

# Chart Book: COVID-19 Medicare FFS Claims Analysis

January 2023

**ATI Advisory**



- This chart book focuses on the national hospital discharge trends evidenced during the months of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). ATI Advisory will update this chart book as new data are released.

### Data Source

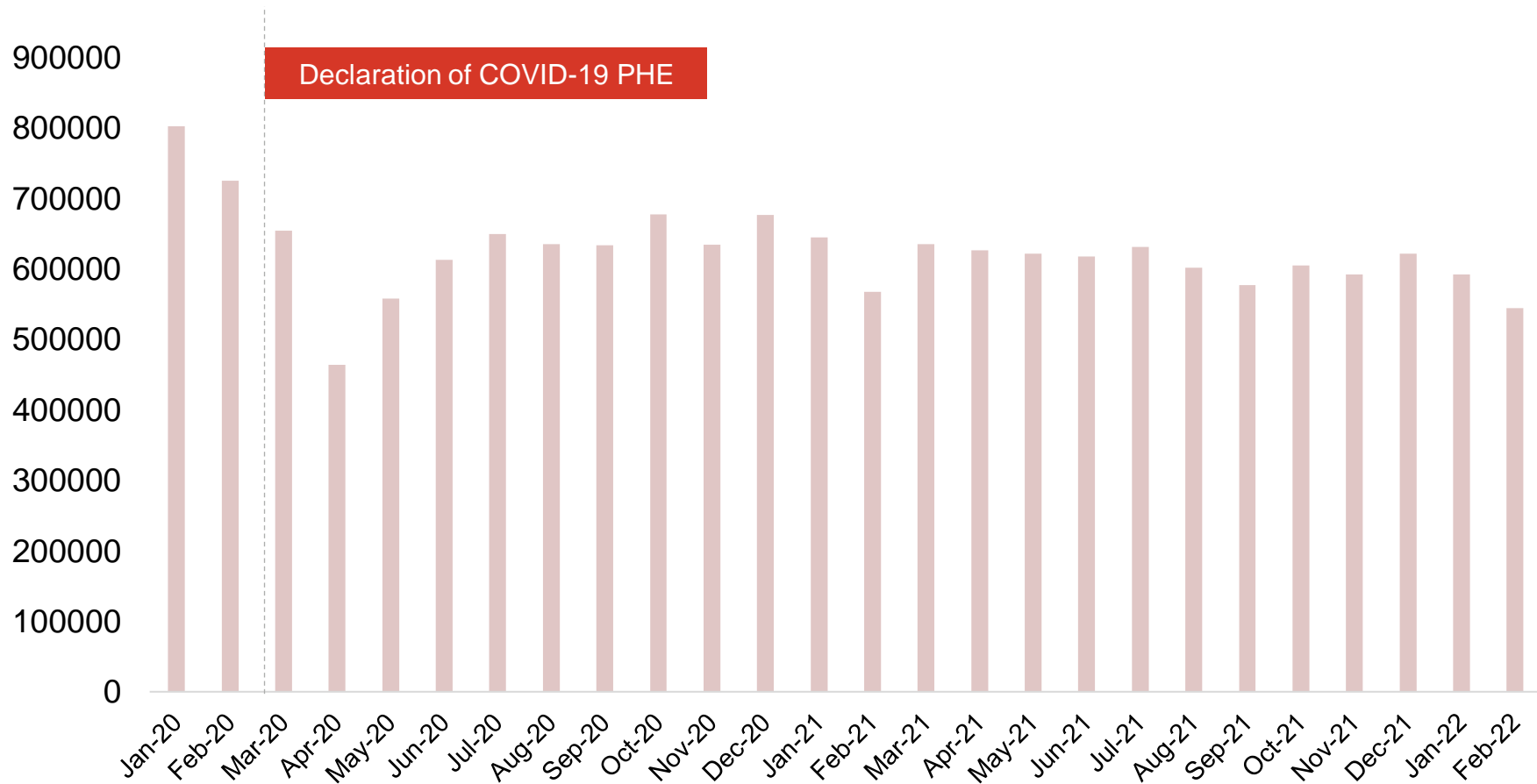
- 100% Medicare FFS claims incurred January 2019 – February 2022 and paid through March 2022.

