 5	7	

Step 3: The median equals “20”. So, your program’s median length of service would be 20 days.



A screenshot of the Excel spreadsheet. The formula bar shows '=MEDIAN(B2:B6)'. Cell C2 now displays the calculated median value '20.0'. The rest of the spreadsheet data remains the same.

	A	B	C
1	Patient ID	Total Days of Care	
2	Patient 1	20	20.0
3	Patient 2	90	
4	Patient 3	120	
5	Patient 4	3	
6	Patient 5	7	