Description of Data Elements

Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS)
Hospital Weights File

This document contains cumulative descriptions of data elements across all states and years of HCUP data from 1988 to the current data year. Please refer to the Overview of the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for specific information on which states are included in each year of the NIS.

Not all variables in the NIS are uniformly coded or available across all the states. Please check the "State Specific Notes" section for each data element before analysis.

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AHAID - AHA hospital identifier

The hospital identifier (AHAID) contains the 7-digit American Hospital Association (AHA) hospital identifier that the AHA uses on their yearly AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals data files. These files contain information about hospital characteristics and are available for purchase through the AHA.

AHAID is missing for some hospitals because an AHA hospital identifier cannot be determined. Hospitals may not be registered with the AHA or the source-provided information cannot be matched to the AHA.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
AHAID	AHA hospital identifier	7(n)	AHA hospital identifier with a leading 6
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

DISCWT - Weight to discharges in the universe. Use to create national estimates for all analyses except those that involve total charges.

General Notes

DISCWT and DISCWTcharge are discharge-level weights. To produce national estimates, use DISCWT or DISCWTcharge to weight sampled discharges in the Core file to the discharges from all community hospitals located in the U.S.

- Prior to the 2000 NIS, DISCWT should be used to create all national estimates. DISCWTcharge is not available.
- Beginning with the 2000 NIS, DISCWT should be used to create national estimates for all analyses except those that involve total charges. DISCWTcharge should be used to create national estimates of total charges.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
DISCWT	Weight to discharges in the universe. Use to create national estimates for all analyses except those that involve total charges.	nn.nnnn	Weight to discharges in the universe. Use to create national estimates for all analyses except those that involve total charges.

State Specific Notes

None

DISCWTcharge - Weight to discharges in the universe. Use to create national estimates for total charges.

General Notes

DISCWT and DISCWTcharge are discharge-level weights. To produce national estimates, use DISCWT or DISCWTcharge to weight sampled discharges in the Core file to the discharges from all community hospitals located in the U.S.

- Prior to the 2000 NIS, DISCWT should be used to create all national estimates. DISCWTcharge is not available.
- Beginning with the 2000 NIS, DISCWT should be used to create national estimates for all analyses except those that involve total charges. DISCWTcharge should be used to create national estimates of total charges.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
DISCWTcharge	Weight to discharges in the universe. Use to create national estimates for total charges.	nn.nnnn	Weight to discharges in the universe. Use to create national estimates for total charges.

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPADDR - Hospital address from AHA Annual Survey

General Notes

HOSPADDR contains the hospital's street address obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSPADDR	Hospital address from AHA Annual Survey	30(a)	Hospital's street address
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPCITY - Hospital city from AHA Annual Survey

General Notes

HOSPCITY contains the hospital's city obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSPCITY	Hospital city from AHA Annual Survey	20(a)	Hospital city
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPID - HCUP hospital identification number

General Notes

For consistency across states, HCUP defines hospitals in accordance with the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals. The hospital entity as defined by HOSPID may differ from the data source hospital entity (DSHOSPID). For example, the data source treats two separate facilities as two hospitals, while the AHA Annual Survey treats the two facilities as a single hospital, or vice versa.

The HCUP hospital identifier is based on the AHA hospital identifier and is defined as:

- SSnnn, where SS = State FIPS Code, and
- nnn = hospital number unique to state.

HOSPID is missing for some hospitals because an AHA hospital identifier cannot be determined. Hospitals may not be registered with the AHA or the source-provided information cannot be matched to the AHA.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSPID	HCUP hospital identification number	5(n)	HCUP hospital identification number
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPNAME - Hospital name from AHA Annual Survey

General Notes

HOSPNAME contains the hospital's name obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSPNAME	Hospital name from AHA Annual Survey	30(a)	Hospital's name
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPST - Hospital State postal code

General Notes

HOSPST indicates the hospital's two-character state postal code (e.g., "CA" for California).

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPST	Hospital State postal code	aa	Hospital State postal code

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPWT - Weight to hospitals in the universe

General Notes

HOSPWT is a hospital-level weight. To produce national estimates, use HOSPWT to weight sampled hospitals to all community hospitals located in the U.S. For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPWT	Weight to hospitals in the universe	nn.nnnn	Weight to hospitals in the universe

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPZIP - Hospital zip code from AHA Annual Survey

General Notes

HOSPZIP contains the hospital's zip code obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSPZIP	Hospital zip code from AHA Annual Survey	5(n)	Hospital's zip code
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_BEDSIZE - Bedsize of hospital

General Notes

Bedsize categories are based on hospital beds, and are specific to the hospital's location and teaching status. Bedsize assesses the number of short-term acute beds in a hospital. Hospital information was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. A hospital is considered to be a teaching hospital if it has an AMA-approved residency program, is a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) or has a ratio of full-time equivalent interns and residents to beds of .25 or higher.

