

# 2022 NATIONAL HOSPITAL CARE SURVEY (NHCS) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

For Public Use Data Files



Division of Health Care Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics  
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## Overview Summary

This document provides detailed information and guidance for users of the 2022 National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) public use data files. As a principal source of information on health care utilization in the United States, NHCS collects inpatient and emergency department (ED) data from a nationally representative sample of U.S. hospitals sourced from administrative and electronic health records data. The 2022 NHCS is conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and is a member of the National Health Care Surveys – a family of surveys which measure health care utilization across a variety of health care providers and settings.

Section 1 of this document includes information on the scope of the survey, its sources of data, and the confidentiality protections related to the data. Section 2 contains details on the sampling process, data collection procedures, and weighting methodology used to produce national estimates on hospital utilization. Section 3 provides information on the number of sampled hospitals that were eligible to participate in NHCS and submitted data in 2022. Section 4 details the contents of the 2022 NHCS public use data files and the edits used in the creation of the files. Section 5 contains an explanation of the procedures used to accurately produce variance estimates. National Center for Health Statistics presentation standards for proportions, counts, and rates, and their relation to NHCS data are discussed in Section 6, and the data analysis guidelines are provided in Section 7. Section 8 provides variable missingness by both inpatient and ED settings, and Section 9 provides a comparison of frequencies between the NHCS public use data files and NHCS restricted use data file, as well as to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) nationwide samples. Section 10 provides a list of preferred reporting items for complex sample survey analysis for 2022 NHCS. Section 11 provides further information on the availability of the NHCS restricted use data files available in NCHS and Federal Research Data Centers.

## Suggested Citation

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## Contact Information

Data users can find the latest information about NHCS on our website, at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs/index.htm>. If data users have queries about the public use data files, they may send their question through email to [nhcs@cdc.gov](mailto:nhcs@cdc.gov), or call us at 301-458-4321. A response to data user inquiries is generally provided in 1-2 business days.

The NHCS also has a listserv, where updates and information about the most recent NHCS news and data releases are sent out. To join the listserv, there are two options:

1. Send an email message to [listserv@cdc.gov](mailto:listserv@cdc.gov). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type or paste: **subscribe NHCS-DATA your name** where “your name” is your first and last name.
2. Fill out and submit a subscription request form through the NCHS listservs webpage ([https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nchs\\_listservs.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nchs_listservs.htm)). You should receive an email notification of your subscription.

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## Section 1 About the National Hospital Care Survey

### Section 1.1 Background

The National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) provides data on health care utilization in hospital-based settings, including inpatient departments and emergency departments (EDs). Data collection for NHCS began in 2011, integrating two long-standing National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) surveys: the National Hospital Discharge Survey, the longest continuously fielded sample of inpatient care from 1965-2010; and the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (1992-2022), which was comprised of three data collection components: hospital EDs (1992-2022), outpatient departments (1992-2017), and ambulatory surgery centers/locations (2009-2017).

NHCS collects data on inpatient discharges and ED visits including information on diagnoses and procedures, length of stay, and patient demographics. NHCS aims to provide health trends and outcomes of the U.S. population's utilization of hospitals in the following ways:

- Provide nationally representative, accurate, and reliable health care data for hospital-based settings.
- Answer key questions of interest to health care professionals, researchers, and policy makers about health care quality, use of resources, and disparities of services to population subgroups.
- Monitor national trends in substance use-related emergency department visits, including opioid and stimulant use visits.
- Provide data that links episodes of care across hospital units, as well as to other data sources, such as the National Death Index.
- Contribute to a stronger public health infrastructure that helps address current and future public health threats.

For 2022, the NHCS sample included 608 non-institutional, non-federal hospitals with six or more staffed inpatient beds in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. In 2022, there were 219 hospitals that provided data on inpatient discharges and ED visits. Overall, 176,916 inpatient discharges and 497,769 ED visits were selected to create the 2022 NHCS public use data files.

### Section 1.2 Data Sources

NHCS receives data from billing and electronic health record sources. This includes Uniform Billing (UB)-04 administrative claims data, the accepted electronic standard for hospital billing as mandated by the

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (<https://www.nubc.org/>). Additionally, hospitals can submit data from Vizient, a member-driven health care services company that collects encounter data from hospitals prior to submitting data to NHCS (<https://www.vizientinc.com/>). Vizient data are similar to UB-04 administrative claims data, but do not contain patient identifiers. Alternatively, hospitals may submit electronic health record (EHR) data, which contain an unlimited number of medical diagnosis and procedure codes, laboratory and medication data, and unstructured clinical notes. NHCS only accepts EHR data in the format of HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: National Health Care Surveys Release 1, DSTU Release 1.2 – US Realm ([http://www.hl7.org/implement/standards/product\\_brief.cfm?product\\_id=385](http://www.hl7.org/implement/standards/product_brief.cfm?product_id=385)).

Starting in 2020, NHCS also received data from the hospital database of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) for sampled non-participating hospitals (<https://www.acep.org/>). The data from ACEP are only from EDs and do not include any inpatient data, nor does the data include any hospital or patient identifiers.

### Section 1.3 Data Confidentiality

NCHS and its agents take the security and confidentiality of NHCS data very seriously. Strict laws have been implemented to establish minimum Federal standards for safeguarding the privacy of individually identifiable health information. Assurance of confidentiality is provided to all hospitals according to Section 308(d) of the Public Health Services Act [42 United States Code 242m (d)]. Strict procedures according to Section 3572 of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (44 U.S.C. 3561-3583) are utilized to prevent disclosure of personal identifiable information in NHCS data. All information which could identify a participating hospital is confidential and seen only by persons associated with NHCS and is not disclosed or released to others for any other purpose. Prior to the release of public use data files, NCHS conducts extensive disclosure risk analysis to minimize the chance of inadvertent disclosure. As a result, selected characteristics and/or data elements may have been masked on the public use data files to minimize the potential risk of disclosure. Masking was performed in such a way to cause minimal impact on the data. See Section 4: Data Processing for more information on which variables in the public use data files were impacted.

The protocol for NHCS has been approved by the NCHS Research Ethics Review Board annually since the survey's establishment in 2011.

## Section 2 Methodology

### Section 2.1 Brief Overview

The 2022 NHCS used a national probability sample of hospitals to collect data on inpatient discharges and ED visits to develop the public use data files. The 2022 NHCS public use data files sample was designed to provide estimates for encounters in both inpatient and ED settings. NHCS data are extracted from hospital billing or EHR systems and transmitted electronically to NCHS for processing. These data are sourced from non-institutional, non-federal hospitals with six or more staffed inpatient beds in the 50 U.S. states and District of Columbia.

### Section 2.2 Hospital Frame and Sample Design

The initial sampling frame for NHCS was constructed in 2011 and consisted of 6,622 non-institutional and non-federal hospitals with at least six staffed inpatient beds. From that initial file, a sample of 1,000 eligible hospitals was selected.

The initial sample of 1,000 hospitals was split into two groups of 500 – a base sample and a reserve sample. The base sample hospitals were selected for data collection and the reserve sample of hospitals was held to replenish the base sample if more hospitals of certain hospital types of the fielded sample were deemed ineligible during data collection or to capture more data from a type of hospital. In 2013, 81 general acute hospitals with at least 500 staffed inpatient beds from the reserve sample were added to the base sample for data collection. In 2017, the sample and frame files were updated to include newly constructed hospitals from a new source file. The updating of the NHCS sample and frame occurs every three years. Due to the addition of newly sampled birth hospitals, the 2022 base sample included 608 hospitals and the frame included 6,906 hospitals.