*See last slide for details on methodology.*

# Overall Discharge Patterns and Trends

# NATIONALLY, HOSPITAL DISCHARGES LEVELED OUT IN 2021, BUT HAVE NOT REBOUNDED TO PRE-COVID LEVELS AS OF FEBRUARY 2022

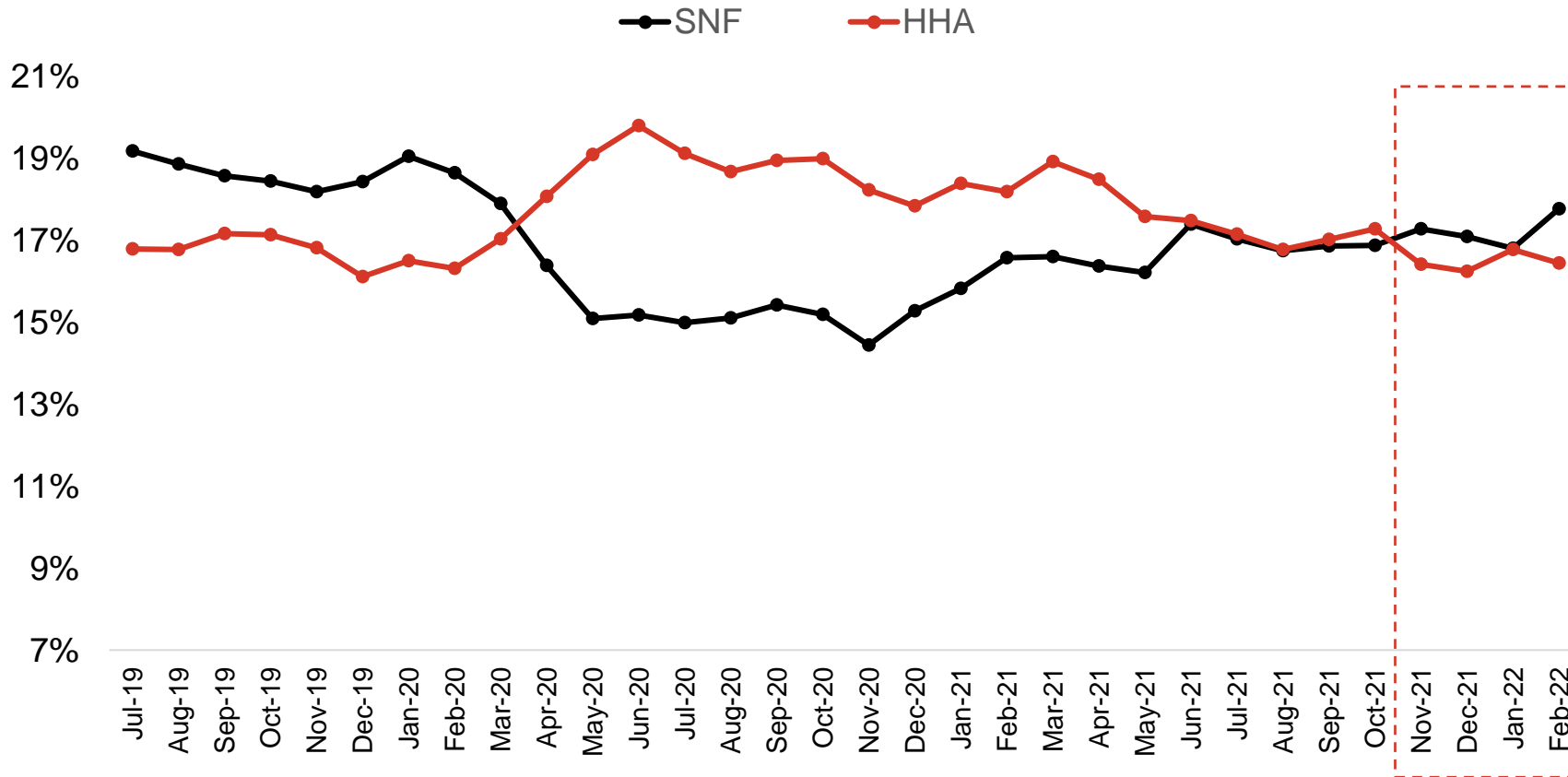
## National Medicare FFS Hospital Discharges



