

SURVEY NAME	National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS)
SPONSOR	Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).
MODE OF ADMINISTRATION	Manual sample selection and abstraction of inpatient medical records by field personnel or automated data collection through the purchase of data tapes from commercial abstracting sources, States or hospitals.
SURVEY SAMPLE DESIGN	The NHDS utilizes a three-stage probability design that includes primary sampling units (PSUs) used for the 1985-94 National Health Interview Survey, hospitals within PSUs, and discharges within hospitals. The largest hospitals were selected with certainty. The annual number of records included in the survey is approximately 260,000.
RESPONSE RATES	The survey response rate averages between 92 and 95 percent annually.
PRIMARY SURVEY CONTENT	Variables collected include: age; sex; race; ethnicity; admission and discharge dates (length of stay); discharge status; hospital size, ownership, and region; from 1-7 diagnoses coded using the ICD-9-CM; and, from 0-4 procedures using the ICD-9-CM. The 1999 survey will use the ICD-10-CM.
POPULATION TARGETED	Hospital discharges from short-stay noninstitutional hospitals and general and children's hospitals regardless of length of stay, exclusive of military and Department of Veteran Affairs hospitals, located within the 50 States and the District of Columbia.
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	Patient's age, sex, race, and ethnicity.
YEARS COLLECTED	1965 to present.
SCHEDULE	Annual
GEOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES POSSIBLE	National, regional.
NOTES	Data on race are not reported by many hospitals because of the omission of a race field on hospital discharge reporting forms. More hospitals have automated their discharge systems in recent years and are using these forms. A comparison of NHDS data with data for those who reported being hospitalized in the National Health Interview Survey (interview data were adjusted to exclude hospitalizations of 1 day or less) indicated that under reporting for whites was roughly 22 percent in 1991; the difference for African Americans was negligible. Hispanic origin is not reported for 85 percent of the NHDS records. (Kozak LJ. Under reporting of race in the National Hospital Discharge Survey. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 265. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics, 1995.)