As part of the on-going HCUP quality management program, we discovered duplicated records in the 2011–2012 North Carolina State Ambulatory Surgery and Services Databases (SASD) and State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD). The purpose of this notification is to provide a description of the issue and instructions on how to identify and remove the duplicated records.

Data Issue

The 2011–2012 North Carolina SASD included duplicated records with similar, if not identical information. In the SASD, the duplicated records were not specific to certain hospitals or types of conditions. The duplication was inadvertently caused during the creation of the HCUP SASD and therefore impacts all types of ambulatory surgery and services records.

The 2011–2012 North Carolina SEDD included two types of erroneous records. One, there were duplicated records for ED visits that did not result in an admission to the same hospital. Second, there were records for ED visits that did result in an admission to the same hospital included in the SEDD. These ED admission records should not have been included in the SEDD. They were already part of the HCUP State Inpatient Databases in these same data years.

How to Identify and Remove the Problematic Records

The table below lists the number of records in each year of the North Carolina SASD, the number of duplicated records, and how to identify and remove the duplicated records from each data year.

	North Carolina SASD		
Data Year	Total number of SEDD records	Number of duplicated records	How to identify and remove duplicated records
2011	2,762,300	878,164	Delete records with STATE_ED = 1
2012	9,432,422	3,563,788	Delete records with STATE_ED = 1

The table below lists the number of records in each year of the North Carolina SEDD, the number of erroneous records, and how to identify and remove the erroneous records from each data year.

	North Carolina SEDD		
Data Year	Total number of SEDD records	Number of erroneous records	How to identify and remove erroneous records
2011	5,154,917	1,420,731	Delete duplicated records with STATE_AS=1 (878,460 records) and delete ED admissions with BILLTYPE = 111 or 117 (542,271records).
2012	8,067,001	4,110,034	Delete duplicated records with STATE_AS=1 (3,567,479 records) and delete ED admissions with BILLTYPE = 111 or 117 (542,555 records).

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

Sincerely,

The HCUP Central Distributor Team