

# National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey(NHAMCS)

## Contents

- Database
    - List of Aging Related Databases
      - AHA (America Hospital Association)
      - American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals
      - American Medical Association Physician Master File
      - Area Health Resource File(AHRF)
      - Area Resource File (ARF)
      - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System(BRFS)

## Overview

- **Topic/focus:** Healthcare Facilities and Services
- **Year(s):** 1992 - 2011 (1999-2011 available on AWS)
- **Source:** National Center for Health Statistics
- **Study and sample characteristics:** Patient records
- **Universe:** Visits to the emergency departments and outpatient departments of non institutional general and short-stay hospitals, exclusive of Federal, military, and Veterans Administration hospitals
- **Variables:** Varies by year
- **Access:** Publicly available
- **Cost:** Free
- **Key web links:** [Ambulatory Health Care Data](#)
- **Summary:** The NHAMCS covers the areas of ambulatory care not included in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: visits to hospital emergency departments and outpatient departments. The NHAMCS is organized into an emergency department file and an outpatient file and includes data items on demographics, hospital information, diagnoses, procedures, injury status, medications, and diagnostic services.

## Data Contents on Redshift

There is currently NHAMCS data from years 1999-2011 in redshift and contains anywhere from 21000-31000 records for each year. The data has to do with emergency room visits and collects different metrics such as the amount of time they waited(WAITIME) or the ED admission notes(VRFV) that are very descriptive on why they are there. Each ED<YEAR> table is accompanied by a descriptor file which gives a short explanation on what each columns in the table represents. The AGE metric can be used to drill down to specific age groups such as Elders.

## Data Documentation

All data documentation for the NHAMCS is located on the WHI data science google drive or here: [\[ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset\\_Documentation/Data\\_Dictionaries\]](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/Data_Dictionaries) The summaries for all data points within the years 1999-2011 are located below.

Chronic  
condition  
data  
warehouse

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Atlas of  
Health Care

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Dartmouth  
Atlas  
Project

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Medical  
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Panel  
Survey(MEPS)

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## Data Summary Tables By Year

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011

	Column Name	Column Description
1	VYEAR	Year of visit
2	TIMEVIS	Time of visit - military time
3	ARRIVE	Mode of arrival
4	PREGNANT	If female, is patient pregnant?
5	RACE	Patient race - recoded
6	PAYTYPE	Primary expected source of payment for this visit
7	URGENT	Immediacy with which patient should be seen
8	RFV1	Patient's reason for visit #1
9	RFV2	Patient's reason for visit #2
10	RFV3	Patient's reason for visit #3
11	INJURY	Is visit related to injury or poisoning?
12	INTENT	Intentionality of injury from checkbox
13	CAUSE1	Cause of injury #1
14	CAUSE2	Cause of injury #2
15	CAUSE3	Cause of injury #3
16	VCAUSE	Verbatim cause of injury
17	DIAG13D	Physician's diagnosis #1 - broad
18	DIAG23D	Physician's diagnosis #2 - broad
	DIAG33D	Physician's diagnosis #3 - broad

<p>Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare Healthcare Cost Report Information System(HCRIS)</li> <li>• Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data</li> <li>• MEPSnet</li> <li>• National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS)</li> <li>• National Health Aging Trends Study(NHATS)</li> <li>• National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)</li> <li>• National Health Examination Survey(NHES) Cycle_II</li> <li>• National Health Examination Survey (NHES) Cycle I</li> </ul>	<b>19</b>			
	<b>20</b>	PRDIAG2	Is DIAG2 probable, questionable or ruleout?	
	<b>21</b>	DIAGSCRN	Were diagnostic/screen serv ordered/provided?	
	<b>22</b>	BLODPRES	Blood pressure test	
	<b>23</b>	CARDMON	Cardiac monitor	
	<b>24</b>	URINE	Urinalysis	
	<b>25</b>	HIVSER	HIV serology	
	<b>26</b>	BLOODALC	Blood alcohol concentration	
	<b>27</b>	OTHERBLD	Other blood test	
	<b>28</b>	DIAGSC1	Other diag/screen service #1	
	<b>29</b>	DIAGSC12	Other diag/screen service #1 - 2 dgt	
	<b>30</b>	DIAGSC23	Other diag/screen service #2 - 3 dgt	
	<b>31</b>	CHESTXRY	Chest X-ray	
	<b>32</b>	OTHERXRY	Other X-ray	
	<b>33</b>	ULTRASND	Ultrasound	
	<b>34</b>	OTHDIAG	Other diagnostic imaging	
	<b>35</b>	PROC	Were procedures provided?	
	<b>36</b>	CPR	CPR	
	<b>37</b>	NGTUBE	NG tube/Gastric lavage	
	<b>38</b>	BLADCATH	Bladder catheter	
	<b>39</b>	EYEENT	Eye/ENT care	
	<b>40</b>	OBGYN	OB/GYN care	
	<b>41</b>	PROC1	Other procedure #1	
	<b>42</b>	PROC12	Other procedure #1 - 2 dgt	
	<b>43</b>	PROC23	Other procedure #2 - 3 dgt	

