

## **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.

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)

<b>General Notes</b>
----------------------

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.

<b>Uniform Values</b>
-----------------------

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

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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	0	Rural
		1	Urban
		.	Missing

### State Specific Notes

*None*

## H\_LOCTCH - Location/teaching status of hospital (definition used prior to 1998)

<b>General Notes</b>
----------------------

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.

<b>Uniform Values</b>
-----------------------

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

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*None*

## H\_REGION - Hospital census region (definition used prior to 1998)

<b>General Notes</b>
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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.

<b>Uniform Values</b>
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Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
H_REGION	Hospital census region	1	Northeast
		2	Midwest or North Central
		3	South
		4	West

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*None*

## H\_TCH - Hospital teaching status (definition used prior to 1998)

<b>General Notes</b>
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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.

<b>Uniform Values</b>
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Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
H_TCH	Hospital teaching status (definition used prior to 1998)	0	Nonteaching
		1	Teaching
		.	Missing

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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. Bedsizes 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 as follows. 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.

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

<b>BEDSIZE CATEGORIES (Prior to 1998)</b>			
<u>Location and Teaching Status</u>	<b>Hospital Bedsize</b>		
	<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.

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

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Value Description</b>
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

**State Specific Notes**

*None*

## HOSP\_LOCATION - Location (urban/rural) of hospital

### General Notes

This information was obtained from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals. A metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is considered urban, and a non-metropolitan statistical area is rural. 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 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. 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

### 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	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

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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, such as the Area Resource File and the American Hospital Association Annual Survey of Hospitals. In these modified FIPS county codes, Baltimore City is included in Baltimore County, St. Louis City in St. Louis County, and the independent cities of Virginia in the contiguous counties, Kalawao county, Hawaii is included in Maui County. The four Alaska Judicial Divisions are used as counties.

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

<b>General Notes</b>
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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.

<b>Uniform Values</b>
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Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
N_HOSP_U	Number of universe hospitals in NIS_STRATUM	3(n)	Number of universe hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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.

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

Rural	1-29	30-49	50+
Urban, nonteaching	1-74	75-174	175+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-374	375+
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>			
Rural	1-39	40-74	75+
Urban, nonteaching	1-99	100-199	200+
Urban, teaching	1-249	250-449	450+
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>			
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:

<b>Stratifier</b>	<b>1988-1992 NIS</b>	<b>1993-1997 NIS</b>	<b>Beginning in 1998 NIS</b>
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.

<b>Uniform Values</b>			
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Value Description</b>
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)

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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

<b>General Notes</b>
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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.

<b>Uniform Values</b>
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Variable	Description	Value	Value Description
S_HOSP_U	Number of sample hospitals in NIS_STRATUM	nn	Number of sample hospitals in NIS_STRATUM

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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
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ST_BEDSZ	Bedsized category	1	Small
		2	Medium
		3	Large
		.	Missing

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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

<b>General Notes</b>
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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>	<b>Bedsizes</b>			<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.

<b>Uniform Values</b>			
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Value Description</b>
STRAT_ST	Stratum for state-specific weights		

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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>	<b>Bedsizes</b>			<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.

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

<b>State Specific Notes</b>
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*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*