

Description of Data Elements

Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) Hospital Weights File

This document contains cumulative descriptions of data elements across all states and years of HCUP data from 1988 to the current data year. Please refer to the Introduction to the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for specific information on which states are included in each year of the NIS.

Not all data elements in the NIS are uniformly coded across states. Please check the "State Specific Notes" section for each data element before analysis. The State specific notes are in order by State postal code, not alphabetically by State. For example, a note for New Jersey (NJ) will appear before a note for Nevada (NV).

In addition, not all data elements in the NIS are available from every state. Run frequencies by state to identify if a data element is unavailable in one or more states.

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AHAID - AHA hospital identifier

General Notes

There are up to three different types of hospital identifiers included in the HCUP databases.

- The data source's own number scheme for identifying hospitals and facilities (DSHOSPID),
- The hospital identifier used by the American Hospital Association (AHAID and IDNUMBER), and
- A unique HCUP hospital identifier (HOSPID).

The hospital entity as defined by the data source may differ from the hospital entity as defined by the AHA. For example, the data source treats two separate facilities as two hospitals, while the AHA Annual Survey treats the two facilities as a single hospital, or vice versa. For consistency across states, HCUP defines hospitals in accordance with the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals. During HCUP data processing, the data source's identification of the hospital is reconciled with the identification of the hospital in the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. For detailed information about this linking process, see the special report on HCUP Hospital Identifiers.

The hospital identifier (AHAID) contains the 7-digit American Hospital Association (AHA) hospital identifier that the AHA uses on their yearly AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals data files. These files contain information about hospital characteristics and are available for purchase through the AHA.

AHAID is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
AHAID	AHA hospital identifier	7(n)	AHA hospital identifier with a leading 6
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

DISCWT - Weight to discharges in the universe

General Notes

DISCWT is the discharge-level weight on the NIS Core file. To produce national estimates, use DISCWT to weight discharges in the Core file to the discharges from all community hospitals located in the U.S.

- From 2001 on, DISCWT should be used to create all national estimates, including total charge.
- In the 2000 NIS, there are two discharge-level weights (DISCWT and DISCWTcharge). DISCWT should be used to create national estimates for all analyses except those that involve total charge. DISCWTcharge should be used to create national estimates of total charge.
- In the 1998-1999 NIS, DISCWT should be used to create all national estimates, including total charge.
- Prior to 1998, the discharge weight was named DISCWT_U.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
DISCWT	Weight to discharges in the universe	nn.nnnn	Weight to discharges in the universe.

State Specific Notes

None

DISCWT_F - Weight to discharges in frame states

General Notes

DISCWT_F contains the weight to the discharges in the frame states. There were:

- 8 frame states for 1988;
- 11 frame states for 1989-1992;
- 17 frame states for 1993-1994;
- 19 frame states for 1995-1996; and
- 22 frame states for 1997.

Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
DISCWT_F	Weight to discharges in frame states	nn.nnnn	Weight to discharges in frame states

State Specific Notes

None

DISCWT_S - Weight to discharges in state

General Notes

DISCWT_S contains the weight to the discharges in the same state. To produce state estimates when analyzing discharges from only one state, use DISCWT_S. This weights the sampled discharges to the total population of discharges from all community hospitals in the state. Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
DISCWT_S	Weight to discharges in state	nn.nnnn	Weight to discharges in state

State Specific Notes

None

DISCWT_U - Weight to discharges in universe

General Notes

DISCWT_U contains the weight to the discharges in the universe of community hospitals. To produce national estimates, use DISCWT_U to weight sampled discharges to the universe of discharges from all community hospitals located in the U.S.

- From 2001 on, DISCWT should be used to create all national estimates, including total charge.
- In the 2000 NIS, there are two discharge-level weights (DISCWT and DISCWTcharge). DISCWT should be used to create national estimates for all analyses except those that involve total charge. DISCWTcharge should be used to create national estimates of total charge.
- In the 1998-1999 NIS, DISCWT should be used to create all national estimates, including total charge.
- Prior to 1998, the discharge weight was named DISCWT_U.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
DISCWT_U	Weight to discharges in universe	nn.nnnn	Weight to discharges in universe

State Specific Notes

None

DISCWTcharge - Weight to discharges in the universe for national estimates of total charge in 2000.

General Notes

DISCWTcharge is a discharge-level weight that is only available in the 2000 NIS. To produce national estimates of total charge in 2000, use DISCWTcharge to weight total charge (TOTCHG) in the Core file to the total charge from all community hospitals located in the U.S.