The hospital's bedsize categories are defined as follows. Rural hospitals were not split according to teaching status, because rural teaching hospitals were rare.

BEDSIZE CATEGORIES			
Location and Teaching Status	Hospital Bedsize		
	Small	Medium	Large
NORTHEAST REGION			
Rural	1-49	50-99	100+
Urban, nonteaching	1-124	125-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-424	425+
MIDWEST REGION			
Rural	1-29	30-49	50+
Urban, nonteaching	1-74	75-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-374	375+
SOUTHERN REGION			
Rural	1-39	40-74	75+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-449	450+
WESTERN REGION			
Rural	1-24	25-44	45+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-199	200-324	325+

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's bedsize category has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's bedsize category was stored in the variable ST_BEDSZ. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the

variable H_BEDSZ. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_BEDSIZE is used.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSP_BEDSIZE	Bedsize of hospital	1	Small
		2	Medium
		3	Large
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_CONTROL - Control/ownership of hospital

General Notes

The hospital's ownership/control category was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals and include categories for government nonfederal (public), private not-for-profit (voluntary) and private investor-owned (proprietary). These types of hospitals tend to have different missions and different responses to government regulations and policies. When sample size was sufficiently large, hospitals were stratified as public, voluntary, and proprietary; otherwise, ownership/control categories were collapsed.

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's ownership/control category has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's ownership/control category was stored in the variable ST_OWNER. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_CONTRL. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_CONTROL is used.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSP_CONTROL	Control/ownership of hospital	0	Government or private (collapsed category)
		1	Government, nonfederal (public)
		2	Private, not-for-profit (voluntary)
		3	Private, investor-owned (proprietary)
		4	Private (collapsed category)
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_LOCATION - Location (urban/rural) of hospital

General Notes

This information was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. A metropolitan statistical area is considered urban, and a non-metropolitan statistical area is rural. Government payment policies often differ according to this designation. Also, rural hospitals are generally smaller and offer fewer services than urban hospitals.

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's location category has changed over time. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_LOC. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_LOCATION is used. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's location category was not available.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSP_LOCATION	Location (urban/rural) of hospital	0	Rural
		1	Urban
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_LOCTEACH - Location/teaching status of hospital

General Notes

The hospital's location and teaching status were obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. A metropolitan statistical area is considered urban, and a non-metropolitan statistical area is rural. A hospital is considered to be a teaching hospital if it has an AMA-approved residency program, is a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) or has a ratio of full-time equivalent interns and residents to beds of .25 or higher.

Rural hospitals were not split according to teaching status, because rural teaching hospitals were rare.

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's location and teaching status has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's location and teaching status was stored in the variable LOCTEACH. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_LOCTCH. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_LOCTEACH is used.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSP_LOCTEACH	Location/teaching status of hospital	1	Rural
		2	Urban nonteaching
		3	Urban teaching
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_REGION - Region of hospital

General Notes

The hospital's census region was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. Census region is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

This is an important stratifier because practice patterns have been shown to vary substantially by region. For example, lengths of stay tend to be longer in East Coast hospitals than in West Coast hospitals.

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's census region has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's bedsize category was stored in the variable ST_REG. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_REGION. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_REGION is used.

The Midwest region was referred to as "North Central" in the 1988-1992 NIS.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
HOSP_REGION	Region of hospital	1	Northeast
		2	Midwest
		3	South
		4	West

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_TEACH - Teaching status of hospital

General Notes

The hospital's teaching status was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. The missions of teaching hospitals differ from nonteaching hospitals. In addition, financial considerations differ between these two hospital groups. Currently, the Medicare DRG payments are uniformly higher to teaching hospitals than to nonteaching hospitals. A hospital is considered to be a teaching hospital if it has an AMA-approved residency program, is a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) or has a ratio of full-time equivalent interns and residents to beds of .25 or higher.

The HCUP variable name and definition for the hospital's teaching status has changed over time. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the variable name HOSP_TEACH is used, and teaching hospitals include hospitals with a ratio of .25 or higher of full-time equivalent interns and residents to non-nursing home beds. In the 1993-1997 NIS, teaching status is stored in the variable H_TCH and does not include the ratio of interns and residents to beds. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's teaching status is not available as a separate variable.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSP_TEACH	Teaching status of hospital	0	Nonteaching
		1	Teaching
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

IDNUMBER - Modified AHA hospital identifier

General Notes

IDNUMBER contains a HCUP-modified American Hospital Association (AHA) hospital identifier. The AHA uses a 7-digit hospital identifier on their yearly AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals data files. These files contain information about hospital characteristics and are available for purchase through the AHA.

