

Dear Emergency Department Director:

I am writing to encourage you to participate in the National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS), a new survey that combines the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS), and National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS). This survey is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics and will gather data about medical care provided to hospital inpatients and patients seen in emergency departments including drug related visits, outpatient departments, and ambulatory surgery locations, as well as freestanding ambulatory surgery centers. The information collected will be used by medical educators, researchers, policy makers and health administrators to assess health needs and resources, and for planning and organizing health services.

The American College of Emergency Physicians has long recognized the need for national data describing emergency department (ED) visits and supports the development and growth of the National Hospital Care Survey. Recent NHAMCS results show a continued rise in the number of ED visits and that EDs are increasingly serving as the safety net for medically underserved patients.

As EDs experience intensified demands on their resources, the National Hospital Care Survey will provide vital data for researchers, planners, and decision makers addressing these critical issues facing emergency medicine. I urge you to participate in this survey.

Sincerely,

David C. Seaberg, MD, CPE, FACEP
President

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