- In the 2000 NIS, there are two discharge-level weights (DISCWT and DISCWTcharge). DISCWT should be used to create national estimates for all analyses except those that involve total charge. DISCWTcharge should be used to create national estimates of total charge.
- In all data years except 2000, DISCWT (beginning in 1998) or DISCWT_U (prior to 1997) should be used to create all national estimates.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
DISCWTcharge	Weight to discharges in the universe for national estimates of total charge in 2000.	nn.nnnn	Weight to discharges in the universe for national estimates of total charge in 2000

State Specific Notes

None

H_BEDSZ - Bedsize of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)

General Notes

The HCUP variable for hospital bedsize changed names and definitions across data years:

HCUP Variable	Data Years	Definition
HOSP_BEDSIZE	Beginning in 1998	Specific to region, location and teaching status
H_BEDSZ	1993-1997	Specific to location and teaching status
ST_BEDSZ	1988-1992	Same as H_BEDSZ

The hospital's bedsize category (H_BEDSZ) is nested within location and teaching status (H_LOCTCH).

Location and Teaching Status	Bedsize		
	Small	Medium	Large
Rural	1-49	50-99	100+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-299	300-499	500+

The hospital's location, teaching status, and bedsize were obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program or have membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals. Bedsize assesses the number of short-term acute beds in a hospital.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
H_BEDSZ	Bedsize of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)	1	Small
		2	Medium
		3	Large
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

H_CONTRL - Control/ownership of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)

General Notes

The name of this data element changes over time, but the definition does not. The HCUP files between 1988-1998 use the data element name H_CONTRL, without the second O in "control". Starting in 1998 the HCUP files use the name H_CONTROL, with both O's.

The HCUP data element for the hospital's ownership/control category has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's ownership/control category was stored in the variable ST_OWNER. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_CONTRL. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_CONTROL is used.

Although the categories for hospital control do not change across years, the labels used to describe hospitals do change.:

- Government, nonfederal is equivalent to public
- Private not-for-profit is equivalent to voluntary
- Private investor-owned/private for profit is equivalent to proprietary.

The hospitals in different ownership/control categories tend to have different missions and different responses to government regulations and policies.

The hospital's ownership/control category was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
H_CONTRL	Control/ownership of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)	1	Government, nonfederal
		2	Private, not-profit
		3	Private, invest-own
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

H_LOC - Location of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)

General Notes

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's location category has changed over time. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_LOC. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_LOCATION is used. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's location category was not available.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
H_LOC	Location of hospital ((definition used prior to 1998)	0	Rural
		1	Urban
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

H_LOCTCH - Location/teaching status of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)

General Notes

The HCUP variable for the hospital's location and teaching status changed names and definitions across data years:

HCUP Variable	Data Years	Definition
HOSP_LOCTEACH	Beginning in 1998	More stringent definition of teaching hospital
H_LOCTCH	1993-1997	Less stringent definition of teaching hospital
LOCTEACH	1988-1992	Same as H_LOCTCH

For H_LOCTCH, the hospital's location and teaching status were obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. A metropolitan statistical area is considered urban, and a non-metropolitan statistical area is rural. Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program or have membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals.

Note that a few hospitals classified as rural are also teaching hospitals.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
H_LOCTCH	Location/teaching status of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)	1	Rural
		2	Urban nonteaching
		3	Urban teaching
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

H_REGION - Hospital census region

General Notes

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's census region has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's bedsize category was stored in the variable ST_REG. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_REGION. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_REGION is used.

This is an important stratifier because practice patterns have been shown to vary substantially by region. For example, lengths of stay tend to be longer in East Coast hospitals than in West Coast hospitals.

The hospital's census region was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. Census region is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. The states included in each region are as follows:

- Northeast (H_REGION = 1) includes ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, and PA.
- Midwest (H_REGION = 2) includes OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, and KS.
- South (H_REGION = 3) includes DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, KY, TN, AL, MS, AR, LA, OK, and TX.
- West (H_REGION = 4) includes MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV, WA, OR, CA, AK, and HI.

The Midwest region was referred to as "North Central" in the 1988-1992 NIS.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
H_REGION	Hospital census region	1	Northeast
		2	Midwest or North Central
		3	South
		4	West

State Specific Notes

None

H_TCH - Hospital teaching status (definition used prior to 1998)

General Notes

The HCUP variable name and definition for the hospital's teaching status has changed over time. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this information is stored in the variable H_TCH. Teaching status was obtained from the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey of hospitals. Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program or have a membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals.

Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_TEACH is used and the definition of teaching hospitals was expanded to include hospitals with a ratio of .25 or higher of full-time equivalent interns and residents to non-nursing home beds.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
H_TCH	Hospital teaching status (definition used prior to 1998)	0	Nonteaching
		1	Teaching
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HFIPSSTCO - Hospital FIPS State/County code

General Notes

HFIPSSTCO indicates the five-digit state and county FIPS code listed for that hospital in the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals. Each hospital has only one unique state/county code. If multiple hospital units are in different counties, HFIPSSTCO is the county code of the primary facility (as indicated by American Hospital Association Annual Survey information). HFIPSSTCO can be used to link HCUP data to any other data set that uses the FIPS county code, such as the Area Resource File.