### Section 2.3 NHCS Public Use Data Files Sample Design

While the NHCS restricted use data file includes every hospital encounter record submitted to NHCS for the survey year, the 2022 NHCS public use data files consist of a 5% sample of NHCS encounter data from each setting (i.e., both inpatient and ED). In 2022, NHCS collected 3,863,127 inpatient and 10,914,635 ED records. Systematic random sampling was used to select the samples for the public use data files of inpatient and ED records.

This 5% sample of NHCS records was selected for the public use data files instead of the full listing of records for the following reasons: (1) inclusion of all records from inpatient discharges and ED visits from

all sampled hospitals would pose unacceptable disclosure risks for the hospitals; and (2) NHCS collects a lot of records that can be difficult for statistical software to process efficiently, so public use data files were reduced to a manageable size for data users.

### Section 2.3.1 Sampling Inpatient Discharge Records

A targeted number of records was determined by taking 5% of the inpatient records ( $n=3,863,127$ ). The sampling interval was the total number of inpatient records divided by the targeted sample. The sampling interval used to select the public use data file records in the 2022 NHCS was 20. For each hospital, a random number was selected between 0 and the sampling interval (TE). For each discharge, a random number was selected between 1 and the number of records submitted within each hospital. Inpatient discharges were then sorted by the following variables within a sampled hospital:

Admission Type → Age → Sex → Length of Stay (LOS) → Expected Source of Payer → Discharge Date → Random Discharge Number

Next from the ordered array of records for hospital ( $j$ ), the records whose assigned “array sequential” numbers are equal to or first after the following numbers were selected for the public use data file sample:

$$RR_{jj} + L \times TE$$

Where:

$RR_{jj}$  = random number between 0 and TE

$L = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

TE = sampling interval

The sampled records were then sequentially numbered in the order in which they were selected from the hospital’s submitted records.

### Section 2.3.2 Sampling ED Visit Records

For ED visits ( $n=10,914,635$ ), like inpatient discharges, random numbers were assigned 1 through the number of records submitted by a hospital. Within each hospital, events were sorted as follows:

Hospital ID → Age → Sex → Discharge Status → Expected Source of Payment → Encounter End Date → Randomly assigned number for selection

Then within date of visit, the ED visits were sorted to the numbers randomly assigned at the start of the process. The sorted events were then sequentially numbered from each hospital in the sorted order.

## Section 2.4 Data Collection Procedures

In 2022, there were multiple methods for hospitals to submit hospital billing or EHR data. Hospitals could directly submit UB-04 administrative claims or EHR data. Additionally, data could be provided by third-party entities, like Vizient or ACEP. Participating hospitals were required to submit one type of data (e.g., UB-04 administrative claims or EHR, not both). Once data were collected, several steps were required for data processing. Specifications for checking, configuring, and transmitting the data files were developed by NCHS. Once NCHS received the data files, they were processed to harmonize and integrate the data to create a database with similar variables across sources.

## Section 2.5 Weighting

Weighting was done to produce hospital level, ED visit and inpatient discharge level estimates and accounts for sampling probabilities and nonresponse. Hospital level data were collected via self-completed forms from in-scope hospitals defined earlier. Inpatient discharges and ED visits were collected (without sampling) from the sampled hospitals via electronic files of their claims or EHR. Participating hospitals submitted all of their data for 2022. While NHCS restricted use data files include all (or 100%) of records sent, the public use data files include a 5% sample of those records.

All inpatient discharge and ED visit data collected for 2022, except for seven hospitals, were used to produce the inpatient and ED weighted estimates. The seven hospitals were excluded due to quality issues with the submitted data.

The production of weights to produce national estimates involved combining data from the Premier Health Database (PHD) to the 2022 NHCS. The PHD was then removed, and the weights were adjusted for only the 2022 NHCS data. The PHD is a commercially available hospital-based database that collects inpatient service-level data from partner hospitals. It stores information about hospital characteristics such as admitting/attending physician specialties, point of origin, admission type, and discharge status. It also collects encounter-level information on inpatient visits, such as age, sex, race/ethnicity, International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes, Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes, and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes.

Additionally, the 2022 Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) nationwide samples, National Inpatient Sample (NIS) and Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS) were used as construct controls for calibrating the 2022 NHCS encounter-level weights for each setting. NIS collects discharge level and NEDS collects emergency visit level data from participating state partners. These data sources collect information including patient demographics (e.g., sex, age, race, etc.), encounter characteristics (e.g., diagnoses, procedures, diagnosis-related groups (DRG), admission types, etc.), and hospital-level characteristics (e.g., hospital size and region).

The weighting methodology for point estimation and variance estimation consisted of the following steps:

- Computation of original NHCS weights for NHCS hospitals that reflects the original stratified sampling design and estimated response propensities from a model fitted via a likelihood-based approach.
- Computation of original Premier weights for Premier hospitals that reflects estimated participation propensities from a model fitted via a likelihood-based approach.
- For the combined data set of NHCS and Premier, creation of original combined weights as (original combined) =  $\lambda$ (original NHCS weight) for NHCS hospitals and (original combined) =  $(1 - \lambda)$ (original Premier weight) for Premier hospitals.
- Creation of replicate combined weights for variance estimation:
  - Treat the combined NHCS and Premier data as a stratified sample with NHCS strata corresponding to the original design strata and with Premier serving as its own stratum.
  - Use the stratified delete-a-group jackknife (DAGJK), with  $GG_{AA}$  groups for NHCS and  $GG_{BB}$  groups for Premier, to construct  $GG_{AA} + GG_{BB}$  sets of replicate combined weights from the original combined weights.
  - Initial assignment of groups will be individual NHCS hospitals (groups of size one hospital, so that  $GG_{AA} = nn_{AA}$ ) for NHCS and random groups of expected size  $nn_{BB}/50$  Premier hospitals (so that  $GG_{BB} = 50$ ) for Premier.
- Estimates from the combined NHCS and Premier data are then computed using the original combined weights and variance estimates are computed using the replicate combined weights.

- Creation of NHCS calibrated weights:
  - Using the original combined weights and the combined NHCS and Premier data, compute key national estimates to serve as control totals.
  - Calibrate the original combined weights for the NHCS-only subset of the combined data to the key national estimates. Unlike the original NHCS weights that are hospital-specific, these calibrated weights are encounter-specific.
- Creation of replicate NHCS calibrated weights for variance estimation:
  - Using the  $g$ th set of replicate combined weights and the combined NHCS and Premier data, compute the  $g$ th set of key national estimates to serve as control totals.
  - Calibrate the  $g$ th set of replicate combined weights for the NHCS-only subset of the combined data to the  $g$ th set of key national estimates.
- Estimates from the NHCS-only data are then computed using the NHCS calibrated weights and variance estimates are computed using the replicate NHCS calibrated weights.
- Weights and replicate weights for the public use data files were obtained by modifying the NHCS calibrated weights and replicate NHCS calibrated weights. Each replicate weight was adjusted based on the 5% public use data files sampling weight across all encounters within all hospitals.

The 2022 data included a small number of both NHCS specialty hospitals and Premier specialty hospitals. Due to the relatively small number of specialty hospitals in the 2022 NHCS, the inpatient weights for these hospitals were calibrated independently of the acute care hospitals on the weighted survey file. These hospitals were treated as eight weight categories and the DAGJK method was used within each weight category.

### Section 3 Sample Size, Eligibility, and Response Rate

An eligible responding NHCS hospital must have provided data for at least half the months the hospital was in-scope during the survey year. A hospital is considered a partial respondent if they provided less than half of the months for which the hospital was in scope for the NHCS in the survey year. For example, a hospital that was in-scope for all 12 months during the year must have provided at least 6 months of data.