→ Though Medicare FFS hospital discharges bottomed out in April 2020, hospital discharge volume was relatively consistent throughout 2021 and into 2022. However, volume had not yet returned to pre-COVID levels, as **hospital discharge volume in February 2022 was 25% lower than February 2020 volume.**

# SNF REGAINED HIGHER SHARE OF HOSPITAL DISCHARGES THAN HHA IN NOVEMBER 2021 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH 2020

## National Medicare FFS Hospital Discharges to SNF and HHA



→ The share of hospital discharges to Home Health and SNF traded places when the pandemic hit. However, the gap started narrowing in early 2021 and **SNFs consistently received a higher share of hospital discharges than Home Health from November 2021 – February 2022**, reflecting pre-pandemic patterns.

**WHILE SNFS WERE THE ONLY POST-ACUTE CARE SETTING TO LOSE YOY SHARE OF HOSPITAL DISCHARGE VOLUME IN 2021, SNFS EXPERIENCED THE BIGGEST GROWTH FROM 2021-2022**

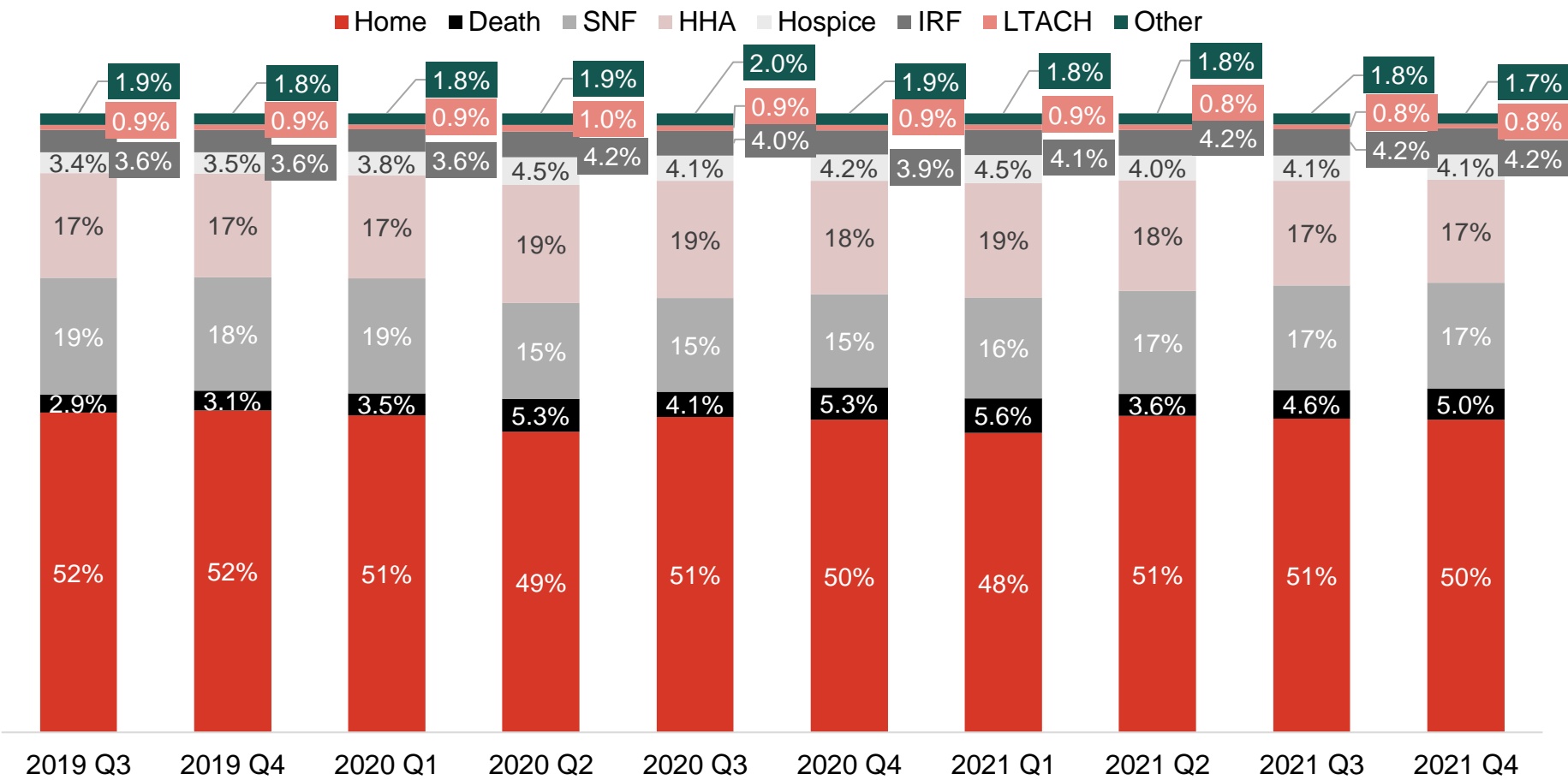
**Shares of National Medicare FFS Hospital Discharges to Post-Acute Care Settings**