HFIPSSTCO differs from the HCUP data element HOSPSTCO. HOSPSTCO contains the *modified* FIPS county code. HFIPSSTCO contains the *unmodified FIPS county code*. The *unmodified* FIP county code will include unique values for independent cities, such as Baltimore, MD, and Reno, NV. The *modified* FIPS county code uses one county code for these independent cities and the surrounding county.

HFIPSSTCO is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HFIPSSTCO	Hospital FIPS State/County code	5(n)	Hospital FIPS State/County code
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_BEDSIZE - Bedsize of hospital

General Notes

Bedsizes categories are based on hospital beds, and are specific to the hospital's location and teaching status. Bedsize assesses the number of short-term acute beds in a hospital. Hospital information was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

Beginning in 1998, the hospital's bedsize categories are defined using region of the U.S., the urban-rural designation of the hospital, in addition to the teaching status. Rural hospitals were not split according to teaching status, because rural teaching hospitals were rare. A hospital is considered to be a teaching hospital if it has an AMA-approved residency program, is a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) or has a ratio of full-time equivalent interns and residents to beds of .25 or higher. The classification of a hospital location as urban or rural has changed over time. Prior to 2004 data, the urban/rural designation was based on Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). Beginning with the 2004 data, this designation was determined by the Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA). This change in 2004 contributed to a slight decline in the number of hospitals that were classified as rural and a corresponding increase in the number of hospitals that were classified as urban.

BEDSIZE CATEGORIES (Beginning in 1998)			
<u>Location and Teaching Status</u>	Hospital Bedsize		
	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>
NORTHEAST REGION			
Rural	1-49	50-99	100+
Urban, nonteaching	1-124	125-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-424	425+
MIDWEST REGION			
Rural	1-29	30-49	50+
Urban, nonteaching	1-74	75-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-374	375+
SOUTHERN REGION			
Rural	1-39	40-74	75+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-449	450+
WESTERN REGION			

Rural	1-24	25-44	45+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-199	200-324	325+

Prior to 1988, the bedsize category did not vary by region and teaching hospitals were defined as having an AMA approved residency program or having membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals.

BEDSIZE CATEGORIES (Prior to 1998)			
<u>Location and Teaching Status</u>	Hospital Bedsize		
	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>
Rural	1-49	50-99	100+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-299	300-499	500

In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's bedsize category was stored in the variable ST_BEDSZ. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_BEDSZ. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_BEDSIZE is used.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

HOSP_BEDSIZE is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSP_BEDSIZE	Bedsizes of hospital	1	Small
		2	Medium
		3	Large
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_CONTROL - Control/ownership of hospital

General Notes

The hospital's ownership/control category was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals and includes categories for government nonfederal (public), private not-for-profit (voluntary) and private investor-owned (proprietary). These types of hospitals tend to have different missions and different responses to government regulations and policies.

When the sample size was sufficiently large, hospitals were stratified as public (HOSP_CONTROL=1), voluntary (HOSP_CONTROL=2), and proprietary (HOSP_CONTROL=3). This stratification was used for Southern rural, Southern urban nonteaching, and Western urban nonteaching hospitals. For smaller strata - the Midwestern rural and Western rural hospitals - a collapsed stratification of public versus private was used, with the voluntary and proprietary hospitals combined to form a single "private" category (HOSP_CONTROL=4). For all other combinations of region, location and teaching status, no stratification based on control was advisable given the number of hospitals in these cells (HOSP_CONTROL=0).

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's ownership/control category has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's ownership/control category was stored in the variable ST_OWNER. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_CONTRL. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_CONTROL is used.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

HOSP_CONTROL is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSP_CONTROL	Control/ownership of hospital	0	Government or private (collapsed category)
		1	Government, nonfederal (public)
		2	Private, not-for-profit (voluntary)
		3	Private, investor-owned (proprietary)
		4	Private (collapsed category)

		.	Missing
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State Specific Notes <i>None</i>
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HOSP_LOCATION - Location (urban/rural) of hospital

General Notes

The classification of urban or rural location differs by data year:

- Prior to 2004, this information was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was considered urban, and a non-metropolitan statistical area was classified as rural.
- Beginning with the 2004 data, the classification of urban or rural hospital location used the newer Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) codes. CBSA groups were based on 2000 Census data, whereas the MSA groups were based 1990 Census data. Hospitals residing in counties with a CBSA type of metropolitan were considered urban, while hospitals with a CBSA type of micropolitan or non-core were classified as rural. This change in 2004 contributed to a slight decline in the number of hospitals that were classified as rural and a corresponding increase in the number of hospitals that were classified as urban.

Government payment policies often differ according to this designation. Also, rural hospitals are generally smaller and offer fewer services than urban hospitals.

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's location category has changed over time. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_LOC. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_LOCATION is used. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's location category was not available.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

HOSP_LOCATION is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSP_LOCATION	Location (urban/rural) of hospital	0	Rural
		1	Urban
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_LOCTEACH - Location/teaching status of hospital

General Notes

The classification of hospitals as both urban/rural and teaching/nonteaching has changed over time.