Of the 226 participating hospitals that were included in the 2022 NHCS database sample, 219 (96.9%) were selected to create the public use data files sample. Seven hospitals that submitted data in 2022 were not included in the public use data files selection due to quality issues identified with the submitted data. From the 219 hospitals, 5% of all records were selected by setting for the public use data files.

Overall, 176,916 inpatient discharges and 497,769 ED visits were selected. ED patients transferred to the inpatient department are included in both the inpatient and ED settings. Table 3.1 presents the number of hospitals, encounters, and response rates of NHCS by setting and type of sample population. See Table 3.1 below for more information.

**Table 3.1. Number of hospitals, encounters, and unweighted response rates by setting and file type, National Hospital Care Survey, 2022**

	Inpatient		Emergency Department		Total		Unweighted Response Rate <sup>1</sup>
	Hospitals	Encounters	Hospitals	Encounters	Hospitals	Encounters	
<b>Restricted Use Data File</b>	206	3,863,127	213	10,914,635	226	13,864,874	37.2%
<b>Public Use Data File</b>	196	176,916	198	497,769	219	674,685	N/A

N/A is not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Response rate calculation is the number of hospitals that provided data (226) divided by the number of sampled hospitals (608), multiplied by 100.

## Section 4 Data Processing

Certain NHCS data elements with missing values were imputed prior to creation of the public use data files. This included imputing values for patients with missing sex, age, and length of stay information. For the 2022 NHCS public use data files, 624 (0.4%) inpatient discharges and 24,549 (4.9%) ED visits contained at least one imputed value for age, sex, and/or length of stay. The data included in the public use data files underwent additional processing to prepare them for release. In addition to imputing missing data, suppression rules such as masking were applied for some records to protect patient confidentiality. Other variables such as age or length of stay were either top-coded or bottom-coded in accordance with NCHS confidentiality requirements; this is noted for specific variables outlined in this section.

### Section 4.1 Diagnosis Data

NHCS collects data from participating hospitals from various sources. The diagnosis coding systems varies by data source. Diagnoses from UB-04 administrative claims data are exclusively coded in *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM)*. EHR submitting hospitals provided diagnoses in SNOMED Clinical Terms (CT) and ICD-10-CM. In the creation of a harmonized and integrated hospital database the SNOMED CT diagnosis codes were translated to ICD-10-CM where applicable. Translation from SNOMED CT to ICD-10-CM was the only modification to the diagnosis codes. On the public use data files, medical diagnosis codes were limited to ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes.

An ICD-10-CM code can have a maximum of seven characters and is organized by chapters from A to Z. For the 2022 NHCS public use data files, ICD-10-CM codes have been truncated to four characters to minimize disclosure risks. Rare diagnoses that fail to meet the Rule of 5 have been truncated to two characters. Diagnosis codes are presented as original codes provided by the hospital. While the codes have been truncated, the diagnosis codes are never updated or revised to a different code that would result in a change to the original diagnosis for a visit or hospitalization. To maintain integrity of the data, any codes that appear to be invalid are kept as is.

Duplicate 4-character ICD-10-CM codes were removed for each unique encounter on both the inpatient and ED public use data files. Diagnosis codes were limited to 30 unique records per encounter (variables DX1 through DX30 in the public use data files). A flag was created for encounters with 31 or more

diagnosis codes, prior to removal of diagnosis codes above the 30-diagnosis code threshold (variable DX\_GT30 in the public use data files).

To account for diagnosis codes that may have been excluded after the removal of diagnosis codes above 30 per encounter, category flags from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) Clinical Classification Software Refined (CCSR) for ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes were created to provide information captured in the removed diagnoses. The AHRQ HCUP CCSR aggregates ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes into clinically meaningful categories. This is intended to be used analytically to examine patterns of health care among several factors.

The AHRQ HCUP CCSR categories are used to provide information from all ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes collected in NHCS, including diagnosis codes that were removed from the public use data files because an encounter had more than 30 diagnoses. All ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for records in the inpatient and ED public use data files were mapped to a clinical category as defined by the CCSR and a CCSR category flag was created. The 20 CCSR categories with the highest counts were included on the inpatient and ED public use data files, respectively.

CCSR v2025.1 version was used for creating the CCSR categories. More information on the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, including documentation, can be found here: [https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccsr/ccs\\_refined.jsp](https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccsr/ccs_refined.jsp)

## Section 4.2 Procedure Data

The coding system used for classifying procedures that occurred during the hospital visit depends on the hospital setting. Inpatient procedures are captured by the *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS)*. Procedures occurring in the ED are captured using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) which is created and maintained by the American Medical Association. CPT codes have been excluded from the ED public use data file at this time due to limitations of approved use in the CPT data user's agreement. Therefore, only ICD-10-PCS codes are available on the inpatient public use data file; procedure codes are unavailable on the ED public use data file.

For the NHCS inpatient public use data file, ICD-10-PCS codes have been truncated to three characters or less to minimize disclosure risks. Rare procedure codes are removed from the PUF files. Duplicate 3-character ICD-10-PCS codes were removed from the inpatient discharges on the public use data file. Procedure codes were limited to a maximum of 10 per encounter (listed in the public use data file as

variables PD1 through PD10). A flag was created for inpatient discharges with 11 or more procedure codes, prior to removal of procedure codes above the 10-procedure code threshold (variable PD\_GT10 in the public use data file).

### **Section 4.3 Data Quality**

Data users and researchers should be aware of the possibility that the data may contain implausible combinations (e.g., a male patient with a uterine cancer diagnosis) due to coding errors during the collection process. To preserve the data's integrity, errors within the data have been retained without modification or correction. As a result, data users are urged to exercise discretion in determining how they address such records during their analyses.

### **Section 4.4 Patient Age**

Patients with missing age underwent an imputation process that assigned an age based on donor records with a similar first listed diagnosis. Imputed age values comprised 0.2% of inpatient discharges and 4.8% of ED visits. To reduce disclosure risk, encounters of patients ages 86 and older were top coded to 86 years.

### **Section 4.5 Newborn Age**

A newborn flag identifying encounters of infant patients under 1 month was added to both the inpatient and ED public use data files.

### **Section 4.6 Sex**

Patients with missing sex underwent an imputation process that assigned sex based on donor records with similar first listed diagnosis. Imputed sex values comprised 0.3% of inpatient discharges and 5.1% of ED visits.

### **Section 4.7 Discharge Status**

To minimize disclosure risk, four categories ("other discharge not specified," "admitted as inpatient," "court/law enforcement," "other health care facility") for discharge status were collapsed into the "other" category. The "missing" category is composed of three collapsed categories ("Invalid," "Unknown," and "Missing").

### **Section 4.8 Length of Stay**

Length of stay (LOS) is only available for inpatient discharges and is calculated based on the start and end dates of the encounter. If a patient has a missing length of stay due to missing encounter date information, their length of stay value was imputed based on a donor record with a similar procedure as the encounter with a missing length of stay. The percentage of inpatient discharges with an imputed LOS value is 0.1%. To minimize disclosure risk, encounters for patients with inpatient LOS durations over 14 days were top coded to 15 days. Additionally, encounters for patients with LOS of 30 or more days were flagged (variable LOS\_30Days in the public use data file).

### **Section 4.9 Discharge Month**

To minimize risk of disclosure, exact dates are not provided and instead only the month of the inpatient discharge and ED visit are provided on the inpatient and ED public use data files.

