

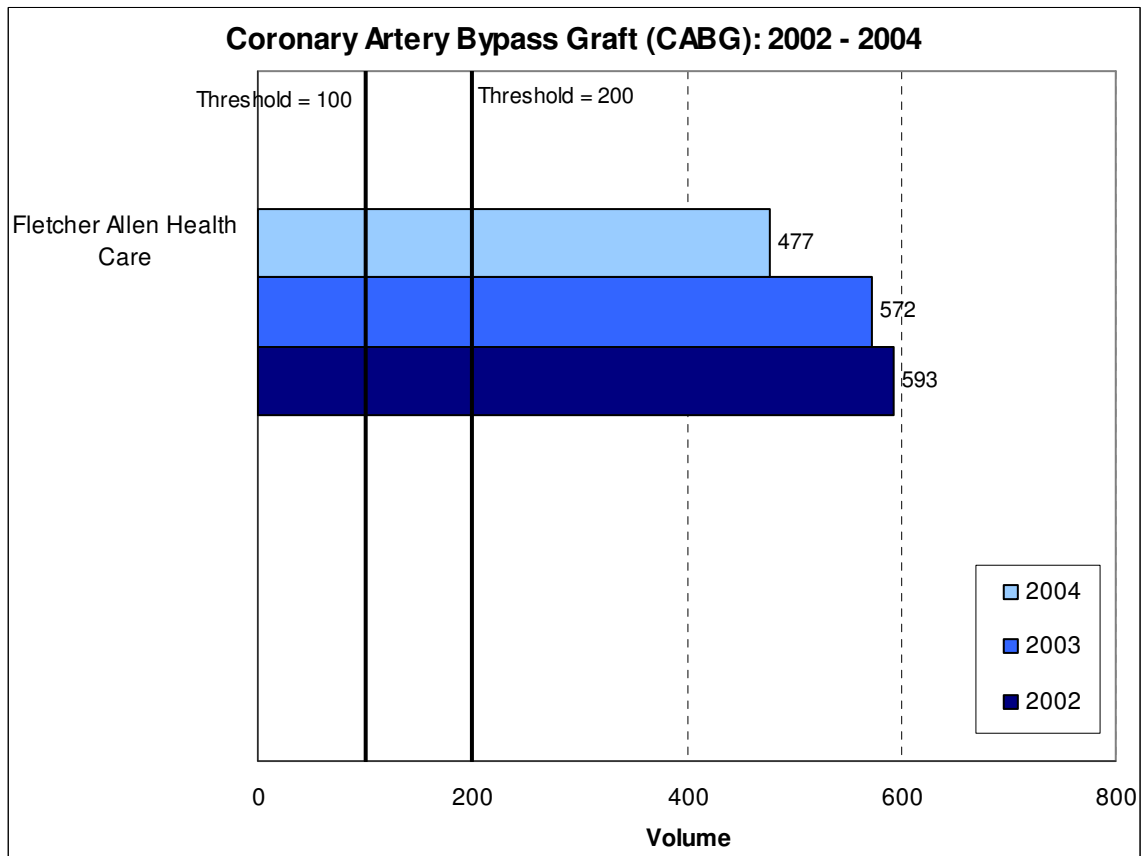
CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS GRAFT (CABG)

A coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) is a surgical procedure to bypass clogged arteries supplying blood to the heart. A CABG may be done to reduce chest pain, prevent heart attack or to treat other heart problems caused by blockages in the coronary arteries.

Coronary Artery Bypass Graft: Volume

Volume is measured as the number of patients who underwent a CABG. Scientific research indicates that higher volumes (that is, doing more of the procedures) are connected with better outcomes, and medical experts have recommended thresholds establishing the minimum number of procedures a facility should perform in order to assure safety and better outcomes. For CABG, the lowest minimum threshold recommended in scientific literature is 100 procedures per year, and the highest minimum threshold recommended by any scientific study is 200 procedures per year. (See Technical Guide for more information)

- Hospitals not shown had no cases in the reporting years.
- Hospital comments about this measure are listed below the mortality table.



Coronary Artery Bypass Graft: Mortality

Mortality refers to the number of patients who underwent the procedure at a hospital and died at the same hospital (excludes hospital to hospital transfers).

- Lower rates may represent better quality.
- These measures lack reliability and are influenced by random variation when the number of procedures is small. Small numbers of reported cases are often not sufficient for establishing a pattern of care. For this reason, mortality rates are not calculated for hospitals with fewer than 30 cases in a reporting year. Even when there are more than 30 cases, caution should be used when interpreting rates.
- Hospitals not shown had no cases in any of the reporting years.
- Hospital comments about this measure are listed below the table.

Hospitals performing procedure in 2002, 2003, and/or 2004	Number of Procedures			Number of Deaths			Mortality Rate					
							Observed Rate			Risk-Adjusted Rate		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
Fletcher Allen Health Care	589	571	476	22	14	24	4%	2%	5%	5%	3%	6%
Vermont Total	589	571	476	22	14	24	4%	2%	5%	5%	3%	6%
National Total										3%	na	na

na - National mortality rates are not yet available for 2003 and 2004

Definitions	
Number of Procedures	The number of patients who underwent this procedure at the hospital (does not include transfers).
Number of Deaths	The number of patients who underwent this procedure at a hospital and died at the same hospital.
Mortality Rate	The percentage of patients who underwent this procedure who died at the hospital. Two ways of measuring this rate are Observed Rate and Risk-Adjusted Rate.
Observed Rate	The Number of Deaths divided by the Number of Procedures. This does not take into account age, gender, or the complexity of particular cases.
Risk-Adjusted Rate	Mortality rate adjusted for age, gender, and complexity. This rate allows for better comparisons between hospitals. It is important to note, however, that it is difficult to draw firm conclusions from rates based on a small number of procedures.

The following hospitals provided additional comments about CABG:

Fletcher Allen Health Care: For more than 50 years, the heart care team at Fletcher Allen has been providing people with cutting edge heart care and is committed to excellence. Fletcher Allen has extensive experience in all of the major subspecialties within heart care including CABG.

As an academic institution, our goal is to provide the best patient care possible by bringing research and education to the bedside. As one of the founding members, in 1987, of the Northern New England Cardiovascular Disease Study Group (NNECDSG), Fletcher Allen Health Care cardiac team meets periodically with other NNECDSG consortium counterparts. NNECDSG members compare data and information concerning the treatment of cardiovascular disease for the purpose of improving quality outcomes (cost, effectiveness, safety).

The number of CABG procedures is declining due to the Cardiologists' ability to perform PTCAs (patients who had a clogged artery in their heart opened with PTCA, a special balloon therapy); and is leaving a smaller percentage of patients who need the more extensive CABG surgery.

For more recent statistics and an in depth description of Fletcher Allen's heart care program, please see the Quality of Care Report at <http://www.fahc.org>