Although MHSA discharges represented 5 percent of all community hospital discharges in 2008, they accounted for 21 percent of all discharges leaving the hospital against medical advice (AMA).

- Of the 39.5 million hospital discharges in 2008, 370,000 discharges were designated as AMA. Of these AMA discharges, 25,000 AMA stays (7 percent) had a principal MH diagnosis and 52,700 (14 percent) had a principal SA diagnosis.
The rate of discharges AMA was higher for MH and SA discharges than for all other discharges in 2008.

- Of the 1.3 million MH stays, 19 per 1,000 discharges were AMA.
- Of the 0.5 million SA stays, 107 per 1,000 discharges were AMA. Discharges AMA occurred 11 times more frequently for SA stays than for all the other non-MHSA discharges (8 per 1,000 discharges).