- **Location:** Prior to 2004 data, the urban/rural designation was based on Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). A metropolitan statistical area was considered urban, and a non-metropolitan statistical area was rural. Beginning with the 2004 data, this designation was determined by the Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA). Hospitals residing in counties with a CBSA type of metropolitan were considered urban, while hospitals with a CBSA type of micropolitan or non-core were classified as rural. This change in 2004 contributed to a slight decline in the number of hospitals that were classified as rural and a corresponding increase in the number of hospitals that were classified as urban.
- **Teaching Status:** Beginning in 1998, a hospital is considered to be a teaching hospital if it has an AMA-approved residency program, is a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) or has a ratio of full-time equivalent interns and residents to beds of .25 or higher. Prior to 1998, a hospital is considered to be a teaching hospital if it has an AMA approved residency program or is a member of the COTH.

Rural hospitals were not split according to teaching status, because rural teaching hospitals were rare.

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's location and teaching status has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's location and teaching status was stored in the variable LOCTEACH. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_LOCTCH. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_LOCTEACH is used.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

HOSP_LOCTEACH is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSP_LOCTEACH	Location/teaching status of hospital	1	Rural
		2	Urban nonteaching
		3	Urban teaching
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_REGION - Region of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)

General Notes

The hospital's census region was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. Census region is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

This is an important stratifier because practice patterns have been shown to vary substantially by region. For example, lengths of stay tend to be longer in East Coast hospitals than in West Coast hospitals.

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's census region has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's bedsize category was stored in the variable ST_REG. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_REGION. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_REGION is used.

The Midwest region was referred to as "North Central" in the 1988-1992 NIS.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSP_REGION	Region of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)	1	Northeast
		2	Midwest
		3	South
		4	West

State Specific Notes

None

HOSP_TEACH - Teaching status of hospital

General Notes

The hospital's teaching status was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. The missions of teaching hospitals differ from nonteaching hospitals. In addition, financial considerations differ between these two hospital groups. Currently, the Medicare DRG payments are uniformly higher to teaching hospitals than to nonteaching hospitals. A hospital is considered to be a teaching hospital if it has an AMA-approved residency program, is a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COH) or has a ratio of full-time equivalent interns and residents to beds of .25 or higher.

The HCUP variable name and definition for the hospital's teaching status has changed over time. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the variable name HOSP_TEACH is used, and teaching hospitals include hospitals with a ratio of .25 or higher of full-time equivalent interns and residents to non-nursing home beds. In the 1993-1997 NIS, teaching status is stored in the variable H_TCH and does not include the ratio of interns and residents to beds. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's teaching status is not available as a separate variable.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

HOSP_TEACH is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSP_TEACH	Teaching status of hospital	0	Nonteaching
		1	Teaching
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPADDR - Hospital address from AHA Annual Survey

General Notes

HOSPADDR contains the hospital's street address obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

During HCUP data processing, the data source's identification of the hospital is reconciled with the identification of the hospital in the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. For detailed information about this linking process, see the special report on HCUP Hospital Identifiers.

HOSPADDR is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPADDR	Hospital address from AHA Annual Survey	30(a)	Hospital's street address
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPCITY - Hospital city from AHA Annual Survey

General Notes

HOSPCITY contains the hospital's city obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

During HCUP data processing, the data source's identification of the hospital is reconciled with the identification of the hospital in the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. For detailed information about this linking process, see the special report on HCUP hospital identifiers.

HOSPCITY is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPCITY	Hospital city from AHA Annual Survey	20(a)	Hospital city
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPID - HCUP hospital identification number

General Notes

There are up to three different types of hospital identifiers included in the HCUP databases.

- The data source's own number scheme for identifying hospitals and facilities (DSHOSPID),
- The hospital identifier used by the American Hospital Association (AHAID and IDNUMBER), and
- A unique HCUP hospital identifier (HOSPID).

The hospital entity as defined by the data source may differ from the hospital entity as defined by the AHA. For example, the data source treats two separate facilities as two hospitals, while the AHA Annual Survey treats the two facilities as a single hospital, or vice versa. For consistency across states, HCUP defines hospitals in accordance with the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals. During HCUP data processing, the data source's identification of the hospital is reconciled with the identification of the hospital in the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. For detailed information about this linking process, see the special report on HCUP Hospital Identifiers.

The HCUP hospital identifier (HOSPID) is based on the AHA hospital identifier and is defined as:

- SSnnn, where SS = State FIPS Code, and
- nnn = hospital number unique to state.

HOSPID is missing for some hospitals because an AHA hospital identifier cannot be determined. Hospitals may not be registered with the AHA or the source-provided information cannot be matched to the AHA.

The data element HOSPID is available in the Hospital file.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPID	HCUP hospital identification number	5(n)	HCUP hospital identification number
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPNAME - Hospital name from AHA Annual Survey

General Notes

HOSPNAME contains the hospital's name obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

During HCUP data processing, the data source's identification of the hospital is reconciled with the identification of the hospital in the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. For detailed information about this linking process, see the special report on HCUP Hospital Identifiers.

