

General Tips and Tools for NHSN Analysis

1. Generate datasets often

The process of generating datasets in NHSN will freeze your data at a specific point in time and copy those data into defined datasets. Therefore, when you wish to see updates to your data in the analysis output options, you must regenerate datasets in order for those updates to be reflected.

REMEMBER: each user in NHSN who wishes to analyze data must generate datasets.

2. Resolve Alerts

Rate tables and standardized infection ratios (SIRs) for in-plan data will include only those months in which denominator data and events were reported OR “Report No events” has been indicated when no events have been identified of that type and the appropriate denominator data have been entered. Guidance on Alerts can be found on page 6 of the NHSN Newsletter:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/Newsletters/Oct-2013.pdf>

3. Read the footnotes

Remember to read the footnotes that accompany your output. The footnotes contain information on the date and time that datasets were last generated, as well as any information specific to that report. For example, the footnotes that accompany SIRs will include the source of aggregate data (i.e., baseline report) as well as relevant inclusion criteria.

Helpful NHSN Analysis Resources

Analysis Quick Reference Guides

<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PS-Analysis-resources/reference-guides.html>

Analysis Trainings

<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/Training/analysis/index.html>

Reporting Requirements and Tips related to CMS Quality Reporting Programs

<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/cms/index.html>

List of Aggregate Data Sources for Rate Comparisons and SIRs

http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/sir/RatesSIRs-Reference_Jan2014.pdf

NHSN Annual Rate Reports and Risk Adjustment Papers

<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/dataStat.html>