National Health Examination Survey (NHES) Cycle III

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National Health Interview Survey(NHIS)

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National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Data File

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National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) State Data Files

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National Health Interview Survey on Disability(NHI: D) Phase I and II

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National Home and Hospice Care Survey (NHHCS)

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**National Hosp Ambulatory Medical Care Survey(NHAM)**

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National Hospital Discharge Survey(NHDS)

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<b>44</b>	TOTPROC	Total # of procedures
<b>45</b>	MED1	Medication #1
<b>46</b>	MED3	Medication #3
<b>47</b>	MED5	Medication #5
<b>48</b>	NUMMED	Number of medications coded
<b>49</b>	STAFFPHY	Staff physician seen
<b>50</b>	OTHERPHY	Other Physician seen
<b>51</b>	NURSEPR	Nurse practitioner seen
<b>52</b>	LPN	Licensed practical nurse seen
<b>53</b>	EMT	Emergency medical technician seen
<b>54</b>	NODISP	Visit disposition: No answer to item
<b>55</b>	EDPRN	Return to ED, P.R.N. (as needed)/Appointment
<b>56</b>	OUTTRIAG	Referred out from triage without treatment
<b>57</b>	LEFT	Left before being seen
<b>58</b>	ADMITCCU	Admitted to ICU/CCU
<b>59</b>	DOA	DOA/Died in ED
<b>60</b>	OTHERDIS	Other disposition
<b>61</b>	REGION	Geographic region of hospital
<b>62</b>	OWNSMG	Hospital ownership
<b>63</b>	PATCODE	Patient code
<b>64</b>	VTIMEFL	Was visit time imputed?
<b>65</b>	SEXFL	Was sex imputed?
<b>66</b>	URGENTFL	Was immediacy imputed?
<b>67</b>	PRESCR1	Prescription status code for drug #1
<b>68</b>	COMSTAT1	Composition status code for drug #1

National  
Nursing Home  
Survey(NNHS)

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National  
Survey of  
Ambulatory  
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(NSAS)

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NCHS-CMS  
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Study of  
Long-Term  
Care  
Providers  
(NSLTCP)

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The MIMIC  
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<b>69</b>	DRG1ING1	Ingredient code #1 for drug #1
<b>70</b>	DRG1ING3	Ingredient code #3 for drug #1
<b>71</b>	DRG1ING5	Ingredient code #5 for drug #1
<b>72</b>	PRESCR2	Prescription status code for drug #2
<b>73</b>	COMSTAT2	Composition status code for drug #2
<b>74</b>	DRG2ING1	Ingredient code #1 for drug #2
<b>75</b>	DRG2ING3	Ingredient code #3 for drug #2
<b>76</b>	DRG2ING5	Ingredient code #5 for drug #2
<b>77</b>	PRESCR3	Prescription status code for drug #3
<b>78</b>	COMSTAT3	Composition status code for drug #3
<b>79</b>	DRG3ING1	Ingredient code #1 for drug #3
<b>80</b>	DRG3ING3	Ingredient code #3 for drug #3
<b>81</b>	DRG3ING5	Ingredient code #5 for drug #3
<b>82</b>	PRESCR4	Prescription status code for drug #4
<b>83</b>	COMSTAT4	Composition status code for drug #4
<b>84</b>	DRG4ING1	Ingredient code #1 for drug #4
<b>85</b>	DRG4ING3	Ingredient code #3 for drug #4
<b>86</b>	DRG4ING5	Ingredient code #5 for drug #4
<b>87</b>	PRESCR5	Prescription status code for drug #5
<b>88</b>	COMSTAT5	Composition status code for drug #5
<b>89</b>	DRG5ING1	Ingredient code #1 for drug #5
<b>90</b>	DRG5ING3	Ingredient code #3 for drug #5
<b>91</b>	DRG5ING5	Ingredient code #5 for drug #5
<b>92</b>	PRESCR6	Prescription status code for drug #6
<b>93</b>	COMSTAT6	Composition status code for drug #6
<b>94</b>	DRG6ING1	Ingredient code #1 for drug #6

The National  
Hospital Care  
Survey(NHCS)

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and upload  
procedure for  
datasets.