HOSPNAME is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPNAME	Hospital name from AHA Annual Survey	30(a)	Hospital's name
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPST - Hospital State postal code

General Notes

HOSPST indicates the hospital's two-character state postal code (e.g., "CA" for California).

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPST	Hospital State postal code	aa	Hospital State postal code

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPSTCO - Hospital modified FIPS state/county code

General Notes

HOSPSTCO indicates the five-digit state and county *modified* FIPS code listed for that hospital in the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals. Each hospital has only one unique state/county code. If multiple hospital units are in different counties, HOSPSTCO is the county code of the primary facility (as indicated by American Hospital Association Annual Survey information).

HOSPSTCO can be used to link HCUP data to any other data set that uses the *modified* FIPS county code. The *modified* FIPS county code uses one county code for these independent cities and the surrounding county. For example, Baltimore City is included in Baltimore County; St. Louis City is included in St. Louis County; the independent cities of Virginia are included in the contiguous counties; and Kalawao county, Hawaii, is included in Maui County. The four Alaska Judicial Divisions are used as counties.

HOSPSTCO differs from the HCUP data element HFIPSSTCO. HOSPSTCO contains the *modified* FIPS county code. HFIPSSTCO contains the *unmodified* FIPS county code. The *unmodified* FIP county code will include unique values for independent cities, such as Baltimore City and St. Louis City.

HOSPSTCO is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

HOSPSTCO is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPSTCO	Hospital modified FIPS state/county code	5(n)	Hospital modified FIPS State/County code
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPWT - Weight to hospitals in the universe

General Notes

HOSPWT is a hospital-level weight. To produce national estimates, use HOSPWT to weight sampled hospitals to all community hospitals located in the U.S. For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPWT	Weight to hospitals in the universe	nn.nnnn	Weight to hospitals in the universe

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPWT_F - Weight to hospitals in the frame states

General Notes

HOSPWT_F contains the weight to the hospitals in the frame states. There were:

- 8 frame states for 1988;
- 11 frame states for 1989-1992;
- 17 frame states for 1993-1994;
- 19 frame states for 1995-1996; and
- 22 frame states for 1997.

Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPWT_F	Weight to hospitals in the frame states	nn.nnnn	Weight to hospitals in the frame states

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPWT_S - Weight to hospitals in the state

General Notes

HOSPWT_S contains the weight to the hospitals in the same state. Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPWT_S	Weight to hospitals in the state	nn.nnnn	Weight to hospitals in the state

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPWT_U - Weight to hospitals in the universe

General Notes

HOSPWT_U contains the weight to the hospitals in the universe. For detailed information about the development and use of discharge and hospital weights, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPWT_U	Weight to hospitals in the universe	nn.nnnn	Weight to hospitals in the universe

State Specific Notes

None

HOSPZIP - Hospital zip code from AHA Annual Survey

General Notes

HOSPZIP contains the hospital's zip code obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

During HCUP data processing, the data source's identification of the hospital is reconciled with the identification of the hospital in the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. For detailed information about this linking process, see the special report on HCUP Hospital Identifiers.

HOSPZIP is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
HOSPZIP	Hospital zip code from AHA Annual Survey	5(n)	Hospital's zip code
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

IDNUMBER - Modified AHA hospital identifier

General Notes

There are up to three different types of hospital identifiers included in the HCUP databases.

- The data source's own number scheme for identifying hospitals and facilities (DSHOSPID),
- The hospital identifier used by the American Hospital Association (AHAID and IDNUMBER), and
- A unique HCUP hospital identifier (HOSPID).

The hospital entity as defined by the data source may differ from the hospital entity as defined by the AHA. For example, the data source treats two separate facilities as two hospitals, while the AHA Annual Survey treats the two facilities as a single hospital, or vice versa. For consistency across states, HCUP defines hospitals in accordance with the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals. During HCUP data processing, the data source's identification of the hospital is reconciled with the identification of the hospital in the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. For detailed information about this linking process, see the special report on HCUP Hospital Identifiers.

IDNUMBER contains the last 6 digits of the original 7-digit AHA hospital identifier because the leading "6" has been removed. The data element AHAID retains the original 7-digit value in the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals data files. These files contain information about hospital characteristics and are available for purchase through the AHA.

IDNUMBER is missing if the data source that contributed discharge data to the NIS prohibits the release of hospital identifiers.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
IDNUMBER	Modified AHA hospital identifier	6(n)	AHA Hospital identifier without a leading 6
		Blank	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

LOCTEACH - Hospital location and teaching status

General Notes

The HCUP variable for the hospital's location and teaching status changed names and definitions across data years:

HCUP Variable	Data Years	Definition
HOSP_LOCTEACH	Beginning in 1998	More stringent definition of teaching hospital
H_LOCTCH	1993-1997	Less stringent definition of teaching hospital
LOCTEACH	1988-1992	Same as H_LOCTCH

For LOCTEACH, the hospital's location and teaching status were obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. A metropolitan statistical area is considered urban, and a non-metropolitan statistical area is rural. Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program or have membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals.