## Section 5 Standard Errors and Variance Estimation

Standard error is primarily a measure of the sampling variability that occurs by chance because only a sample of hospitals are in NHCS, rather than the entire universe of hospitals. Standard errors and other measures of sampling variability are best determined by using a statistical software package that considers the sample designs of surveys to produce such measures.

Propensity modeling was used to develop the base weight through variable selection and harmonization. Replicate calibrated weights were created to produce variance estimates, using the stratified delete-a-group jackknife (DAGJK) method. The DAGJK method resulted in the creation of 100 replicated calibrated weights for the ED public use data file and 135 replicated calibrated weights for the inpatient public use data file to match key national estimates.

The SAS code provided below can be used to generate weighted estimates with standard errors:

```
PROC SURVEYFREQ DATA=FILE VARMETHOD=JACKKNIFE;
TABLE VAR1; * REPLACE "VAR1" WITH THE CATEGORICAL VARIABLE OF INTEREST;
REPWEIGHTS PUF_ENCWGT_1 - PUF_ENCWGT_XXX / JKCOEFS=1; * CHANGE "PUF_ENCWGT_XXX" TO
PUF_ENCWGT_100 FOR ED OR PUF_ENCWGT_135 FOR INPATIENT;
WEIGHT PUF_ENCWGT_BASE;
ODS OUTPUT ONEWAY= ONEWAY;
RUN;
```

See Section 7 for further guidance on how to apply weights and calculate relative standard errors to generate national estimates.

### Section 5.1 Subpopulation Analysis – Subsetting Data

For data users who may have a subpopulation of interest, such as a particular age group or sex, a domain analysis, also known as a subgroup or subpopulation analysis must be performed.

For some variance estimation methods, the entire set of data containing the appropriate weights for a particular survey year must be used to obtain the correct variance estimates. Therefore, it is not recommended to drop observations from the dataset when subsetting data, as it may affect variance estimation.

Instead, the estimation procedure must indicate which records are in the subgroup of interest. For example, when examining female patients aged 35 and over, the entire dataset of examined individuals, (both male and female patients of all reported ages) must be read into the statistical software program.

The STAT and DOMAIN statements in the SAS survey procedure, or comparable statements in other programs (SUBSET in R; SUBPOP or over in Stata) must be used to indicate the subgroup of interest (i.e., females aged 35 and over).

Depending on the specifications of a data user's statistical software of choice, an indicator variable created by the data user prior to the procedure may facilitate the identification of the subgroup in the procedure statements.

## Section 6 Presentation Standards

Data users should be aware of the reliability of survey estimates, particularly smaller estimates. NCHS has published guidance for the assessment of reliability and presentation of proportions (or percentages) ([https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02\\_175.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf)) and for the presentation of rates and counts ([https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_02/sr02-200.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02-200.pdf)). For presentation or publication of NHCS estimates, we recommend estimates be rounded to the nearest thousand.

These presentation standards apply to products published by NCHS. If, according to the presentation standards, an estimate is not reliable, data users should examine the confidence interval carefully before using the estimate.

## Section 7 Data Analysis Guidance

The following section provides an overview on how data users can derive visit or discharge estimates and compute variances to produce standard errors, using statistical software tools such as SAS, R, and Stata. SAS/STAT® software provides a set of procedures whose names begin with SURVEY for survey analysis. R relies on the "survey" package to conduct survey data analysis whereas Stata, uses the "svy" command. SAS, R, and Stata users can use these procedures to conduct statistical analysis on data from the 2022 NHCS public use data files.

### Section 7.1 Patient encounter weight

The patient encounter weight is a vital component in the process of producing estimates from sample data and its use should be clearly understood by all data users. The statistics contained on the public use data files reflect only a sample of encounters; a 5% sample of the NHCS data collected from sampled hospitals, not a complete count of all encounters that occurred in the United States. Each inpatient discharge and ED visit record in the public use data files represents one patient encounter in the sample of 176,916 inpatient discharges and 497,769 ED visits. To obtain national estimates from the 5% sample, each record is assigned an inflation factor called the "patient encounter weight" (variable

PUF\_ENCWGT\_BASE in the public use data files).

By aggregating the “patient encounter weights” assigned to the PUF\_ENCWGT\_BASE variable on the 176,916 inpatient discharges and 497,769 ED visits for 2022, the data user can obtain the estimated total of 36,613,523 inpatient discharges (standard error of 1,194,011 inpatient discharges) and 128,909,418 ED visits (standard error of 2,305,402 ED visits) made in the United States.

Note that estimates of inpatient discharges and ED visits produced from the 2022 NHCS public use data files may differ somewhat from those estimates produced from the NHCS restricted use data files. This is because of adjustments required for the public use data files, as part of the disclosure risk mitigation process. Certain variables were masked on some records for confidentiality purposes. Other variables were top and/or bottom coded in accordance with NCHS confidentiality requirements.

The tables in Section 9 compare aggregate unweighted and weighted data for selected variables between the 2022 NHCS public use data files and restricted use data file by setting.

## Section 7.2 SAS Survey Procedures

### Section 7.2.1 Specifying the VARMETHOD Option

To correctly use the SURVEYFREQ or SURVEYMEANS procedures, the VARMETHOD= option must be added to the PROC statement to indicate the method to develop the replicate weights. For NHCS, this method is the stratified delete-a-group jackknife (DAGJK) method. Thus, the option is always VARMETHOD=JACKKNIFE.

For example, in PROC SURVEYMEANS:

```
PROC SURVEYMEANS DATA = FILE VARMETHOD=JACKKNIFE;
```

### Section 7.2.2 Declaring the REPWEIGHTS Statement

To properly use the SURVEYFREQ or SURVEYMEANS procedures, the REPWEIGHTS options must be specified. The REPWEIGHTS statement identifies the variables containing replicate weights. When using NHCS data, the statement is—

```
REPWEIGHTS PUF_ENCWGT_1 – PUF_ENCWGT_XXX / JKCOEFS=1;
```

There are 135 replicate weights on the inpatient public use data file, so “PUF\_ENCWGT\_XXX” would be “PUF\_ENCWGT\_135.” There are 100 replicate weights on the ED public use data file, so “PUF\_ENCWGT\_XXX” would be “PUF\_ENCWGT\_100.”

### Section 7.2.3 Example SAS Code

The programs below demonstrate how to use replicate weights and calculate variance estimates using SAS SURVEYFREQ and SURVEYMEANS procedures:

For categorical variables:

```
PROC SURVEYFREQ DATA=FILE VARMETHOD=JACKKNIFE;
TABLE VAR1; * REPLACE "VAR1" WITH THE CATEGORICAL VARIABLE OF INTEREST;
REPWEIGHTS PUF_ENCWTGT_1 – PUF_ENCWTGT_XXX / JKCOEFS=1; * CHANGE "PUF_ENCWTGT_XXX" TO
PUF_ENCWTGT_135 FOR INPATIENT OR PUF_ENCWTGT_100 FOR ED;
WEIGHT PUF_ENCWTGT_BASE;
ODS OUTPUT ONEWAY=ONEWAY;
RUN;
```

For continuous variables:

```
PROC SURVEYMEANS DATA=FILE VARMETHOD=JACKKNIFE;
VAR VAR1; * REPLACE "VAR1" WITH THE CONTINUOUS VARIABLE OF INTEREST;
REPWEIGHTS PUF_ENCWTGT_1 – PUF_ENCWTGT_XXX / JKCOEFS=1; * CHANGE "PUF_ENCWTGT_XXX" TO
PUF_ENCWTGT_135 FOR INPATIENT OR PUF_ENCWTGT_100 FOR ED;
WEIGHT PUF_ENCWTGT_BASE;
ODS OUTPUT STATISTICS=STATISTICS;
RUN;
```

