Attachment P

Department of Commerce
United States Census Bureau
OMB Information Collection Request
Annual Integrated Economic Survey
OMB Control Number 0607-1024

Patient Discharges Update

When the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the most recent Annual Integrated Economic Survey (AIES) package, it requested that the Census Bureau submits its "plans for reviewing the data quality of the patient discharge questions, its use in publication, and how the Census Bureau will evaluate its need on the AIES versus its placements on other surveys."

During survey year 2025, the AIES collected patient discharges from hospital respondents. The patient discharges question was not previously collected through the AIES or its predecessor surveys (i.e., the legacy annual surveys that merged into the AIES). However, this concept is already collected on the Census Bureau's Quarterly Services Survey (QSS). Census Bureau leadership recognized the potential long-term benefits of adding this question to the AIES for data users, which is why it was added to the survey year 2025 collection instrument. Namely, collecting discharges alongside inpatient days and outpatient visits on the AIES will enable the Census Bureau to evaluate these related hospital activity measures together. The results of this evaluation will help the agency better coordinate patient activity content across surveys, with an objective of reducing potential redundancy while maintaining high-quality statistics. The AIES question paralleled the QSS version of the question.

The AIES subject matter experts (SMEs) overseeing 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) subsector 622, which is "Hospitals," plan to use various internal and external data sources to analyze and verify the data collected in the AIES. For instance, data collected via the QSS will be used for verification purposes. In terms of external data sources, publicly available financial reports issued by the hospitals will, in some instances, relay data that can be used to validate the collected AIES information. Additionally, data accessible through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) cost reports will be leveraged to analyze the AIES data, too.

The Census Bureau currently releases an AIES table called "Health Care and Social Assistance: Estimated Inpatient Days, Outpatient Visits, Inpatient Revenue, and Outpatient Revenue for Employer Firms in the U.S." The data are released for

NAICS-based codes 6221101 (“General medical and surgical hospitals, government”), 6221102 (“General medical and surgical hospitals, except government”), 6222101 (“Psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals, government”), 6222102 (“Psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals, except government”), 6223101 (“Specialty [except psychiatric and substance abuse] hospitals, government”), and 6223102 (“Specialty [except psychiatric and substance abuse] hospitals, except government”). Assuming the review of the patient discharges data reveals that the collected information meets the Census Bureau’s quality standards, the Census Bureau will release the patient discharges data on the aforementioned AIES table.

After the SMEs analyze the collected data, the Census Bureau will use the findings to consider which survey (AIES or QSS) is the appropriate vehicle to collect this information on moving forward. To make this determination, it will consider which existing survey will enable the agency to release high-quality and timely data (that meet stakeholder needs) in a way that minimizes burden on respondents to the greatest degree possible.