The National Hospital Care Survey

Linda McCaig, M.P.H.
National Center for Health Statistics

August 8, 2012
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 drug-related 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

- **Inpatient Component**
  - National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS)

- **Ambulatory Component**
  - National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS)
    - ED
    - OPD
    - Ambulatory Surgery

- Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)
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
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)
ED Visit Data Collection – General

- 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
ED Visit Data Collection – General

• 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
ED Visit Data Collection – General

- 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
ED Visit Data Collection – General

• 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

Linda McCaig
lmcccaig@cdc.gov