

### The National Hospital Care Survey

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# **NHCS Background**

### The National Hospital Care Survey integrates:

- National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) longest continuously fielded sample of inpatient care from 1965-2010
- National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS) – survey of hospital ED and OPD visits since 1992, hospital ambulatory surgery visits since 2009, and freestanding ambulatory surgery center (ASC) visits since 2010
- Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) survey of drugrelated ED visits conducted by SAMHSA from 1972-2011



# **NHAMCS Sample Design**

112 geographic Primary Sampling Units

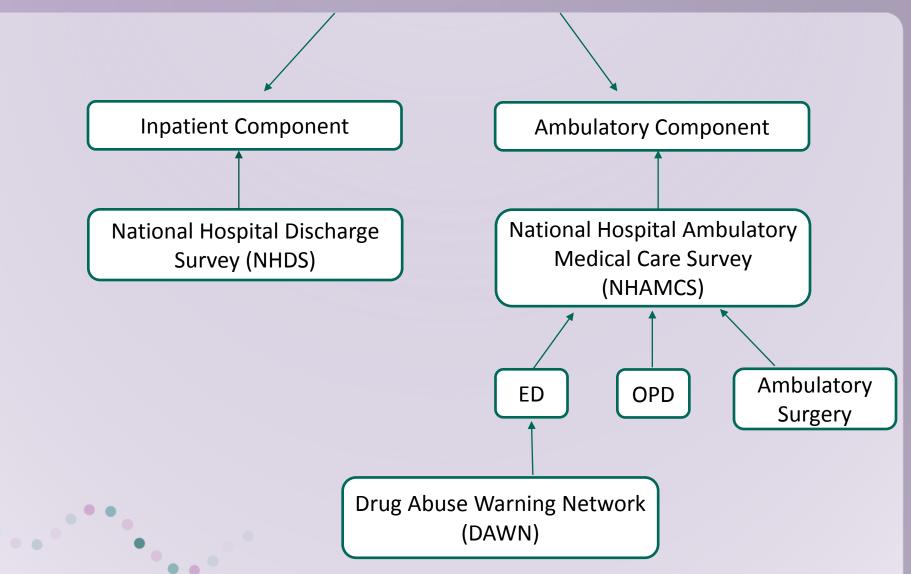
~ 500 hospitals

~ 400 EDs and ~ 250 OPDs (~1,000 OPD clinics)

- ~ 37,000 ED and ~ 35,000 OPD visits
  - 4-week reporting period



# **National Hospital Care Survey**



# **NHCS Sample Design**

- Target universe is inpatient discharges and in-person visits made to EDs, OPDs, and ambulatory surgery locations in:
  - Non-institutional hospitals
  - Non-federal hospitals
  - Hospitals with six or more staffed beds
- Facility sample
  - 500 hospitals
  - 250 freestanding ambulatory surgery centers



### **Protected Health Information (PHI)**

Both inpatient and ambulatory component will be collected for purposes of data linkage (e.g., NDI, Medicare/Medicaid data):

- Patient identifiers:
  - Name; Address; Zip code; Social security number; Medical record number; and Patient control number
- Physician identifiers:
  - Attending and Operating National Provider Identifiers (NPI)



- Demographics
- Dates and times
  - Waiting time, treatment time, length of ED visit
- Expected source(s) of payment
- Triage
  - Vital signs, Triage level, Pain scale
- Seen in last 24 hours and discharged



- Reason for visit
  - Up to 4
  - Verbatim text and dropdown list
  - A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care codes
- Cause of injury
  - Up to 5
  - Verbatim text and dropdown list
  - ICD-9-CM E-codes
- Diagnosis
  - Up to 20
  - Verbatim text and dropdown list
  - ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes
  - Chronic disease checklist



- Lab Tests, Imaging, and Procedures
- Medications prescribed
  - Up to 12
  - Verbatim text and dropdown list
  - Multum Lexicon therapeutic drug category codes and NCHS drug entry codes
  - Given in ED or at discharge
- Providers seen
- Visit Disposition



- Hospital Admission Data
  - Type of unit
  - Boarding time, length of hospital stay
  - Hospital discharge diagnosis (up to 2)
  - Hospital discharge status/disposition
- Observation unit stay
  - Length of observation unit stay



# Thank you

More information: www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs.htm

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