IDNUMBER contains the last 6 digits of the original 7-digit AHA hospital identifier because the leading "6" has been removed. The data element AHAID retains the original 7-digit value.

IDNUMBER is missing for some hospitals because an AHA hospital identifier cannot be determined. Hospitals may not be registered with the AHA or the source-provided information cannot be matched to the AHA.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
IDNUMBER	Modified AHA hospital identifier	6(n)	AHA Hospital identifier without a leading 6
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

NIS_STRATUM - Stratum used to post-stratify hospital

General Notes

NIS_STRATUM is a four-digit stratum identifier used to post-stratify hospitals for the calculation of universe and frame weights.

The hospital's census region, ownership/control, location/teaching, and bedsize were obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

- A metropolitan statistical area is considered urban, and a non-metro statistical area is rural.
- Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program, are a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) or have a ratio of full-time equivalent interns and residents to beds of .25 or higher.
- Bedsize assesses the number of short-term acute beds in a hospital.

The hospital's bedsize category is nested within location and teaching status.

BEDSIZE CATEGORIES			
Location and Teaching Status	Hospital Bedsize		
	Small	Medium	Large
NORTHEAST REGION			
Rural	1-49	50-99	100+
Urban, nonteaching	1-124	125-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-424	425+
MIDWEST REGION			
Rural	1-29	30-49	50+
Urban, nonteaching	1-74	75-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-374	375+
SOUTHERN REGION			
Rural	1-39	40-74	75+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-449	450+
WESTERN REGION			
Rural	1-24	25-44	45+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-199	200-324	325+

Some strata were combined for sampling and weight calculations. Consequently, a given hospital's actual value for a stratifier may differ from those indicated by the value of NIS_STRATUM. Each hospital's actual values of stratifiers are contained in separate variables:

Stratifier	**1988-1992 NIS**	**1993-1997 NIS**	**Beginning in 1998 NIS**
Region	ST_REG	H_REGION	HOSP_REGION
Ownership/Control	ST_OWNER	H_CONTRL	HOSP_CONTROL
Location/Teaching	LOCTEACH	H_LOCTCH	HOSP_LOCTEACH
Bedsize	ST_BEDSZ	H_BEDSZ	HOSP_BEDSIZE

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
NIS_STRATUM	Stratum used to post-stratify hospital	Geographic region	Northeast (1)
			Midwest (2)
			South (3)
			West (4)
		Control	Government, nonfederal (1)
			Private, not-for-profit (2)
			Private, investor-owned (3)
			Private, either not-for-profit or investor-owned (4)
		Location/Teaching	Rural (1)
			Urban nonteaching (2)
			Urban teaching (3)
		Bedsize	Small (1)
			Medium (2)
			Large (3)

State Specific Notes

None

N_DISC_U - Number of universe discharges in NIS_STRATUM

General Notes

N_DISC_U contains the total number of discharges in the universe of AHA community hospitals for the strata in NIS_STRATUM.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
N_DISC_U	Number of universe discharges in NIS_STRATUM	7(n)	Number of universe discharges in NIS_STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

N_HOSP_U - Number of universe hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

General Notes

N_HOSP_U contains the total number of hospitals in the universe of AHA community hospitals for the strata in NIS_STRATUM.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
N_HOSP_U	Number of universe hospitals in NIS_STRATUM	3(n)	Number of universe hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

S_DISC_U - Number of sample discharges in NIS_STRATUM

General Notes

S_DISC_U contains the number of sampled discharges in the strata in NIS_STRATUM.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
S_DISC_U	Number of sample discharges in NIS_STRATUM	6(n)	Number of sample discharges in NIS_STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

S_HOSP_U - Number of sample hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

General Notes

S_HOSP_U contains the number of sampled hospitals in the strata in NIS_STRATUM.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
S_HOSP_U	Number of sample hospitals in NIS_STRATUM	nn	Number of sample hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

TOTAL_DISC - Total hospital discharges

General Notes

Total number of discharges from this hospital in the NIS.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	**Description**	**Value**	**Value Description**
TOTAL_DISC	Total hospital discharges	5(n)	Total hospital discharges

State Specific Notes

None

YEAR - Calendar year

The discharge year (YEAR) is <u>always</u> coded. In the 1988-1997 HCUP databases, YEAR is two-digits (e.g., if the discharge year is 1990, then YEAR = 90). Beginning in the 1998 HCUP databases, YEAR is four-digits (e.g., 1998).

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
YEAR	Calendar year	yy	2-digit calendar year in 1988-1997 data
		yyyy	4-digit calendar year beginning with 1998 data

State Specific Notes

None