



National Health Care Surveys Overview

Survey Setting	Type of Data	Years Fielded	Most Recent Year Available	Number Respondents in Most Recent Year Available
Ambulatory and Hospital Care				
Physicians, office-based National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) www.cdc.gov/nchs/namcs.htm	Physicians in offices and community health centers, mid-level providers in community health centers, patient visits	1973-1981, 1985, 1989- present	2007	1,266 physicians 32,778 visits
Emergency and outpatient departments National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhamcs.htm	Hospital emergency and outpatient departments, patient visits*	1992-present	2007	362 hospitals 35,490 ED visits 34,473 outpatient visits
Ambulatory Surgery National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery (NSAS) www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsas.htm	Hospital and free-standing facilities, surgery visits*	2006	2006	437 facilities 52,233 visits
Inpatient hospital care National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/hdasd/nhds.htm	Hospitals, inpatient discharges‡	1965-present	2006	438 hospitals 376,328 discharges
Long-Term Care Home health and hospice care providers National Home and Hospice Care Survey (NHHCS) www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhhcs.htm	Home and hospice care agencies, current patients, discharged residents; in 2007, agencies, current residents, home health aides	1992-1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2007	2007	1,036 facilities 5,026 current home health care patients 4,733 hospice discharges 3,377 home health aides
Nursing homes National Nursing Home Survey (NNHS) www.cdc.gov/nchs/nnhs.htm	Before 2004, nursing homes, current residents, discharged residents; in 2004, nursing homes, current residents, nursing assistants	1973-74, 1977, 1985, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2004	2004	1,174 facilities 13,670 current residents 3,017 nursing assistants
Residential care facilities National Survey of Residential Care Facilities http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsrcf.htm	Residential care facilities, residents	2010		Expected 2,500 facilities 8,450 residents

^{*}Hospital-based ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) included in 2009 NHAMCS. Free-standing and hospital-based ASCs in 2010 NHAMCS ‡National Hospital Discharge Survey to be redesigned in 2010.

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Health care researchers, policy makers, and public health professionals use these nationally representative data to study key issues such as use of resources, and quality of care, including disparities for population subgroups in the United States. Within each setting, data are collected from a sample of health care providers and from samples of encounters within these organizations. The surveys collect core information that remains stable over time. Special modules may be added to collect other data as needed.

For more information call: 301-458-4157 or visit us at: www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs.htm.

Ambulatory and Hospital Care			Long-Term Care		
	Ambulatory Medical Care*	Inpatient Hospital Care‡	Residential Care Facilities	Home and Hospice Care Agencies and Nursing Homes	
Provider organizations and clinicians	Sources of revenue Ownership Staffing Patient volume Electronic medical records Medical technologies on-site Physician specialty	Ownership Bed size	Rate structures and charges Ownership Staffing Bed size Electronic medical records Vaccination programs Census Physical environment and safety features	Sources of revenue Ownership Staffing and accreditation Bed size Electronic medical records Vaccination programs End-of-life programs	
Patients	Demographics Diagnoses Co-morbid chronic conditions Continuity of care Expected source of payment	Demographics Diagnoses Source and type of admission Expected source of payment	Demographics Diagnoses Health, cognitive, and functional status Co-morbid chronic conditions Living arrangements	Demographics Diagnoses Health, cognitive and functional status Expected source of payment	
Clinical management	Procedures Medications Immunizations Diagnostic and screening services Disease management Counseling services Disposition Duration of visit	Procedures Length of stay Adverse drug events Inpatient mortality Disposition	Services Medication management Assistive aids/devices Duration of stay Urgent care use Dementia special care units Admission/discharge policies	Procedures Medications Services Palliative and end-of-life care	

^{*}Ambulatory Medical Care surveyed settings are office-based physicians, hospital emergency and outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery centers ‡National Hospital Discharge Survey to be re-designed in 2010