Note that a few hospitals classified as rural are also teaching hospitals.

The hospital location and teaching status (LOCTEACH) is missing for some zero-weight hospitals for which the information was not available (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
LOCTEACH	Hospital location and teaching status	1	Rural
		2	Urban nonteaching
		3	Urban teaching
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

N_DISC_F - Number of frame state discharges in STRATUM

General Notes

N_DISC_F contains the number of frame state discharges in the strata (STRATUM). Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

This variable is missing for zero-weight hospitals (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
N_DISC_F	Number of frame state discharges in STRATUM	7(n)	Number of frame state discharges in STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

N_DISC_S - Number of state's discharges in STRAT_ST

General Notes

N_DISC_S contains the number of state's discharges in the strata (STRAT_ST). Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

This variable is missing for zero-weight hospitals (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
N_DISC_S	Number of state's discharges in STRAT_ST	7(N)	Number of state's discharges in STRAT_ST

State Specific Notes

None

N_DISC_U - Number of universe discharges in NIS_STRATUM

General Notes

N_DISC_U contains the total number of discharges in the universe of AHA community hospitals for the strata in NIS_STRATUM.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
N_DISC_U	Number of universe discharges in NIS_STRATUM	7(n)	Number of universe discharges in NIS_STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

N_HOSP_F - Number of frame state hospitals in STRATUM

General Notes

N_HOSP_F contains the number of frame state hospitals in the strata (STRATUM). Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

This variable is missing for zero-weight hospitals (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
N_HOSP_F	Number of frame state hospitals in STRATUM	3(N)	Number of frame state hospitals in STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

N_HOSP_S - Number of state's hospitals in STRAT_ST

General Notes

N_HOSP_S contains the number of state's hospitals in the strata (STRAT_ST). Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

This variable is missing for zero-weight hospitals (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
N_HOSP_S	Number of state's hospitals in STRAT_ST	3(N)	Number of state's hospitals in STRAT_ST

State Specific Notes

None

N_HOSP_U - Number of universe hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

General Notes

N_HOSP_U contains the total number of hospitals in the universe of AHA community hospitals for the strata in NIS_STRATUM.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
N_HOSP_U	Number of universe hospitals in NIS_STRATUM	3(n)	Number of universe hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

NIS_STRATUM - Stratum used to post-stratify hospital

General Notes

NIS_STRATUM is a four-digit stratum identifier used to post-stratify hospitals for the calculation of universe and frame weights. Prior to 1998, this data element was named STRATUM.

NIS_STRATUM includes the hospital's census region, ownership/control, location/teaching, and bedsize. Information was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

- A metropolitan statistical area is considered urban, and a non-metro statistical area is rural.
- Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program, are a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals (COTH) or have a ratio of full-time equivalent interns and residents to beds of .25 or higher.
- Control categories include government nonfederal (public), private not-for-profit (voluntary), and private investor-owned (proprietary). When there were enough hospitals of each type to allow it, hospitals were stratified as public, voluntary, and proprietary. This stratification was used for Southern rural, Southern urban nonteaching, and Western urban nonteaching. For smaller strata, the Midwestern rural and Western rural hospitals, a collapsed stratification of public versus private was used, with the voluntary and proprietary hospitals combined to form to form a single "private" category. For all other combinations of region, location, and teaching status, no stratification based on control was advisable given the number of hospitals in these cells.
- Bedsize assesses the number of short-term acute beds in a hospital.

The hospital's bedsize category is nested within location and teaching status.

BEDSIZE CATEGORIES			
Location and Teaching Status	Hospital Bedsize		
	Small	Medium	Large
NORTHEAST REGION			
Rural	1-49	50-99	100+
Urban, nonteaching	1-124	125-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-424	425+
MIDWEST REGION			

Rural	1-29	30-49	50+
Urban, nonteaching	1-74	75-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-374	375+
SOUTHERN REGION			
Rural	1-39	40-74	75+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-449	450+
WESTERN REGION			
Rural	1-24	25-44	45+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-199	200-324	325+

Some strata were combined for sampling and weight calculations. Consequently, a given hospital's actual value for a stratifier may differ from those indicated by the value of NIS_STRATUM. Each hospital's actual values of stratifiers are contained in separate variables:

Stratifier	1988-1992 NIS	1993-1997 NIS	Beginning in 1998 NIS
Region	ST_REG	H_REGION	HOSP_REGION
Ownership/Control	ST_OWNER	H_CONTRL	HOSP_CONTROL
Location/Teaching	LOCTEACH	H_LOCTCH	HOSP_LOCTEACH
Bedsizes	ST_BEDSZ	H_BEDSZ	HOSP_BEDSIZE

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
NIS_STRATUM	Stratum used to post-stratify hospital	Geographic region	Northeast (1)
			Midwest (2)
			South (3)
			West (4)
		Control	Government or Private (0)
			Government, nonfederal (1)
			Private, not-for-profit (2)