<b>95</b>	DRG6ING3	Ingredient code #3 for drug #6
<b>96</b>	DRG6ING5	Ingredient code #5 for drug #6
<b>97</b>	AGEDAYS	Age in days for patients less than 1 year
<b>98</b>	CAUSE1R	Cause of injury #1 - numeric recode
<b>99</b>	CAUSE3R	Cause of injury #3 - numeric recode
<b>100</b>	DIAG2R	Physician's diagnosis #2 - numeric recode
<b>101</b>	DIAGSC1R	Other diag/screen serv #1 - numeric recode
<b>102</b>	PROC1R	Other procedure #1 - numeric recode
<b>103</b>	WHOCOMP	Who completed the Patient Record forms?
<b>104</b>	STRATM	PSU stratum marker (masked)
<b>105</b>	YEAR	Survey year (1999)
<b>106</b>	PROSTRAT	Provider stratum marker
<b>107</b>	DEPT	Hospital department code
<b>108</b>	CLINIC	Hospital clinic code
<b>109</b>	POPSUM	# of clinic sampling units in hos (masked)
<b>110</b>	POPPOVM	Estimated # of inscope providers in PSU (masked)
<b>111</b>	VMONTH	Month of visit
<b>112</b>	VDAYR	Day of week of visit - recoded
<b>113</b>	AGE	Patient age in years
<b>114</b>	SEX	Patient sex
<b>115</b>	ETHNIC	Patient ethnicity
<b>116</b>	WAITTIME	Waiting time to see physician (in minutes)
<b>117</b>	HMO	Does patient belong to an HMO?
<b>118</b>	PAIN	Presenting level of pain

- [In-Progress Databases](#)

- [LastPass Enterprise](#)

- [Software Tools](#)

- [Training Materials](#)

<b>119</b>	RFV13D	Patient's reason for visit #1 - broad
<b>120</b>	RFV23D	Patient's reason for visit #2 - broad
<b>121</b>	RFV33D	Patient's reason for visit #3 - broad
<b>122</b>	PLACE	Place of occurrence of injury
<b>123</b>	WORKREL	Is injury work related?
<b>124</b>	CAUSE13D	Cause of injury #1 - broad
<b>125</b>	CAUSE23D	Cause of injury #2 - broad
<b>126</b>	CAUSE33D	Cause of injury #3 - broad
<b>127</b>	DIAG1	Physician's diagnosis #1
<b>128</b>	DIAG2	Physician's diagnosis #2
<b>129</b>	DIAG3	Physician's diagnosis #3
<b>130</b>	PRDIAG1	Is DIAG1 probable, questionable or ruleout?
<b>131</b>	PRDIAG3	Is DIAG3 probable, questionable or ruleout?
<b>132</b>	MENTSTAT	Mental status exam
<b>133</b>	EKG	EKG
<b>134</b>	PULSOXIM	Pulse oximetry
<b>135</b>	PREGTEST	Pregnancy test
<b>136</b>	OTHERSTD	Other STD test
<b>137</b>	CBC	CBC
<b>138</b>	OTHERSCR	Other diagnostic/screening service
<b>139</b>	DIAGSC13	Other diag/screen service #1 - 3 dgt
<b>140</b>	DIAGSC2	Other diag/screen service #2
<b>141</b>	DIAGSC22	Other diag/screen service #2 - 2 dgt
<b>142</b>	EXTRXRAY	Extremity X-ray
<b>143</b>	MRI	MRI

<b>144</b>	CATSCAN	CAT scan
<b>145</b>	TOTDIAG	Total # of diagnostic/screening services
<b>146</b>	ENDOINT	Endotracheal intubation
<b>147</b>	IVFLUIDS	IV fluids
<b>148</b>	LUMBPUNC	Lumbar puncture
<b>149</b>	WOUND	Wound care
<b>150</b>	ORTHOPED	Orthopedic care
<b>151</b>	OTHERPRC	Other procedure
<b>152</b>	PROC13	Other procedure #1 - 3 dgt
<b>153</b>	PROC2	Other procedure #2
<b>154</b>	PROC22	Other procedure #2 - 2 dgt
<b>155</b>	MED	Were medications/injections ordered/provided?
<b>156</b>	MED2	Medication #2
<b>157</b>	MED4	Medication #4
<b>158</b>	MED6	Medication #6
<b>159</b>	NOPROVID	Providers seen: No answer to item
<b>160</b>	RESINT	Resident/Intern seen
<b>161</b>	PHYSASST	Physician assistant seen
<b>162</b>	RN	Registered nurse seen
<b>163</b>	MEDNURSE	Medical/Nursing assistant seen
<b>164</b>	OTHERPRV	Other provider seen
<b>165</b>	NOFOLLOW	No follow-up planned
<b>166</b>	REFPHYS	Returned to referring physician
<b>167</b>	REFOTHPH	Referred to other physician/clinic
<b>168</b>	ADMITHOS	Admitted to hospital
	TRANSFER	Transferred to other facility



<b>170</b>	REFSOCS	Referred to social services
<b>171</b>	PATWT	Patient visit weight (rounded)
<b>172</b>	URBAN	Metro/non-metro status of location of hospital
<b>173</b>	HOSPCODE	Hospital code
<b>174</b>	VDATEFL	Was visit date imputed?
<b>175</b>	BDATEFL	Was birth year imputed?
<b>176</b>	RACEFL	Was race imputed?
<b>177</b>	GEN1	Generic name code for drug #1
<b>178</b>	CONTSUB1	Controlled substance code for drug #1
<b>179</b>	DRUGCL1	Drug class for drug #1
<b>180</b>	DRG1ING2	Ingredient code #2 for drug #1
<b>181</b>	DRG1ING4	Ingredient code #4 for drug #1
<b>182</b>	GEN2	Generic name code for drug #2
<b>183</b>	CONTSUB2	Controlled substance code for drug #2
<b>184</b>	DRUGCL2	Drug class for drug #2
<b>185</b>	DRG2ING2	Ingredient code #2 for drug #2
<b>186</b>	DRG2ING4	Ingredient code #4 for drug #2
<b>187</b>	GEN3	Generic name code for drug #3
<b>188</b>	CONTSUB3	Controlled substance code for drug #3
<b>189</b>	DRUGCL3	Drug class for drug #3
<b>190</b>	DRG3ING2	Ingredient code #2 for drug #3
<b>191</b>	DRG3ING4	Ingredient code #4 for drug #3
<b>192</b>	GEN4	Generic name code for drug #4
<b>193</b>	CONTSUB4	Controlled substance code for drug #4
<b>194</b>	DRUGCL4	Drug class for drug #4
	DRG4ING2	Ingredient code #2 for drug #4

<b>195</b>		
<b>196</b>	DRG4ING4	Ingredient code #4 for drug #4
<b>197</b>	GEN5	Generic name code for drug #5
<b>198</b>	CONTSUB5	Controlled substance code for drug #5
<b>199</b>	DRUGCL5	Drug class for drug #5
<b>200</b>	DRG5ING2	Ingredient code #2 for drug #5
<b>201</b>	DRG5ING4	Ingredient code #4 for drug #5
<b>202</b>	GEN6	Generic name code for drug #6
<b>203</b>	CONTSUB6	Controlled substance code for drug #6
<b>204</b>	DRUGCL6	Drug class for drug #6
<b>205</b>	DRG6ING2	Ingredient code #2 for drug #6
<b>206</b>	DRG6ING4	Ingredient code #4 for drug #6
<b>207</b>	RACER	Patient race recode: White, Black, Other
<b>208</b>	AGER	Patient age recode
<b>209</b>	CAUSE2R	Cause of injury #2 - numeric recode
<b>210</b>	DIAG1R	Physician's diagnosis #1 - numeric recode
<b>211</b>	DIAG3R	Physician's diagnosis #3 - numeric recode
<b>212</b>	DIAGSC2R	Other diag/screen serv #2 - numeric recode
<b>213</b>	PROC2R	Other procedure #2 - numeric recode
<b>214</b>	INTENTR	Intentionality of injury - recoded
<b>215</b>	PSUM	PSU marker (masked)
<b>216</b>	SUBFILE	Survey identifier (constant=2 for NHAMCS)
<b>217</b>	PROVIDER	Provider code
<b>218</b>	SU	Hospital sampling unit code
	POPPSUM	Stratum counts of PSUs (masked)

220	POPVISM	Estimated provider visit volume (masked)
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## Sources

All information relating to data elements descriptions and database summaries have been pulled from the database providers website located here: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd.htm>.