

National Center for Health Statistics
 Research Data Center
 National Hospital Care Survey
 2020 & 2021 Preliminary Data Dictionary

This document contains the file layout for the National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS) 2020 and 2021 preliminary data in the National Center for Health Statistics and Federal Research Data Centers (RDC). NHCS collects data on patient care in hospital-based settings to describe patterns of health care delivery and utilization in the United States. Settings currently include inpatient and emergency departments (ED). NHCS has a low response rate, so it is important to note that these data are not nationally representative. The data are preliminary and were used in the development of the COVID-19 Data from Selected Hospital dashboard (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/nhcs.htm>). The 2020 data are from 90 hospitals submitting 1,223,067 inpatient Uniform Bill (UB)-04 administrative claims and 84 hospitals submitting 2,953,465 ED UB-04 administrative claims from January 1, 2020–December 31, 2020. The 2021 data collection started on January 1, 2021 and will end on December 31, 2021.

Variable Name	Description	Format	Value
SUR_YR	4-digit designation for calendar year of data collection	Character	2020 2021
HOSPID	Hospital identifier	Character	4-digit code
REGION	Geographic region of hospital location	Numeric	1 = Northeast 2 = Midwest 3 = South 4 = West
SERVICE	Service type of hospital	Numeric	1 = General Acute Care 2 = Children's 3 = Psychiatric 4 = Other (Long-term care and Rehabilitation)
BEDS5	Number of staffed inpatient beds	Numeric	1 = 6--99 beds 2 = 100-199 beds 3 = 200-299 beds 4 = 300-499 beds 5 = 500 or more beds
URBRURAL4	Urban/rural designation of hospital (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/urban_rural.htm)	Numeric	1 = Large central metro 2 = Large fringe metro 3 = Medium and small metro 4 = Micropolitan and Noncore
SETTING	Identifies if the encounter is in the inpatient or emergency department	Character	IP = Inpatient department ED = Emergency department
ENCOUNTER_ID	Unique identifier of encounter	Character	
SEX	Sex of patient	Numeric	1 = Male 2 = Female -7 = Unknown -9 = Missing

Variable Name	Description	Format	Value
AGE	Age in years, months, or days	Numeric	
AGE_UNIT	Units for age	Numeric	1 = Years 2 = Months 3 = Days
DATE_BEG	Start date for encounter	Date9.	DDMONYYYY
DATE_ADM	Date of admission	Date9.	DDMONYYYY
DATE_END	End date for encounter	Date9.	DDMONYYYY
DISCSTAT	Discharge status of encounter	Numeric	1 = Routine to home 2 = Home health/hospice 3 = Admitted as inpatient 4 = Left against medical advice 5 = Transfer to short term facility 6 = Transfer to long term facility 7 = Court/Law enforcement 8 = Dead 9 = Other health care facility 10 = Other discharge not otherwise specified -5 = Invalid code -7 = Unknown -9 = Missing
LOS	Length of inpatient stay in days	Numeric	
ICU_LOS	Length of inpatient stay in the intensive care unit in days	Numeric	
DX01 – DX25	ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes: up to 25 listed codes	Character	ICD-10-CM
PD01 – PD25	ICD-10-PCS procedure codes: up to 25 listed codes	Character	ICD-10-PCS
REV_PDS	CPT/HCPCS procedure codes: unrestricted number of codes	Character	CPT or HCPCS
INTUBATION_VENT	Intubation or ventilator use is defined by at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilator use is defined by any listed ICD-10-PCS codes: 5A19054, 5A1935Z, 5A1945Z, or 5A1955Z Emergency endotracheal intubation is defined by an any listed Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) procedure code of 31500. 	Numeric	1 = Patient received intubation or used a ventilator 0 = Patient was not intubated or on a ventilator