			Private, investor-owned (3)
			Private, either not-for-profit or investor-owned (4)
		Location / Teaching	Rural (1)
			Urban nonteaching (2)
			Urban teaching (3)
		Bedsize	Small (1)
			Medium (2)
			Large (3)

State Specific Notes

None

S_DISC_S - Number of sample discharges in STRAT_ST

General Notes

S_DISC_S contains the number of sampled state discharges in the strata (STRAT_ST). Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

This variable is missing for zero-weight hospitals (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
S_DISC_S	Number of sample discharges in STRAT_ST	6(n)	Number of sample discharges in STRAT_ST

State Specific Notes

None

S_DISC_U - Number of sample discharges in NIS_STRATUM

General Notes

S_DISC_U contains the number of sampled discharges in the strata in NIS_STRATUM.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
S_DISC_U	Number of sample discharges in NIS_STRATUM	6(n)	Number of sample discharges in NIS_STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

S_HOSP_S - Number of sample hospitals in STRAT_ST

General Notes

S_HOSP_S contains the number of sampled state hospitals in the strata (STRAT_ST). Beginning in the 1998 NIS, this data element is not included in the data set.

This variable is missing for zero-weight hospitals (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
S_HOSP_S	Number of sample hospitals in STRAT_ST	nn	Number of sample hospitals in STRAT_ST

State Specific Notes

None

S_HOSP_U - Number of sample hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

General Notes

S_HOSP_U contains the number of sampled hospitals in the strata in NIS_STRATUM.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
S_HOSP_U	Number of sample hospitals in NIS_STRATUM	nn	Number of sample hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

State Specific Notes

None

ST_BEDSZ - Bedsize category

General Notes

The HCUP variable for hospital bedsize changed names and definitions across data years:

HCUP Variable	Data Years	Definition
HOSP_BEDSIZE	Beginning in 1998	Specific to region, location and teaching status
H_BEDSZ	1993-1997	Specific to location and teaching status
ST_BEDSZ	1988-1992	Same as H_BEDSZ

For ST_BEDSZ, the hospital bedsize category is nested within location and teaching status (LOCTEACH).

Location and Teaching Status	Bedsize		
	Small	Medium	Large
Rural	1-49	50-99	100+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-299	300-499	500+

The hospital's location, teaching status, and bedsize were obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program or have membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals. Bedsize assesses the number of short-term acute beds in a hospital.

Hospital bedsize (ST_BEDSZ) is missing for some zero-weight hospitals for which the information was not available (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included after 1992 in NIS Release 2 through Release 6.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
ST_BEDSZ	Bedsized category	1	Small
		2	Medium
		3	Large
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

ST_OWNER - Ownership/control category

General Notes

The HCUP data element for the hospital's ownership/control category has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's ownership/control category was stored in the variable ST_OWNER. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_CONTRL. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_CONTROL is used.

Although the categories for hospital control do not change across years, the labels used to describe hospitals do change:

- Government, nonfederal is equivalent to public
- Private not-for-profit is equivalent to voluntary
- Private investor-owned/private for profit is equivalent to proprietary.

Hospitals in different ownership/control categories tend to have different missions and different responses to government regulations and policies.

The hospital's ownership/control category was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

Hospital ownership (ST_OWNER) is missing for some zero-weight hospitals for which the information was not available (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
ST_OWNER	Ownership/control category	1	Public
		2	Private nonprofit
		3	Private for profit
		.	Missing

State Specific Notes

None

ST_REG - Hospital census region

General Notes

The HCUP variable name for the hospital's census region has changed over time. In the 1988-1992 NIS, the hospital's bedsize category was stored in the variable ST_REG. In the 1993-1997 NIS, this same information is stored in the variable H_REGION. Beginning with the 1998 NIS, the name HOSP_REGION is used.

This is an important stratifier because practice patterns have been shown to vary substantially by region. For example, lengths of stay tend to be longer in East Coast hospitals than in West Coast hospitals.

The hospital's census region was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. Census region is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. The North Central region was referred to as "Midwest" beginning with the 1993 NIS.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
ST_REG	Hospital census region	1	Northeast
		2	North Central or Midwest
		3	South
		4	West

State Specific Notes

None

STRAT_ST - Stratum for state-specific weights

General Notes

STRAT_ST is a four-digit stratum identifier used to post-stratify hospitals for the calculation of state weights. Another stratum identifier (STRATUM) was used for the calculation of universe and frame weights. Strata had to be collapsed much more often for state weights than for universe and frame weights. Beginning in the 1998 NIS, the data element STRAT_ST is not included in the data set.