	February 2020	February 2021	February 2022	$\Delta$ Feb 2020-2021	$\Delta$ Feb 2021-2022
<b>LTACH</b>	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	0.0%	-0.2%
<b>IRF</b>	3.6%	4.2%	4.3%	0.6%	0.2%
<b>SNF</b>	18.6%	16.6%	17.8%	-2.1%	1.2%
<b>HHA</b>	16.3%	18.2%	16.4%	1.9%	-1.7%

→ **SNF and Home Health reversed spots when comparing YOY trends in 2021 and 2022.** While SNFs' share of hospital discharge volume decreased in 2021 and Home Health's increased, the opposite occurred in 2022. Additionally, **IRF was the only post-acute care setting to experience a growth** in share of hospital discharge volume **in both time periods.**

# SHARE OF HOSPITAL DISCHARGES TO DEATH CONTINUED TO RISE FROM 2021 Q2-Q4, REMAINING AT A HIGHER SHARE THAN 2019 LEVELS

## National Medicare FFS Hospital Discharges by Care Setting



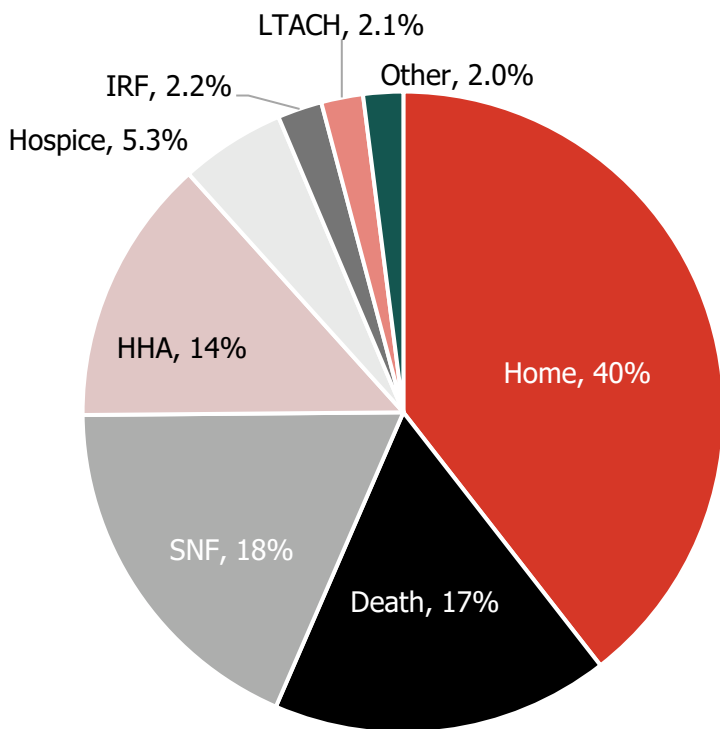
→ The share of hospital discharges to various care settings largely stayed constant among the final three quarters of 2021. However, **distribution of hospital discharges to various care settings did not match that of the pre-COVID distribution, with a higher share discharged to death, Hospice, and IRF and a lower share discharged to Home and SNF.**

