Hospital joint venture activity consistently has increased over the past couple of years, with the greatest increase (excluding “Other”) occurring in partnerships with ambulatory surgical centers. In a report analyzing the growth in ASCs from the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, convenient locations, shorter wait times, easier patient scheduling, lower co-pays and access to the latest technologies are fueling this trend.

Among hospital arrangements with physicians, the integrated salary model, in which salary is paid by the hospital, shows the greatest growth over almost a decade. This is likely because it is one of the easier models to administer while providing doctors worry-free compensation. The closed physician-hospital organization, in which membership is restricted to those who meet certain cost effectiveness or quality criteria, experienced the greatest decline.

For more information on AHA data, contact the AHA Resource Center at rc@aha.org or 312-422-2050.