The following defines the 4 digit stratum number:

<u>Digit</u>	<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Values</u>
1st	Region	1=Northeast
		2=Midwest
		3=South
		4=West
2nd	Control	1=Government, nonfederal
		2=Private, not-for-profit
		3=Private, investor owned
3rd	Location/Teaching	1=Rural
		2=Urban nonteaching
		3=Urban teaching
4th	Bedsizes	1=Small
		2=Medium
		3=Large

The hospital's census region, control category, location, teaching status, and bedsize were obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

- A metropolitan statistical area is considered urban, and a non-metro statistical area is rural.
- Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program or have membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals.
- Bedsizes assesses the number of short-term acute beds in a hospital.

The hospital's bedsize category is nested within location and teaching status.

<u>Location and Teaching Status</u>	Bedsizes			<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>
	Rural	1-49	50-99	100+		
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+			
Urban, teaching	1-299	300-499	500+			

Some strata were combined for sampling and weight calculations. Consequently, a given hospital's actual value for a stratifier may differ from those indicated by the value of STRAT_ST. Each hospital's actual values of stratifiers are contained in separate variables:

<u>Stratifier</u>	<u>Release 1</u>	<u>Release 2 - Release 6</u>
Region	ST_REG	H_REGION
Ownership/Control	ST_OWNER	H_CONTRL
Location/Teaching	LOCTEACH	H_LOCTCH
Bedsizes	ST_BEDSZ	H_BEDSZ

Hospital stratum (STRAT_ST) is missing for zero-weight hospitals (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
STRAT_ST	Stratum for state-specific weights		

State Specific Notes

None

STRATUM - Stratum used to post-stratify hospital

General Notes

STRATUM is a four-digit stratum identifier used to post-stratify hospitals for the calculation of universe and frame weights. Beginning in 1998, this data element is named NIS_STRATUM. Another stratum identifier (STRAT_ST) was used for the calculation of state weights. Strata had to be collapsed much more often for state weights than for universe and frame weights.

The following defines the 4 digit stratum number:

<u>Digit</u>	<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Values</u>
1st	Region	1=Northeast
		2=Midwest
		3=South
		4=West
2nd	Control	1=Government, nonfederal
		2=Private, not-for-profit
		3=Private, investor owned
3rd	Location/Teaching	1=Rural
		2=Urban nonteaching
		3=Urban teaching
4th	Bedsizes	1=Small
		2=Medium
		3=Large

The hospital's census region, control category, location, teaching status, and bedsize were obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals.

- A metropolitan statistical area is considered urban, and a non-metro statistical area is rural.
- Teaching hospitals have an AMA-approved residency program or have membership in the Council of Teaching Hospitals.
- Bedsizes assesses the number of short-term acute beds in a hospital.

The hospital's bedsize category is nested within location and teaching status.

<u>Location and Teaching Status</u>	Bedsizes			<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>
	Rural	1-49	50-99	100+		
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+			
Urban, teaching	1-299	300-499	500+			

Some strata were combined for sampling and weight calculations. Consequently, a given hospital's actual value for a stratifier may differ from those indicated by the value of STRATUM. Each hospital's actual values of stratifiers are contained in separate variables:

<u>Stratifier</u>	<u>Release 1 (1988-1992)</u>	<u>Release 2 - Release 6 (1993-1997)</u>
Region	ST_REG	H_REGION
Ownership/Control	ST_OWNER	H_CONTRL
Location/Teaching	LOCTEACH	H_LOCTCH
Bedsizes	ST_BEDSZ	H_BEDSZ

Hospital stratum (STRATUM) is missing for zero-weight hospitals (see the File Composition for the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for a definition of zero-weight hospitals). Zero-weight hospitals are included in the 1988-1992 data for NIS, Release 1. Because relatively few hospitals were affected and the complexity of including these hospitals entailed considerable processing burden and costs, no zero-weight hospitals are included in the NIS after 1992.

Uniform Values			
Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
STRATUM	Stratum used to post-stratify hospital	nnnn	4 digit number - see gennote for more detail

State Specific Notes

None

TOTAL_DISC - Total hospital discharges

General Notes

TOTAL_DISC includes the total number of discharges from this hospital in the NIS. Prior to 1998, this data element is named TOTDSCHG.

For detailed information about the NIS sampling design, see the year-specific report on the Design of the HCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
TOTAL_DISC	Total hospital discharges	5(n)	Total hospital discharges

State Specific Notes

None

TOTDSCHG - Total hospital discharges

General Notes

TOTDSCHG contains the total number of discharges in a hospital for the calendar year. Beginning in 1998, this data element is named TOTAL_DISC.

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
TOTDSCHG	Total hospital discharges	5(n)	Total hospital discharges

State Specific Notes

None

YEAR - Calendar year

General Notes

The discharge year (YEAR) is always coded. In the 1988-1997 HCUP databases, YEAR is two-digits (e.g., if the discharge year is 1990, then YEAR = 90). Beginning in the 1998 HCUP databases, YEAR is four-digits (e.g., 1998).

Uniform Values

Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
YEAR	Calendar year	yy	2-digit calendar year in 1988-1997 data
		yyyy	4-digit calendar year beginning with 1998 data

State Specific Notes

None