### Section 7.3 R Survey Procedures

The R packages “survey” and “surveytable” can be utilized for complex survey analysis (<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/survey/index.html>, <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/surveytable/surveytable.pdf>). The R programs below demonstrate how to use replicate weights and calculate variance estimates in the “survey” and “surveytable” package.

```
install.packages("survey")
Install.packages("surveytable")
library(survey)
library(surveytable)
```

For categorical variables:

```
# Use surveytable package
# Replace "VAR1" with the categorical variable of interest
# Replace "FILE" with filename
# Conduct survey weighted frequency analysis
set_survey(FILE)
survey_freq <- tab(~VAR1)

# View the survey frequency results
```

```
print(survey_freq)
```

For continuous variables:

```
# Use survey package
# Replace "VAR1" with the continuous variable of interest
# Replace "FILE" with filename
# Conduct survey weighted mean analysis
survey_means <- svymean(~VAR1, FILE)
```

```
# View the survey means results
print(survey_means)
```

## Section 7.4 Stata Survey Procedures

The Stata programs below demonstrate how to use replicate weights and calculate variance estimates with the svyset command (<https://www.stata.com/manuals/svysvyset.pdf>).

For categorical variables:

```
*Set survey design
svyset PUF_ID, weight(PUF_ENCWGT_BASE)

*Set replicate weights, change "PUF_ENCWGT_XXX" to PUF_ENCWGT_135 for inpatient or
PUF_ENCWGT_100 for ED
svyset [pweight=PUF_ENCWGT_BASE], vce(jackknife) jkrweight(PUF_ENCWGT_1-PUF_ENCWGT_XXX)

*Specify one-way tables, change "VAR1" to categorical variable of interest
svy: tab VAR1, count se
*Specify one-way tables, change "VAR1" to categorical variable of interest
svy: tab VAR1, percent
```

For continuous variables:

```
*Set survey design
svyset PUF_ID, weight(PUF_ENCWGT_BASE)

*Set replicate weights, change "PUF_ENCWGT_XXX" to PUF_ENCWGT_135 for inpatient or
PUF_ENCWGT_100 for ED
svyset [pweight=PUF_ENCWGT_BASE], vce(jackknife) jkrweight(PUF_ENCWGT_1-PUF_ENCWGT_XXX)

*Specify one-way tables, change "VAR1" to continuous variable of interest
svy: mean VAR1
```

## Section 8 Survey Content

For the 2022 NHCS public use data files, 207 variables were included in the inpatient public use data file and 159 variables were included in the ED public use data file. In the inpatient and ED public use data files, 51 (24.6% and 32.1%, respectively) variables include medical diagnoses information. In the inpatient public use data file, 11 (5.3%) variables include medical procedure information, and two variables measure LOS (1.0%). The ED public use data file does not include information on procedures or LOS.

Refer to the 2022 NHCS public use data files codebooks for detailed information on the variables including variable names, variable type, variable descriptions, and variable values.

### Section 8.1 Variable Missingness Rate by Setting

In the ED public use data file, 30 variables (18.9%) had an unweighted missingness rate that was greater than 5%. In the inpatient public use data files, 39 variables (18.8%) had an unweighted missingness rate that was greater than 5%. See Section 8.1.1 and 8.1.2 for additional information.

However, it is expected that most of the diagnosis variables after the first-listed diagnosis and procedure variables will have a high missingness percentage. Not all encounters are expected to include more than one or multiple procedures or diagnoses. Excluding the non-first-listed diagnosis and procedure variables and the AHRQ CCSR variables, there is only one ED variable (variables DISCHARGE\_STATUS in the public use data file) that have a nonresponse percentage above 5%.

#### Section 8.1.1 Variable Missingness – Among All Inpatient Discharges

The variables in the table below had an unweighted variable missingness percentage greater than 5%. As noted above, it is expected that procedure and diagnoses missingness for some variables would be greater than 5% given that not all encounters are expected to include more than one or multiple procedures or diagnoses listed. Regardless, these are all included below to assist data users in using the NHCS public use data files. The denominator for the percent missing is all visits on the inpatient public use data file.

**Table 8.1 Percent missing (unweighted) for variables in the inpatient public use data file with a missingness greater than 5%**

Variable Name	Variable Description	Percent Missing
PD1	Procedure #1 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	37.4
PD2	Procedure #2 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	60.5
PD3	Procedure #3 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	75.9
PD4	Procedure #4 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	85.5
PD5	Procedure #5 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	91.3
PD6	Procedure #6 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	94.8
PD7	Procedure #7 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	96.8
PD8	Procedure #8 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	98.0
PD9	Procedure #9 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	98.8
PD10	Procedure # 10 (ICD-10-PCS), procedure code	99.2
PD_GT10	Procedure Greater than 10 flag; associated with encounters that have 11 or more procedures	37.4
DX3	Diagnosis #3 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	7.6
DX4	Diagnosis #4 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	11.7
DX5	Diagnosis #5 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	15.9
DX6	Diagnosis #6 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	20.1
DX7	Diagnosis #7 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	24.4
DX8	Diagnosis #8 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	28.8
DX9	Diagnosis #9 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	33.3
DX10	Diagnosis #10 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	39.3
DX11	Diagnosis #11 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	55.2
DX12	Diagnosis #12 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	67.5
DX13	Diagnosis #13 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	69.9
DX14	Diagnosis #14 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	72.2
DX15	Diagnosis #15 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	74.4
DX16	Diagnosis #16 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	76.5
DX17	Diagnosis #17 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	78.5
DX18	Diagnosis #18 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	80.5
DX19	Diagnosis #19 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	82.5
DX20	Diagnosis #20 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	84.2
DX21	Diagnosis #21 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	85.8
DX22	Diagnosis #22 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	87.2
DX23	Diagnosis #23 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	88.5
DX24	Diagnosis #24 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	89.8
DX25	Diagnosis #25 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	91.2
DX26	Diagnosis #26 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	92.1
DX27	Diagnosis #27 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	92.9
DX28	Diagnosis #28 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	93.7
DX29	Diagnosis #29 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	94.4

Variable Name	Variable Description	Percent Missing
DX30	Diagnosis #30 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	95.1

### Section 8.1.2 Variable Missingness – Among All ED Visits

The variables in the table below had an unweighted variable missingness percentage greater than 5%.

The denominator for the percent missing is all visits on the ED public use data file.

**Table 8.2 Percent missing (unweighted) for variables in the emergency department public use data file with a missingness greater than 5%**

Variable Name	Variable Description	Percent Missing
DISCHARGE_STATUS	Discharge Status	6.04
DX2	Diagnosis #2 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	20.9
DX3	Diagnosis #3 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	40.8
DX4	Diagnosis #4 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	55.0
DX5	Diagnosis #5 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	65.0
DX6	Diagnosis #6 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	72.2
DX7	Diagnosis #7 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	77.4
DX8	Diagnosis #8 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	81.3
DX9	Diagnosis #9 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	84.3
DX10	Diagnosis #10 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	87.4
DX11	Diagnosis #11 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	94.2
DX12	Diagnosis #12 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	97.5
DX13	Diagnosis #13 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	98.0
DX14	Diagnosis #14 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	98.4
DX15	Diagnosis #15 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	98.6
DX16	Diagnosis #16 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	98.9
DX17	Diagnosis #17 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.1
DX18	Diagnosis #18 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.2
DX19	Diagnosis #19 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.4
DX20	Diagnosis #20 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.6
DX21	Diagnosis #21 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.6
DX22	Diagnosis #22 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.7
DX23	Diagnosis #23 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.7
DX24	Diagnosis #24 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.8
DX25	Diagnosis #25 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.8
DX26	Diagnosis #26 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.9
DX27	Diagnosis #27 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.9
DX28	Diagnosis #28 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.9
DX29	Diagnosis #29 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.9
DX30	Diagnosis #30 (ICD-10-CM), diagnosis code	99.9

## Section 9 Data Comparison

### Section 9.1 Public Use Data Files and Restricted Use Data File

Of the 226 participating hospitals that were included in the 2022 NHCS restricted use data file, 219 (96.9%) were selected to create the public use data files sample. The 2022 inpatient public use data file contains 179,916 inpatient discharges, for a weighted total of 36,613,523 inpatient discharges (standard error of 1,194,011 inpatient discharges). The 2022 ED public use data file contains 497,769 ED visits, for a weighted total of 128,909,418 ED visits (standard error of 2,305,402 ED visits).

