

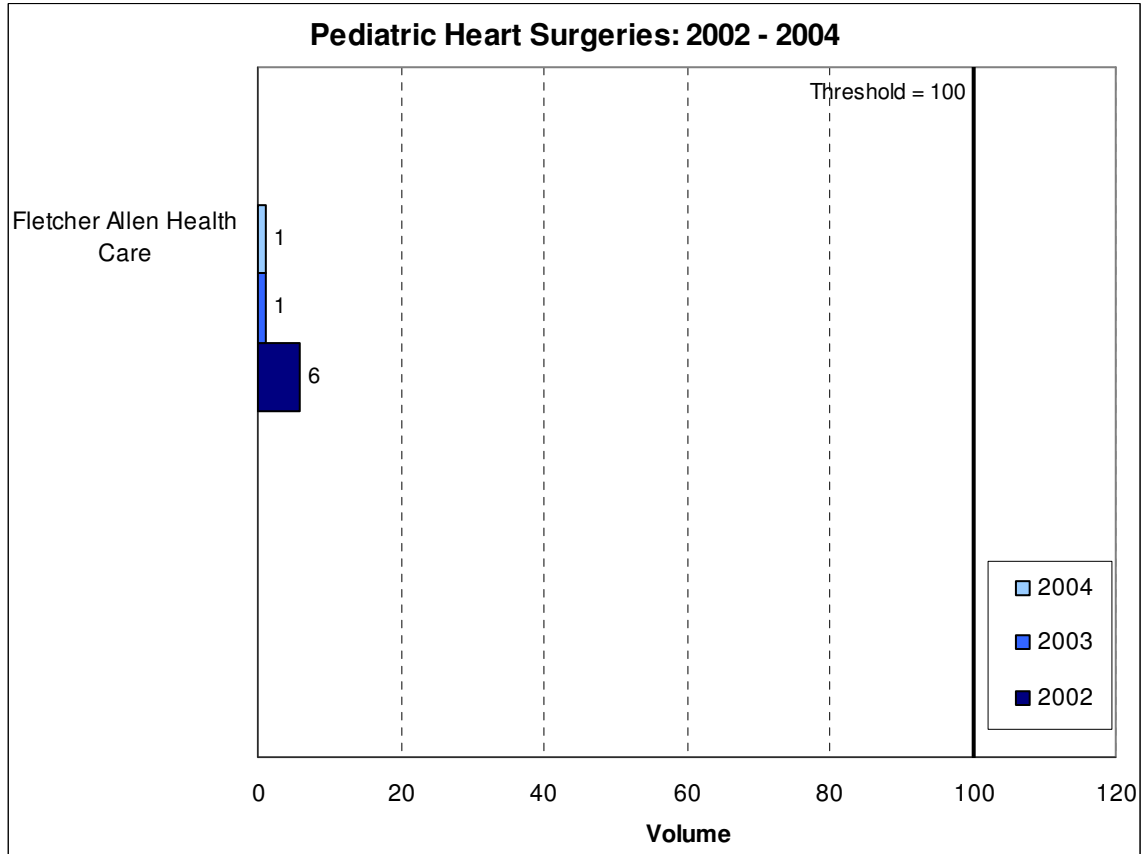
## PEDIATRIC HEART SURGERIES

Pediatric heart surgery includes many different types of heart surgeries performed on infants or children under the age of 18. These surgeries are performed to treat congenital heart disease or other conditions that develop before or at birth.

### Pediatric Heart Surgeries: Volume

Volume is measured as the number of patients who underwent pediatric heart surgeries. 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 pediatric heart surgeries, the threshold recommended in scientific literature is 100 procedures per year. Hospitals exceeding this threshold are considered to be high volume providers. (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.



## Pediatric Heart Surgeries: 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	5	1	1	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Vermont Total	5	1	1	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
National Total										4%	na	na

\* Rates for hospitals with fewer than 30 procedures are not presented because of concerns that small numbers result in statistically unreliable rates.

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 pediatric heart surgeries:

**Fletcher Allen Health Care:** Fletcher Allen Health Care, as Vermont's academic medical center, does not provide complex pediatric heart surgery as we do not have sufficient volume to support a surgical team. Fletcher Allen does provide pediatric heart care with our pediatric cardiologists who provide a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. All of the cases reflected above were pediatric heart catheterizations performed by our pediatric cardiologists. Pediatric heart catheterizations are characterized as pediatric heart surgery by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, for the purposes of specifying these volume and mortality measures.