# COVID-19 Discharge Patterns and Trends



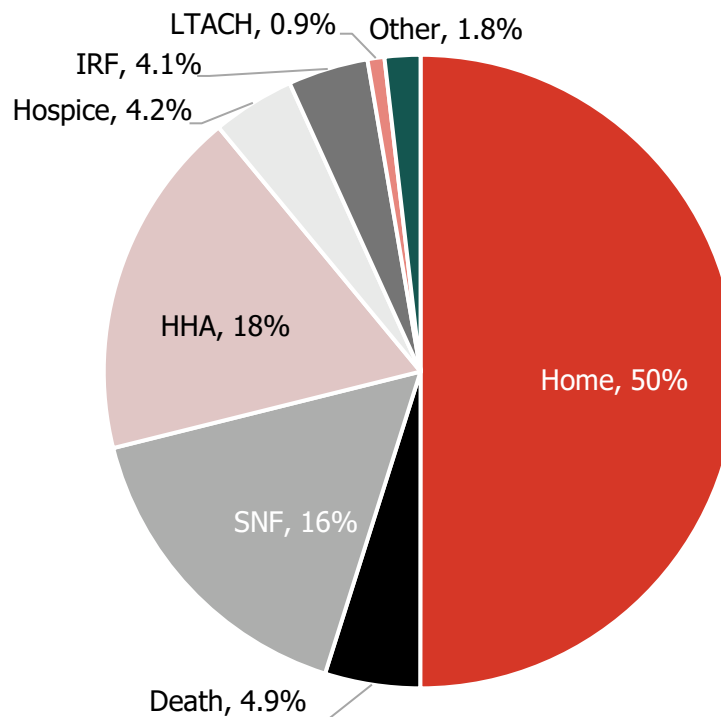
# COVID-19 ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY ONE OUT OF EVERY TEN MEDICARE FFS HOSPITAL DISCHARGES FROM MARCH 2020 – FEBRUARY 2022

**National Hospital COVID-19 Discharges by Care Setting**  
March 2020 – February 2022



Total Hospital COVID-19 discharge volume  
March 2020 – February 2022 = 1,291,690