The 2022 NHCS restricted use data file contains unweighted data from 206 hospitals that submitted 3,863,127 inpatient discharges, for a weighted total of 36,275,514 inpatient discharges (standard error of 1,053,971 inpatient discharges). The 2022 NHCS restricted use data file contains data from 213 hospitals that submitted 10,914,635 ED visits, for a weighted total of 128,894,532 ED visits (standard error of 2,285,832 ED visits). A comparison of weighted frequencies for inpatient discharges and ED visits in the public use data files and restricted use data file is presented in Table 9.1 and Table 9.2.

**Table 9.1. Comparison of frequencies for inpatient discharges on the public use data file (weighted n=36,613,523) and restricted use data file (weighted n=36,275,514), National Hospital Care Survey, 2022**

Variable	Public Use Data File				Restricted Use Data File			
	Unweighted Count	Weighted			Unweighted Count	Weighted		
		Count	Std. Error	%		Count	Std. Error	%
<b>Age (in years)</b>								
Under 1	20,168	4,476,074	431,392	12.2	400,974	4,422,341	428,658	12.2
1-17	8,425	1,788,773	249,385	4.6	167,601	1,901,405	326,940	5.2
18-44	44,691	9,606,765	570,919	26.2	893,955	9,117,262	519,412	25.1
45-64	39,685	7,656,575	588,240	20.9	794,430	7,582,610	221,153	20.9
65-74	29,310	5,594,780	156,575	15.3	584,792	5,646,051	141,126	15.6
75 and over	34,564	7,483,325	242,107	20.4	694,857	7,597,590	199,528	20.9
Missing	73	7,231	6,065	0.0	1,689	8,255	7,131	0.0
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	79,374	16,101,604	678,645	44.0	1592,853	15,997,307	395,364	44.1
Female	97,248	20,406,796	717,181	55.7	1943,689	20,266,899	707,669	55.9
Missing	294	105,124	74,227	0.3	1,756	11,308	7,122	0.0
<b>Discharge status</b>								
Routine to Home	115,441	24,643,697	920,959	67.3	2303,143	24,238,784	908,866	66.8
Left against medical advice	2,739	533,974	48,904	1.5	53,595	552,865	57,824	1.5
Transfer to short term facility	1,619	567,723	162,818	1.6	34,180	669,135	56,938	1.8
Transfer to long term facility	5,758	939,937	56,681	2.6	116,015	981,786	44,721	2.7
Home health care	22,207	4,644,244	480,301	12.7	448,779	4,553,277	275,025	12.6
Hospice care - home or medical facility	3,192	702,690	45,565	1.9	61,569	735,314	59,264	2.0
Other	18,016	3,540,404	180,569	9.7	358,556	3,477,372	111,537	9.6
Dead	4,179	839,473	40,698	2.3	86,828	859,019	24,648	2.4
Missing	3,765	201,382	73,794	0.6	75,633	207,961	73,188	0.6
<b>Discharge month</b>								
January	14,046	2,882,042	121,882	7.9	281,101	2,914,686	96,368	8.0
February	13,266	2,717,437	479,943	7.4	268,755	2,705,774	100,924	7.5
March	15,247	2,948,874	132,104	8.1	304,850	3,105,769	119,378	8.6
April	14,681	3,051,470	233,050	8.3	296,098	3,040,523	103,530	8.4
May	14,785	2,914,323	101,822	8.0	295,595	3,069,021	108,265	8.5
June	14,715	3,273,418	441,442	8.9	294,344	3,036,577	102,133	8.4
July	15,276	3,216,015	217,186	8.8	301,146	3,078,305	105,321	8.5
August	15,416	3,041,389	141,029	8.3	307,279	3,150,407	100,543	8.7
September	14,983	3,129,292	150,416	8.5	297,948	3,047,505	115,578	8.4
October	14,643	2,821,310	140,713	7.7	296,345	2,961,974	144,679	8.2
November	14,801	3,468,529	397,930	9.5	292,686	3,060,162	142,577	8.4
December	15,057	3,149,425	159,847	8.6	302,151	3,104,812	163,899	8.6

Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

0.0 Estimate is greater than 0 but less than 0.5

Masking was applied to some records to protect patient confidentiality.

**Table 9.2. Comparison of frequencies for ED visits on the public use data file (weighted n=128,909,418) and restricted use data file (weighted n=128,894,532), National Hospital Care Survey, 2022**

Variable	Public Use Data File				Restricted Use Data File			
	Unweighted Count	Weighted			Unweighted Count	Weighted		
		Count	Std. Error	%		Count	Std. Error	%
<b>Age (in years)</b>								
Under 1	13,114	2,840,713	141,200	2.2	258,549	2,798,594	146,551	2.2
1-17	84,298	20,967,149	715,530	16.3	1,683,025	20,955,303	716,379	16.3
18-44	181,928	50,138,867	1,058,517	38.9	3,654,328	50,399,714	998,184	39.1
45-64	114,351	29,663,696	634,904	23.0	2,279,669	29,462,326	604,835	22.9
65-74	48,151	12,077,834	290,763	9.4	961,873	12,075,238	269,294	9.4
75 and over	50,677	12,662,967	346,323	9.8	1,013,744	12,654,466	345,415	9.8
Missing	5,250	558,192	292,704	0.4	104,346	548,893	280,612	0.4
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	225,703	57,401,101	966,650	44.5	4,509,432	57,236,282	990,859	44.4
Female	266,644	70,906,866	1,250,400	55.0	5,338,420	71,064,385	1,207,693	55.1
Missing	5,422	601,451	295,458	0.5	107,682	593,865	248,516	0.5
<b>Discharge status</b>								
Routine to Home	412,480	115,102,434	1,897,503	89.3	8,249,559	114,962,564	1,881,958	89.2
Left against medical advice	18,321	4,108,306	205,134	3.2	366,804	4,141,857	201,105	3.2
Transfer to short term facility	4,641	1,939,622	102,659	1.5	95,069	2,017,361	86,598	1.6
Transfer to long term facility	2,841	322,356	25,231	0.3	55,448	314,077	24,412	0.2
Home health care	7,347	1,425,775	167,873	1.1	145,458	1,418,607	172,785	1.1
Hospice care - home or medical facility	1,405	181,540	20,452	0.1	28,147	187,320	20,905	0.1
Other	18,417	2,903,437	182,055	2.3	368,176	2,932,965	178,127	2.3
Dead	2,268	316,131	16,134	0.2	44,820	298,970	11,112	0.2
Missing	30,049	2,609,817	1,174,093	2.0	602,053	2,620,812	1,183,985	2.0
<b>Discharge month</b>								
January	38,915	10,268,419	242,883	8.0	780,961	10,269,022	225,226	8.0
February	33,567	8,637,525	192,914	6.7	677,934	8,661,804	182,914	6.7
March	40,394	10,181,747	214,366	7.9	811,681	10,306,303	246,415	8.0
April	40,750	10,546,940	239,386	8.2	816,085	10,483,662	213,576	8.1
May	43,741	11,154,641	266,757	8.7	875,187	11,319,006	266,993	8.8
June	41,627	10,748,105	293,919	8.3	832,015	10,722,570	282,593	8.3
July	42,547	11,046,106	308,473	8.6	850,811	11,011,405	247,106	8.5
August	42,605	11,170,263	287,510	8.7	851,075	11,079,563	259,416	8.6
September	41,906	10,761,756	363,994	8.3	837,444	10,793,868	337,270	8.4
October	43,530	11,219,181	251,343	8.7	867,473	11,210,774	253,288	8.7
November	44,702	11,751,001	288,134	9.1	887,390	11,640,177	276,952	9.0
December	43,485	11,423,735	294,850	8.9	867,478	11,396,379	283,483	8.8

Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

0.0 Estimate is greater than 0 but less than 0.5

Masking was applied to some records to protect patient confidentiality.

## Section 9.2 Public Use Data Files, Restricted Use Data File, and HCUP Nationwide

### Samples

As stated in Section 2.5, the HCUP nationwide samples, the NIS and the NEDS were used as construct controls for calibrating the 2022 encounter-level weights for each setting. NIS and NEDS collect hospital discharge data from participating state partners. These data sources collect patient demographics (e.g., sex, age, race, etc.), encounter characteristics (e.g., diagnoses, procedures, DRGs, admission types, etc.), and hospital-level characteristics (e.g., hospital size and region).

Statewide data organizations voluntarily participate in NEDS by providing HCUP with ED visit data that may or may not have resulted in a hospital admission. It is estimated that the 2022 NEDS accounts for 84.7% of the U.S. population and 83.9% of ED visits reported in the American Hospital Association Annual Survey Database. Records are selected for NEDS from two existing HCUP databases: the State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and the State Inpatient Databases (SID).

NIS is a sample of all-payer discharges from U.S. community hospitals, defined as “all non-Federal, short-term, general, and other specialty hospitals, excluding hospital units of institutions.” It’s estimated that the 2022 NIS covers 97% of the U.S. population and 96% of discharges from U.S. community hospitals. NIS is sampled from the SID.

A comparison of weighted total inpatient discharges on the 2022 NHCS public use data file, NHCS restricted use data file, and HCUP NIS is in Table 9.3. A comparison of weighted totals for ED visits in the public use data file, restricted use data file, and NEDS is presented in Table 9.4.

**Table 9.3 Comparison of weighted total inpatient discharges on the 2022 NHCS public use data file, NHCS restricted use data file, and the HCUP NIS**

Data File	Inpatient Discharges	Standard Error
National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) public use data file	36,613,523	1,194,011
National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) restricted use data file	36,275,514	1,053,971
Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project National Inpatient Sample (HCUP NIS)	32,891,849	295,941

**Table 9.4. Comparison of weighted total emergency department visits on the 2022 NHCS public use data file, NHCS restricted use data file, and HCUP NEDS**

<b>Data File</b>	<b>Emergency Department Visits</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>
National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) public use data file	128,909,418	2,305,402
National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) restricted use data file	128,894,532	2,285,832
Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (HCUP NEDS)	136,974,618	2,900,298

## Section 10 Preferred Reporting Items for Complex Sample Survey Analysis (PRICSSA) Document for the 2022 National Hospital Care Survey Public Use Data File

Table 10.1 below provides a Preferred Reporting Items for Complex Survey Analysis (PRICSSA) document (Seidenberg, Moser, & West 2023) for users of the 2022 NHCS public use data. This information may be helpful to users when analyzing the 2022 NHCS.

**Table 10.1 Preferred Reporting Items for Complex Sample Survey Analysis**

Preferred Reporting Items for Complex Sample Survey Analysis (PRICSSA)	Description
Name of survey	National Hospital Care Survey
Data collection mode	Administrative data collection of hospital UB-04 administrative claims or EHR data
Target population	Hospital inpatient discharges and ED visits to nonfederal noninstitutional hospitals with six or more staffed inpatient beds in the United States
Populations excluded	Hospital inpatient discharges and ED visits to federal hospitals, institutional hospitals, or hospitals with less than six staffed inpatient beds
Sample design	Stratified random sample
Variance and standard error estimation	Jackknife variance estimation
Base Weight	PUF_ENCWTG_BASE
Replicate Weights	Inpatient: PUF_ENCWTG_1 – PUF_ENCWTG135 ED: PUF_ENCWTG_1 – PUF_ENCWTG100
Presentation standards	Proportions or percentages: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf</a> Rates and counts: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02-200.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02-200.pdf</a>
Unweighted total sample size	176,916 inpatient discharges 497,769 ED visits
Weighted total sample size	36,613,523 inpatient discharges 128,909,418 visits
Response rate (unweighted)	37.2%
Location of example code	See <b>Section 7</b>

## Section 11 Research Data Center

NCHS operates the Research Data Center (RDC) to allow researchers access to restricted-use data. The RDC is responsible for protecting the confidentiality of survey respondents, study subjects, and institutions while providing access to restricted-use data for statistical purposes. The 2022 NHCS restricted use data file, which contains inpatient and ED data excluded from the public use data file due to disclosure risks and NCHS confidentiality requirements, can be accessed through the Federal and NCHS RDC. In addition, the 2022 NHCS restricted use data file will be linked to other vital and administrative records such as the National Death Index (NDI). This allows the linked data to expand the analytic utility of NHCS data and provides the opportunity to conduct a vast array of studies focused on the associations between a variety of health factors, health care utilization and mortality.

For information on how to access the 2022 NHCS restricted use data file through the RDC, please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/data/b1/NHCS-RDC-Data-Dictionary.pdf>

## Section 12 References

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## Appendix A Unweighted frequencies for Inpatient discharges and ED visits

**Appendix Table A.1. Unweighted frequencies for inpatient discharges on the public use data file, National Hospital Care Survey, 2022 (n=176,916)**

Variable	Description	Count	%
<b>Year</b>	Survey year		
2022		176,916	100.0
<b>Sex</b>	Patient sex		
1	Male	79,374	44.9
2	Female	97,248	55.0
-9	Missing	294	0.2
<b>Newborn</b>	Newborn flag		
1	Yes	18,453	10.4
2	No	158,463	89.6
<b>LOS_30DAYS</b>	Length of stay in hospital (days) greater than 30 days		
1	Yes	3,435	1.9
2	No	17,3477	98.1
-9	Missing	4	0.0
<b>Discharge_month</b>	Discharge month		
1	January	14,046	7.9
2	February	13,266	7.5
3	March	15,247	8.6
4	April	14,681	8.3
5	May	14,785	8.4
6	June	14,715	8.3
7	July	15,276	8.6
8	August	15,416	8.7
9	September	14,983	8.5
10	October	14,643	8.3
11	November	14,801	8.4
12	December	15,057	8.5
<b>Discharge_status</b>	Discharge status		
1	Routine to Home	115,441	65.3
2	Left against medical advice	2,739	1.6
3	Transfer to short term facility	1,619	0.9
4	Transfer to long term facility	5,758	3.3
5	Home health care	22,207	12.6
6	Hospice care - home or medical facility	3,192	1.8
7	Other	18,016	10.2
8	Dead	4,179	2.4
-9	Missing	3,765	2.1
<b>PD_GT10</b>	Greater than 10 procedures associated with the encounters		
1	Yes	962	0.5
2	No	109,879	62.1
-9	Missing	6,6075	37.4
<b>DX_GT30</b>	Encounters that had more than 30 diagnoses		
1	Yes	7,765	4.4
2	No	164,849	93.2
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4

