

National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) (Used for Indicator H3)	
Brief description of the data set	The National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) is an annual probability survey that collects information on the characteristics of inpatients discharged from non-federal short-stay hospitals in the United States.
Who provides the data set?	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.
How are the data gathered?	Sampled hospitals are short-stay general or children’s general hospitals located in all states and Washington DC, with an average length of stay of fewer than 30 days and six or more beds staffed for patients use. Federal, military, and Veteran’s Administration hospitals are excluded, as are hospital units of institutions. Data from sampled hospital discharges are obtained on the demographic characteristics and physician’s diagnoses.
What documentation is available describing data collection procedures?	See http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhds/nhds_collection.htm for data collection documentation.
What types of data relevant for children’s environmental health indicators are available from this database?	Relevant data include physician’s diagnoses for discharges from hospitals, as well as demographic information.
What is the spatial representation of the database (national or other)?	NHDS sampling procedures provide nationally representative data, and may also be analyzed by four broad geographic regions: North, Midwest, South and West. Analysis of data for any other geographic area (state, patient zip code) is possible only by special arrangement with the NCHS Research Data Center.
Are raw data (individual measurements or survey responses) available?	Individual hospital discharge data are available. Some survey responses are not publicly released.
How are database files obtained?	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhds/nhds_questionnaires.htm .
Are there any known data quality or data analysis concerns?	The survey is designed to represent in-patient discharges to short-stay general or children’s general hospitals, excluding federal and military hospitals. Data are obtained from a detailed complex survey sampling scheme including samplings of hospitals and discharges within hospitals. Survey responses must be appropriately weighted using the provided analysis weights to obtain national estimates. The public release version includes coefficients for variance estimation equations for approximate variance estimation. The available data are for discharges and not admissions. Some age and sex values were imputed.
What documentation is available describing quality assurance procedures?	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_01/sr01_039.pdf includes a description of the quality assurance procedures.
For what years are data available?	1965–present.
What is the frequency of data collection?	Continuously throughout the year.

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What is the frequency of data release?	Annually.
Are the data comparable across time and space?	Some diagnosis codes are not comparable from year to year due to annual revisions to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9).
Can the data be stratified by race/ethnicity, income, and location (region, state, county or other geographic unit)?	Data can be stratified by race and region (four regions only). NHDS does not release information on Hispanic ethnicity or income of patients due to high non-response rates for these items. Although race is reported, there are also high non-response rates for race.