

NHPCO National Data Set Survey

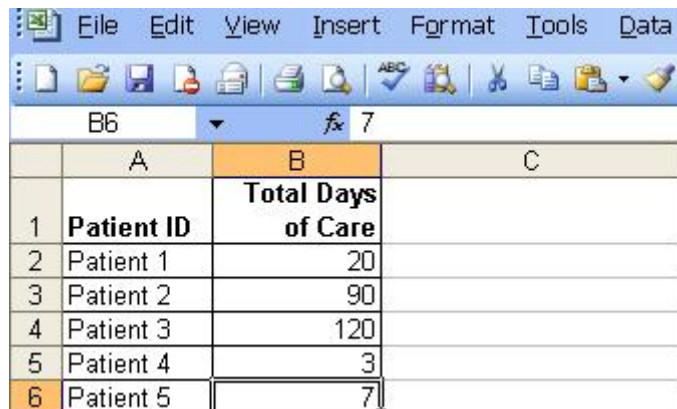
Alternate Methods for Calculating Length of Service

Average Length of Service (ALOS)

EXAMPLE: 5 patients died or were discharged in FY2006.

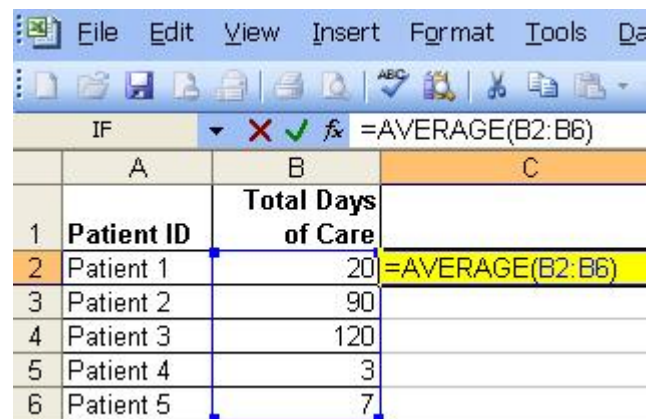
To Calculate:

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



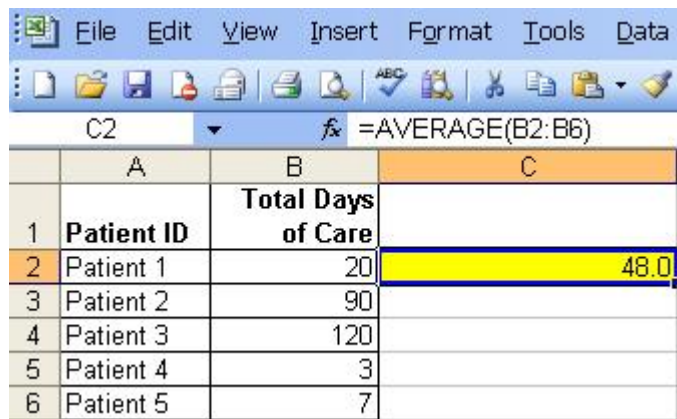
	A	B	C
1	Patient ID	Total Days of Care	
2	Patient 1	20	
3	Patient 2	90	
4	Patient 3	120	
5	Patient 4	3	
6	Patient 5	7	

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	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.



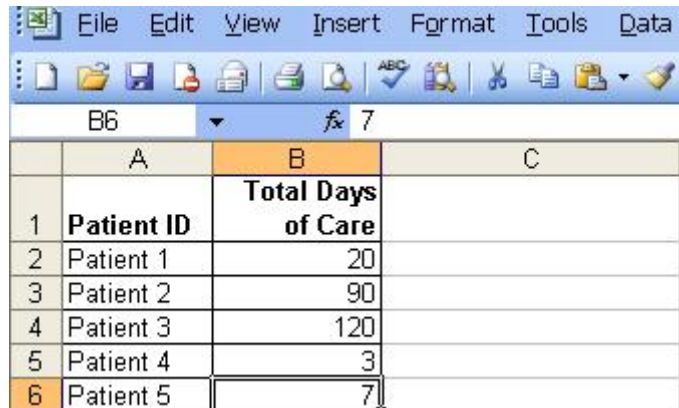
	A	B	C
1	Patient ID	Total Days of Care	
2	Patient 1	20	48.0
3	Patient 2	90	
4	Patient 3	120	
5	Patient 4	3	
6	Patient 5	7	

Median Length of Service (MLOS)

EXAMPLE: 5 patients died or were discharged in FY2006.

To Calculate:

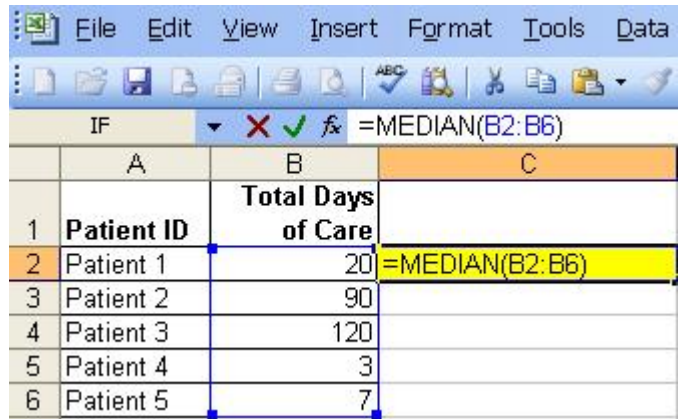
Step 1: Arrange the total days of care for each discharged patient in a spreadsheet (such as Excel) as follows:



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	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	

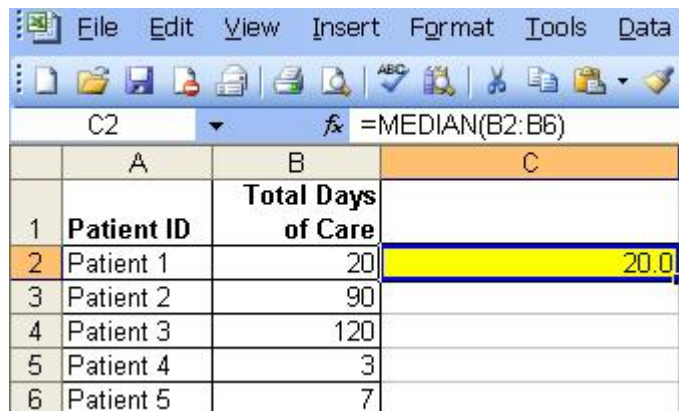
Step 2: In a new cell, type “=MEDIAN(B2:B6)” This example assumes that your data are in cells B2 through B6; if your data were in B2 through B130 then you would enter “=MEDIAN(B2:B130)”. Then hit ‘Enter’ to calculate the median.



The screenshot shows the same Excel spreadsheet as in Step 1, but with the formula “=MEDIAN(B2:B6)” entered in cell C2. The formula bar at the top shows “=MEDIAN(B2:B6)”.

	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.



The screenshot shows the same Excel spreadsheet as in Step 2, but with the formula calculated. The value “20.0” is now displayed in cell C2. The formula bar at the top shows “=MEDIAN(B2:B6)”.

	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	