Variable	Description	Count	%
<b>CCSR_CIR007</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR007 [Essential hypertension]		
1	Yes	43,051	24.3
2	No	129,563	73.2
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_CIR008</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR008 [Hypertension with complications and secondary hypertension]		
1	Yes	38,180	21.6
2	No	134,434	76.0
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_CIR011</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR011 [Coronary atherosclerosis and other heart disease]		
1	Yes	26,316	14.9
2	No	146,298	82.7
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_CIR017</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR017 [Cardiac dysrhythmias]		
1	Yes	25,532	14.4
2	No	147,082	83.1
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_CIR019</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR019 [Heart failure]		
1	Yes	28,197	15.9
2	No	144,417	81.6
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_DIG004</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR DIG004 [Esophageal disorders]		
1	Yes	25,491	14.4
2	No	147,123	83.2
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_END003</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR END003 [Diabetes mellitus with complication]		
1	Yes	24,836	14.0
2	No	147,778	83.5
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_END005</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR END005 [Diabetes mellitus, Type 2]		
1	Yes	34,446	19.5
2	No	138,168	78.1
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_END009</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR END009 [Obesity]		
1	Yes	27,782	15.7
2	No	144,832	81.9
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_END010</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR END010 [Disorders of lipid metabolism]		
1	Yes	45,518	25.7
2	No	127,096	71.8
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4

Variable	Description	Count	%
<b>CCSR_END011</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR END011 [Fluid and electrolyte disorders]		
1	Yes	45,556	25.8
2	No	127,058	71.8
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_FAC009</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR FAC009 [Implant, device or graft related encounter]		
1	Yes	23,688	13.4
2	No	148,926	84.2
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_FAC016</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR FAC016 [Exposure, encounters, screening or contact with infectious disease]		
1	Yes	76,297	43.1
2	No	96,317	54.4
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_FAC025</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR FAC025 [Other specified status]		
1	Yes	75,963	42.9
2	No	96,651	54.6
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_FAC030</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR FAC030 [Personal history of other disease]		
1	Yes	34,985	19.8
2	No	137,629	77.8
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_GEN002</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR GEN002 [Acute and unspecified renal failure]		
1	Yes	26,647	15.1
2	No	145,967	82.5
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_GEN003</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR GEN003 [Chronic kidney disease]		
1	Yes	27,551	15.6
2	No	145,063	82.0
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_INF003</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR INF003 [Bacterial infections]		
1	Yes	24,318	13.8
2	No	148,296	83.8
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_PRG023</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR PRG023 [Complications specified during childbirth]		
1	Yes	14,337	8.1
2	No	158,277	89.5
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4
<b>CCSR_RSP012</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR RSP012 [Respiratory failure; insufficiency; arrest]		
1	Yes	23,269	13.2
2	No	149,345	84.4

Variable	Description	Count	%
-9	Missing	4,302	2.4

**Appendix Table A.2. Unweighted frequencies for ED visits on the public use data file, National Hospital Care Survey, 2022 (n=497,769)**

Variable	Description	Count	%
<b>Year</b>	Survey year		
2022		497,769	100.0
<b>Sex</b>	Patient sex		
1	Male	225,703	45.3
2	Female	266,644	53.6
-9	Missing	5,422	1.1
<b>Newborn</b>	Newborn flag		
1	Yes	1,545	0.3
2	No	496,224	99.7
<b>Discharge_month</b>	Discharge month		
1	January	38,915	7.8
2	February	33,567	6.7
3	March	40,394	8.1
4	April	40,750	8.2
5	May	43,741	8.8
6	June	41,627	8.4
7	July	42,547	8.6
8	August	42,605	8.6
9	September	41,906	8.4
10	October	43,530	8.8
11	November	44,702	9.0
12	December	43,485	8.7
<b>Discharge_status</b>	Discharge status		
1	Routine to Home	412,480	82.9
2	Left against medical advice	18,321	3.7
3	Transfer to short term facility	4,641	0.9
4	Transfer to long term facility	2,841	0.6
5	Home health care	7,347	1.5
6	Hospice care - home or medical facility	1,405	0.3
7	Other	18,417	3.7
8	Dead	2,268	0.5
-9	Missing	30,049	6.0
<b>DX_GT30</b>	Encounters that had more than 30 diagnoses		
1	Yes	324	0.1
2	No	492,790	99.0
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_CIR007</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR007 [Essential hypertension]		
1	Yes	71,111	14.3
2	No	422,003	84.8
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_CIR008</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR008 [Hypertension with complications and secondary hypertension]		
1	Yes	26,364	5.3
2	No	466,750	93.8
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_CIR012</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR012 [Nonspecific chest pain]		
1	Yes	34,287	6.9

Variable	Description	Count	%
2	No	458,827	92.2
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_CIR019</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR CIR019 [Heart failure]		
1	Yes	18,937	3.8
2	No	474,177	95.3
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_END005</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR END005 [Diabetes mellitus, Type 2]		
1	Yes	41,895	8.4
2	No	451,219	90.7
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_END010</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR END010 [Disorders of lipid metabolism]		
1	Yes	38,750	7.8
2	No	454,364	91.3
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_END011</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR END011 [Fluid and electrolyte disorders]		
1	Yes	28,915	5.8
2	No	464,199	93.3
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_FAC016</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR FAC016 [Exposure, encounters, screening or contact with infectious disease]		
1	Yes	98,768	19.8
2	No	394,346	79.2
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_FAC025</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR FAC025 [Other specified status]		
1	Yes	111,571	22.4
2	No	381,543	76.7
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_FAC026</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR FAC026 [Personal history of nicotine dependence]		
1	Yes	32,520	6.5
2	No	460,594	92.5
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_FAC030</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR FAC030 [Personal history of other disease]		
1	Yes	34,065	6.8
2	No	459,049	92.2
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_GEN003</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR GEN003 [Chronic kidney disease]		
1	Yes	19,959	4.0
2	No	473,155	95.1
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_INF012</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR INF012 [Coronavirus disease – 2019 (COVID-19)]		
1	Yes	23,733	4.8
2	No	469,381	94.3

Variable	Description	Count	%
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_INJ017</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR INJ017 [Superficial injury; contusion, initial encounter]		
1	Yes	21,929	4.4
2	No	471,185	94.7
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_MBD024</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR MBD024 [Tobacco-related disorders]		
1	Yes	45,820	9.2
2	No	447,294	89.9
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_MUS010</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR MUS010 [Musculoskeletal pain, not low back pain]		
1	Yes	40,367	8.1
2	No	452,747	91.0
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_SYM004</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR SYM004 [Nausea and vomiting]		
1	Yes	32,982	6.6
2	No	460,132	92.4
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_SYM006</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR SYM006 [Abdominal pain and other digestive/abdomen signs and symptoms]		
1	Yes	54,513	11.0
2	No	438,601	88.1
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_SYM010</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR SYM010 [Nervous system signs and symptoms]		
1	Yes	30,228	6.1
2	No	462,886	93.0
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9
<b>CCSR_SYM013</b>	Indication that at least one ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record is included in CCSR SYM013 [Respiratory signs and symptoms]		
1	Yes	42,124	8.5
2	No	450,990	90.6
-9	Missing	4,655	0.9