

NPIRS National Database Services

IHS Office of Information Technology (OIT) develops and hosts the infrastructure for the National Patient Information Reporting System (NPIRS) National Data Warehouse (NDW), the national enterprise-level database that is custom-designed to meet the unique administrative and clinical needs of Tribal health program end users, and the highly-focused individual DataMarts. All participating Tribal health programs receive the full range of Workload and User Population reports, along with data integrity and quality check services.

Workload and User Population Statistical Information

Tribal health programs are provided with the full range of NPIRS reports. OIT's NPIRS/NDW Team manages the movement and processing of export files for Area and Tribal health program sites using RPMS or non-RPMS applications. This includes hospitals participating in the Indian Health Performance Evaluation System (IHPEs) program, in which data is received and transmitted to the ORYX database. Receipt of data is confirmed by acknowledgment reports.

NPIRS NDW services include:

- **Annual production of the official Workload and User Population reports.**
- **Quarterly data transmission to Social Security Administration (SSA)** – For validation of patient SSNs, information provided to Areas for distribution to local sites.
- **Quarterly data transmission to Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services** – For determining Medicare eligibility, also provided to Areas.
- **Export tracking reports** – Confirms data receipt and includes verification of total records received and breakdown of total records by facility.
- **DB2 relational database management** – Uses development and database management tools to ensure maximum efficiency of database engine and programs used by the database.
- **Historical data archives** – Data is archived and made available for future reporting.
- **Web-published reports** – Access by authorized site and Area users to pre-designed reports on a safe, secure IHS Web site. Workload and later User Population information is posted monthly, increasing in frequency during the fall season. Other reports include:
 - Ambulatory (service locations, nature of injury, user pops and more)
 - Inpatient (diagnoses, discharges, user pops and more)
 - Contract health services
 - Dental
 - Patient registration
- **Additional special reports to local sites** – Includes quarterly patient SSN verification and Medicare eligibility reports.
- **Additional special reports to others** – For use by outside agencies and organizations for various purposes, including:
 - User Population – To the Census Bureau
 - Performance reports – For IHS leadership for budget justification
 - Special reports to IHS program staff – To meet requests by sites, Areas, IHS management, Congress, or the Administration

For evaluation and comment for FY10

- Special data requests/reports – As approved by IHS management, for outside agencies and organizations to support I/T/U needs and funding

Data Integrity and Quality Checks

To maintain data integrity and ensure that your health program meets NDW data submission requirements, OIT assists in exporting your data to NDW in the proper format. The export process is thoroughly reviewed to guard against unintentional alteration of data once received by NDW. Services include:

- **RPMS exports** – End-to-end data integrity verification from source RPMS system to NDW.
- **Detailed formatting advice (HL7 or simplified non-HL7 format)** – Guidance on how to export data to the NDW in the proper format for Tribal health programs using commercial information systems.
- **Data quality reviews** – Reviews of existing NPIRS data to identify data quality problems in source systems. Local sites are notified if problems are found.
- **Data deficiency identification** – Reports gaps in data submissions to local sites and Areas and provides assistance to correct deficiencies.
- **Technical Assistance:**
 - Exports and reports – Provides information to Area Statistical Officers to assist local sites with exports, and review and approval of Workload and User Pop reports
 - Help Desk support – Email and phone assistance with export problems
 - Non-RPMS applications users – Provides information to sites to assist in meeting formatting standards for data transmission
 - Nonstandard files – When feasible, manually processes non-industry standard export files

Value-Added Services

The following value-added services are included:

- **Security and disaster recovery** – To protect sensitive medical records, the same rigorous security measures that protect the IHS infrastructure protect NDW data and DataMarts.
 - Implements and maintains thorough disaster recovery plan to mitigate risks
 - Only authorized users can view data appropriate to their role
- **Compliance with federal laws and regulations** – such as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS).
- **Data for accreditation purposes** – Data is provided to IHPES Program for JCAHO accreditation and others.

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- **Government and Performance Results Act (GPRA) reports** – If sufficient data is provided, a Tribal health program's data is included in GPRA reports to the Administration and Congress.

NDW DataMarts

Tribal health programs that wish access to existing Program DataMarts (i.e., Diabetes, Women's Health, Cancer, Epidemiology, and so on) or DataMarts which those programs are developing should contact the specific program directly. If a Tribal health program would like a custom DataMart of their own, contact OIT for advice and suggestions on how to do this, including referrals to vendors who could perform the work.²

² The cost for design and production of a custom DataMart is not covered by shares.

Additional Support and Services

Any Tribal health program can buy additional services from OIT, just as you would from any other provider. If you have taken your IT shares, but would like to buy certain services from IHS, there is an identified buyback process in place. Please contact your local Agency Lead Negotiator (ALN) for information about this process. For more information about OIT services, contact Samuel D. Berry at 505-248-4150, and visit the OIT Web site at **www.TribalITSolution.ihs.gov**.