

National Center for Health Statistics
Research Data Center
National Hospital Care Survey
2020 - 2024 Early Release Data Dictionary

This document contains the file layout for the National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) 2020 - 2024 early release data in the National Center for Health Statistics and Federal Research Data Centers (RDC). The NHCS collects data on patient care in hospital-based settings to describe patterns of health care delivery and utilization in the United States. Settings currently include inpatient and emergency departments (ED). It is important to note that the NHCS early release data are not nationally representative. The data are preliminary and are used in the development of the COVID-19 Data from Selected Hospital dashboard (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/nhcs.htm>) and Drug Use-associated Hospital Encounters Data From Selected Hospitals dashboard (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/dhcs/drug-use/index.htm>). Each data year includes encounters that occurred from January 1 – December 31. The 2020 data are from 90 hospitals submitting 1,223,067 inpatient and 84 hospitals submitting 2,953,465 ED Uniform Bill (UB)-04 administrative claims. The 2021 data are from 108 hospitals submitting 1,494,875 inpatient and 95 hospitals submitting 3,999,506 ED UB-04 administrative claims. The 2022 data are from 107 hospitals submitting 1,494,908 inpatient and 96 hospitals submitting 4,270,064 ED UB-04 administrative claims. The 2023 data are from 108 hospitals submitting 1,473,730 inpatient and 95 hospitals submitting 4,022,162 ED UB-04 administrative claims. The 2024 data collection started on January 1, 2024 and will end on December 31, 2024.

Variable Name	Description	Format	Value
SUR_YR	4-digit designation for calendar year of data collection	Character	2020 2021 2022 2023 2024
HOSPID	Hospital identifier	Character	4-digit code
REGION	Geographic region of hospital location	Numeric	1 = Northeast 2 = Midwest 3 = South 4 = West
SERVICE	Service type of hospital	Numeric	1 = General Acute Care 2 = Children's 3 = Psychiatric 4 = Other (Long-term care and Rehabilitation)
BEDS5	Number of staffed inpatient beds	Numeric	1 = 6-99 beds 2 = 100-199 beds 3 = 200-299 beds 4 = 300-499 beds 5 = 500 or more beds

Variable Name	Description	Format	Value
URBRURAL4	Urban/rural designation of hospital (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/urban_rural.htm)	Numeric	1 = Large central metro 2 = Large fringe metro 3 = Medium and small metro 4 = Micropolitan and Noncore
SETTING	Identifies if the encounter is in the inpatient or emergency department	Character	IP = Inpatient department ED = Emergency department
ENCOUNTER_ID	Unique identifier of encounter	Character	
SEX	Sex of patient	Numeric	1 = Male 2 = Female -7 = Unknown -9 = Missing
AGE	Age in years, months, or days	Numeric	
AGE_UNIT	Units for age	Numeric	1 = Years 2 = Months 3 = Days
DATE_BEG	Start date for encounter	Date	
DATE_ADM	Date of admission	Date	
DATE_END	End date for encounter	Date	
DISCSTAT	Discharge status of encounter	Numeric	1 = Routine to home 2 = Home health/hospice 3 = Admitted as inpatient 4 = Left against medical advice 5 = Transfer to short term facility 6 = Transfer to long term facility 7 = Court/Law enforcement 8 = Dead 9 = Other health care facility 10 = Other discharge not otherwise specified -5 = Invalid code -7 = Unknown -9 = Missing
LOS	Length of inpatient admission	Numeric	
ICU_LOS	Length of inpatient admission in the intensive care unit	Numeric	
DX01 – DX25	ICD-10-CM diagnoses codes: up to 25 listed codes	Character	ICD-10-CM
PD01 – PD25	ICD-10-PCS procedure codes: up to 25 listed codes	Character	ICD-10-PCS
REV_PDS	CPT/HCPCS procedure codes: unrestricted number of codes	Character	CPT or HCPCS

Variable Name	Description	Format	Value
INTUBATION_VENT	<p>Intubation or ventilator use is defined by at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventilator use is defined by any listed ICD–10–PCS codes: 5A19054, 5A1935Z, 5A1945Z, or 5A1955Z • Emergency endotracheal intubation is defined by an any listed Current Procedural Terminology (CPT). 	Numeric	<p>1 = Patient received intubation or used a ventilator</p> <p>0 = Patient was not intubated or on a ventilator</p>