**National Hospital Total Discharges by Care Setting**  
March 2020 – February 2022



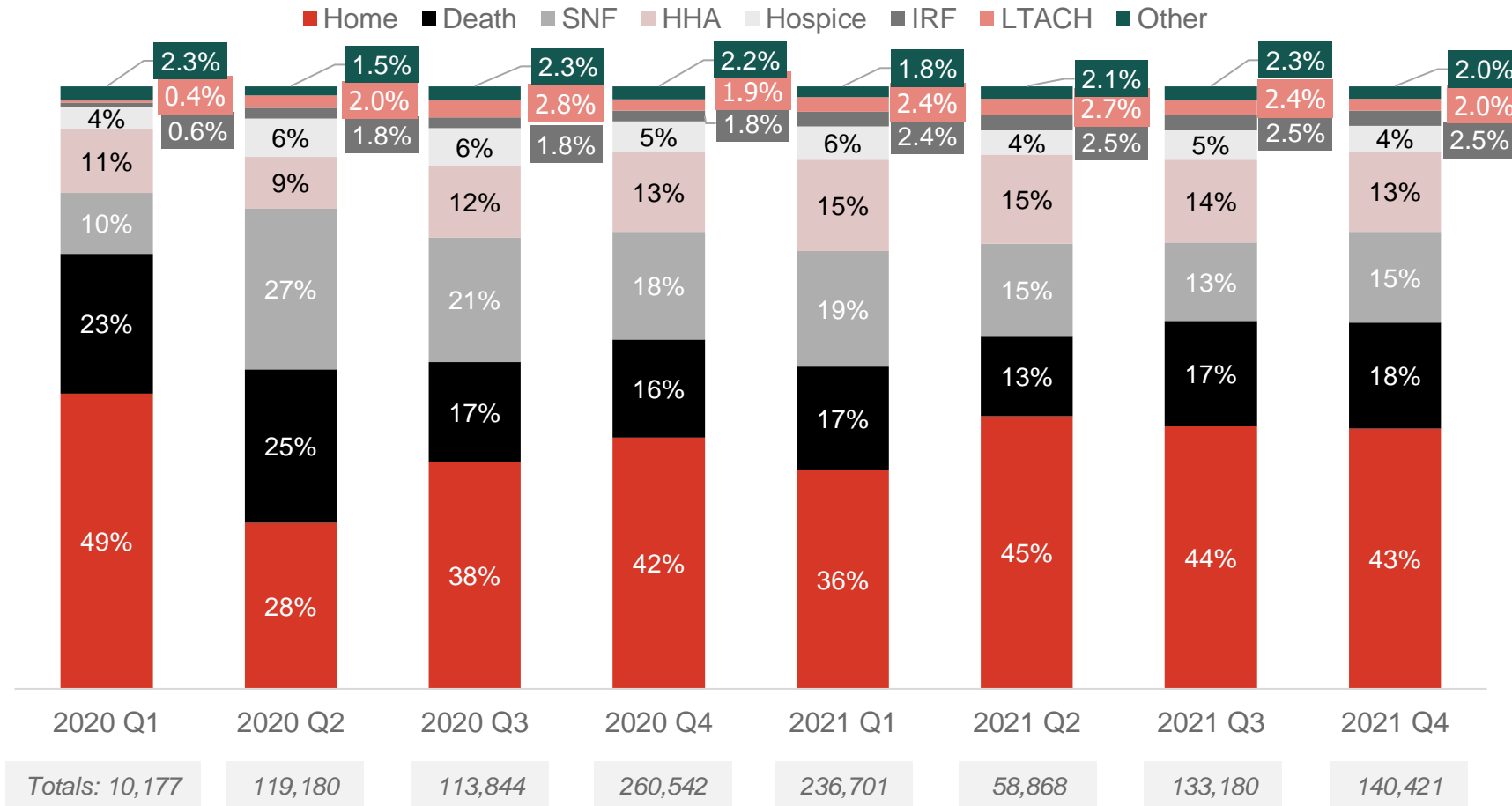
Total Hospital discharge volume  
March 2020 – February 2022 = 14,677,642

COVID-19 hospital discharges followed a different trend than total discharges from March 2020-February 2022:

- **40% of COVID-19 discharges went home** compared to the 50% of total discharges
- COVID-19-positive beneficiaries were **more likely to discharge to Hospice, LTACH, SNF, or to expire in the hospital** than the population as a whole
- The death rate dramatically differed – **17% of COVID-19-positive beneficiaries expired at a hospital** compared to 4.9% of the general hospital population

# WHILE ALMOST HALF (43%) OF COVID-19 PATIENTS WERE DISCHARGED TO HOME IN 2021 Q4, ALMOST 20% EXPIRED IN THE HOSPITAL

## National COVID-19 Hospital Discharges by Care Setting



→ The distribution of COVID-19 discharges continued to vary from the early stages of the pandemic. In 2021 Q4, a **larger share of COVID-19 discharges were sent home and a smaller share were sent to SNF compared to 2020 Q3-4**. After a significant decline from the first half of 2020, **discharge to death rates remained relatively constant from 2020 Q3 onward**, with a slight uptick seen in 2021 Q4.

- This chart book reflects the experiences of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries only. All analyses were created using 100% Medicare claims files for claims incurred January 2019 – February 2022 and paid through March 2022.

Data files were overlapped to create the most complete view of patient movement and trends. Increased lack of visibility is experienced in Quarter 1 2022 data as this is the end of the time period of currently available data.

*Please use caution when interpreting this data analysis due to “claims lag” and manual manipulation of data. All data will be updated retroactively as additional quarters of data are released.*

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