



H·CUP
HEALTHCARE COST AND UTILIZATION PROJECT

Powerful Data. Meaningful Answers.

National (Nationwide) Inpatient Sample (NIS)

Large Nationwide Database for Exploring Your Research Questions

For many of your research questions – whether tracking utilization over time for a specific procedure or determining the national bill for a specific condition – the National (Nationwide) Inpatient Sample (NIS) may have the hospital data you need.

The NIS is the most comprehensive administrative database of its kind.

The NIS is nationally representative of all short-term, non-Federal hospitals. It is sampled from hospitals that make up 90 percent of all discharges in the United States and includes all patients, regardless of payer. The vast size of the NIS allows the study of topics at both the national and regional levels. In addition, NIS data are standardized across years, to facilitate ease of use.

The NIS is user friendly and easy to purchase.

As part of the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) database family, the NIS is considered by health services researchers to be one of the most reliable and affordable databases for studying important health care topics.

Easy to purchase from the HCUP Central Distributor through a simple application process, the NIS can help answer your research questions.

Visit the [HCUP-US Web site](#) for more information.

Many Data Elements to Advance Your Analyses

Apply hundreds of data elements to your research, including:

- All diagnoses and procedures (e.g., ICD-9-CM codes)*
- Severity and comorbidity measures
- Source of admission
- Hospital characteristics (e.g., teaching vs. nonteaching)
- Total charges
- Payer (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance uninsured)
- Length of stay
- Discharge status
- Patient demographics (e.g., age, gender, income level, rural vs. urban)

**International Classification of Diseases.*

Comprehensive Data Yield Valuable Answers

The NIS can be used to study a variety of research topics, including:

- Utilization by special populations
- Hospital stays for rare conditions
- Variations in medical practice
- Quality of care and patient safety
- Impact of health policy changes
- Diffusion of medical technology
- Charges for specific conditions

Make the Most of Your Research

Free tools are also available to identify preventable hospitalizations, estimate costs, assess quality of care and patient safety, categorize diagnoses and procedures, and identify comorbidities. In addition to adding value to the NIS, these tools can be used with other health care databases.

Additional information from other databases (e.g., the American Hospital Association Annual Survey Database and the Area Resource File) can be combined with the NIS, allowing you to expand your analyses.

Easy to Purchase

NIS data are provided on CD in ASCII format. A statistical software package, such as SAS, SPSS, or Stata, is required for analysis. Programs to load data into SAS and SPSS are provided.

For a list of prices (including discounted student rates) and complete purchasing information, visit the [HCUP-US Web site](#). This site also provides access to aggregate statistics from the NIS through the free online query resource known as the HCUPnet and contains details on data elements and software tools.



The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP, pronounced “H-Cup”) is a family of powerful health care databases, software tools, and products for advancing research. Sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), HCUP includes the largest all-payer, encounter-level collection of longitudinal health care data (inpatient, ambulatory surgery, and emergency department) in the United States, beginning in 1988.

HCUP is a Federal-State-Industry Partnership that brings together the data collection efforts of many organizations – such as State data organizations, hospital associations, private data organizations, and the Federal Government – to create a national information resource. HCUP would not be possible without the contributions of data collection Partners from across the nation.

For more information about HCUP, please visit www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov.