



The North Carolina HCUP Central Distributor State Inpatient Databases (SID) for 2007-2008 contain problems with the coding of discharge disposition in one hospital.

- In both the 2007 and 2008 SID, the coding discrepancy is confined to
 - One specialty hospital
 - Four data elements that are used to identify discharge disposition (DIED, DISPUB04, DISPuniform, and DISP_X).
- The discrepancy results in implausibly high mortality rates for this hospital.

Implications for Data Analysis

As the table below shows, the discharges from this one hospital represent less than 0.15% of the total discharges from North Carolina hospitals in each data year. Consequently, there is very little impact on estimates of state-level mortality rates. However, researchers who are estimating mortality rates for specific hospitals or for specific procedures, for example, hip replacement, may want to exclude this hospital from their analyses.

North Carolina SID	2007	2008
Number of discharges and hospitals statewide	1,120,313 discharges from 124 hospitals	1,134,014 discharges from 123 hospitals
Number and percent of discharges at impacted hospital	1,042 (0.09%)	1,286 (0.11%)

We apologize for any inconvenience This may cause your organization. If you have questions, please contact the HCUP Central Distributor (866-556-4287 toll-free or HCUPDistributor@AHRQ.gov).

Sincerely,

The HCUP Central Distributor Team