

NAMCS and NHAMCS Data Available at the NCHS Research Data Center

For researchers who want to use NAMCS and NHAMCS data, but need data items that are not available on the downloadable public use micro-data files, the Research Data Center (RDC) at the National Center for Health Statistics is an alternative.

Researchers must submit a proposal which is reviewed by NCHS staff. Fees are charged for accessing the data. More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/r&d/rdc.htm>.

What kinds of NAMCS and NHAMCS data can researchers get at the RDC? All of the publicly available data are contained on the restricted files, using the same layout as the downloadable public use files. But certain variables, which are masked on the downloadable files, are not masked on the restricted files, and a selection of confidential data items have been appended to the restricted files.

All of the restricted items are listed below. If no year is listed, the item is available for all years from 1993 through the current year. Work is in progress to add masked design variables to the public use files for years prior to 1993; as this is accomplished, the restricted files will be enhanced as well.

In addition to these variables, it might be possible to prepare a customized file that includes other items collected as part of the physician or hospital induction interview. This would be subject to data availability and staff resources and would entail additional fees. Contact the Ambulatory Care Statistics Branch for more information.

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

In addition to the standard dataset, the restricted file includes:

1. Non-masked design variables for use in variance estimation
2. Physician practice characteristics:
 - Single or multi-specialty practice (2001-present)
 - Number of physicians in the practice (including sampled physician) (2001-present)

National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (cont.)

The following five variables were added to the restricted file for 2002. Note that they were also added to the downloadable public use file beginning in 2003.

- Percent of practice revenue from Medicare (quartiles)
- Percent of practice revenue from Medicaid (quartiles)
- Percent of practice revenue from private insurance (quartiles)
- Percent of practice revenue from other sources (quartiles)
- Number of managed care contracts (aggregate data)
- Percent of practice revenue from managed care contracts (2003-present) (quartiles)

3. Physician characteristics:

- Physician year of birth
- Physician sex
- Physician race (2001-present)
- Did physician graduate from foreign medical school? (2001-present)

4. Geographic variables:

- FIPS State code
- FIPS County code

Patient ZIP code is scheduled to be added for 2005.

5. Census variables:

- Percent of population 25 years and over in patient's ZIP code with a high school diploma or higher (2001-present)
- Percent of population 25 years and over in patient's ZIP code with a Bachelor's degree or higher (2001-present)
- Percent of population in patient's ZIP code that are foreign (2001-present)
- Percent of population in patient's ZIP code that do not speak English at all or very well (2001-present)
- Median household income in patient's ZIP code (2001-present)

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Emergency department file (ED)

1. Non-masked design variables for use in variance estimation
2. Hospital/ED characteristics:
 - Type of emergency service area (2001-present)
 - Annual emergency department visit volume (2001-present)
 - Medical school affiliation (yes/no) (2001-present)

3. Geographic variables:
 - FIPS State code
 - FIPS County code

Patient ZIP code is expected to be added for 2005.

4. Census variables:
 - Percent of population 25 years and over in patient's ZIP code with a high school diploma or higher (2001-present)
 - Percent of population 25 years and over in patient's ZIP code with a Bachelor's degree or higher (2001-present)
 - Percent of population in patient's ZIP code that are foreign (2001-present)
 - Percent of population in patient's ZIP code that do not speak English at all or very well (2001-present)
 - Median household income in patient's ZIP code (2001-present)

National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey Outpatient department file (OPD)

1. Non-masked design variables for use in variance estimation
2. Hospital characteristics:
 - Medical school affiliation (yes/no) (2001-present)
3. Geographic variables:
 - FIPS State code
 - FIPS County code

Patient ZIP code is expected to be added for 2005.

4. Census variables:

Percent of population 25 years and over in patient's ZIP code with a high school diploma or higher (2001-present)

Percent of population 25 years and over in patient's ZIP code with a Bachelor's degree or higher (2001-present)

Percent of population in patient's ZIP code that are foreign (2001-present)

Percent of population in patient's ZIP code that do not speak English at all or very well (2001-present)

Median household income in patient's ZIP code (2001-present)

For more information, contact the Ambulatory Care Statistics Branch at 301-458-4600.