



# Survey Overview

## About the National Hospital Care Survey

The National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS), conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics, collects data on patient care in hospital-based settings to describe patterns of health care delivery and use in the United States.

NHCS hospital-based settings include inpatient and emergency departments—places like your hospital. By participating in NHCS, you can help the National Center for Health Statistics raise awareness about key health insights, guide policy, and improve public health.

## Your Hospital is Vital

Your hospital was randomly chosen to provide representative data for itself and for similar hospitals of the same service type, bed size, and geographic location.

Your participation in NHCS is critical, because without your involvement, your hospital, and other similar hospitals, will not be represented in the national description of care provided by hospitals. The success of our study depends on the willingness of healthcare professionals like you to provide information on current healthcare services in the United States.

## Benefits of Participation

### Make a Difference

Your data will contribute to addressing public health issues that will lead to better health care for all. Help us transform patient data into public health action.

### Community Benefit

Nonprofit hospitals participating in NHCS may be eligible for a tax exemption. For more information about this benefit, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs/community\\_benefit.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs/community_benefit.htm).

### Access to the Annual Hospital Report Portal

The Annual Hospital Report is an interactive web-based portal that will provide reports on data you have submitted, including post-hospital discharge mortality information from your hospital's data linked to the National Death Index.

### Compensation

Participating hospitals will receive \$500 for set up and \$500 either for each year of participation or for every 12 months of data submitted.

### Access to the National Health Care Surveys Registry

NHCS is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs: Promoting Interoperability (formerly known as Meaningful Use), and the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Registration is free of charge and available at: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/dhcs/nhcs\\_registry\\_landing.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/dhcs/nhcs_registry_landing.htm).



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for  
Health Statistics

## Participation Process

Participation in NHCS involves the following:

- A brief interview to determine eligibility.
- Electronic submission of all inpatient discharges and emergency department visits from your EHR system or your Uniform Bill (UB04) administrative claims or a similar state file.
- Completion of a brief, online Annual Hospital Interview consisting of summary administrative data.

Please note that participation is voluntary and there are no penalties for not participating.

## Sponsorship & Purpose

This project is sponsored by the National Center for Health Statistics which is mandated by Congress to address a full spectrum of health concerns, from birth to death. Our mission supports the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide statistical information that will guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people. As the nation's principal health statistics agency, the National Center for Health Statistics leads the way with accurate, relevant, and timely data through programs like NHCS.

NHCS aims to understand the population's health and health outcomes in the following ways:

- Provides nationally representative, accurate, and reliable healthcare data for hospital-based settings.
- Answers key questions of interest to healthcare professionals, researchers, and policy makers about quality, use of resources, and disparities of services to population subgroups.
- Addresses both acute and chronic illnesses and respond to public health emergencies.
- Monitors national trends in substance use-related emergency department visits, including opioid visits.
- Provides data that links episodes of care across hospital units, as well as other data sources such as the National Death Index (NDI).
- Contributes to a stronger public health foundation that helps address current and future public health threats.

## Confidentiality & Data Safeguarding

We will not release the name of your hospital to anyone, nor will we release any data that could identify your hospital or patients. Any data released in a public use file will only include de-identified data.

The National Center for Health Statistics and its agents take the security and confidentiality of the data we collect very seriously. Strict laws prevent us from releasing information that could identify you without your consent. The following federal laws require that all information National Center for Health Statistics collects be held in strict confidence:

- Section 308(d) of the Public Health Services Act [42 United States Code 242m (d)]
- Section 3572 of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (Pub. L. No. 115-435, 132 Stat. 5529 § 302]

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-191) permits disclosure of protected health information without patient authorization for public health purposes.

The Ethics Review Board at the National Center for Health Statistics has reviewed and approved all aspects of this study.

## Contact Information

**Kathy Chimes, Project Director**  
Westat  
chimesk1@westat.com  
301-251-4302

**Geoffrey Jackson, Team Leader**  
Hospital Care Team, CDC, NCHS  
gjackson@cdc.gov  
301-458-4703