
Inventory of National Rural Health Research Related Databases

Database name: **Hospital Morbidity Database**

Thematic Coverage: This database collects demographic and clinical information for inpatient separations (discharges/deaths) from Canada's general and allied special hospitals. It is similar to the Discharge Abstract Database, but only contains Acute/Inpatient data and national level data and has fewer data elements.

Maintained by: CIHI; prior to 1994, database maintained by Statistics Canada

Availability: Data disclosure is determined by CIHI's Privacy and Confidentiality Policy (see www.cihi.ca). In some instances, CIHI and Statistics Canada manage release of information jointly. If privacy and confidentiality criteria are met, data can be released at the sub-provincial level. Costs are dependent upon the level data required, plus programming and processing fees.

Start Date: 1960

Release Date: Approximately 18-24 months after reference fiscal year for general release.

Frequency of collection: Annual

Data Collection: Most data are extracted from CIHI's Discharge Abstract Database; remaining information is obtained directly from the province or territory.

Sample size: 100% of all inpatient separations for Canada's general and allied special hospitals.

Geographic coverage: All provinces and territories

Lowest geographic level collected: Postal code of patient. Collection and completeness of postal codes varies (e.g. Quebec reports only the Forward Sortation Area – the first 3 digits of the postal code).

Lowest geographic level of release: Forward Sortation Area or Enumeration Area depending on request

Existing rural variable: No

Rural definitions that can be constructed from this database include (building block):

- ✓ Census "rural areas" (Enumeration Area)
 - ✓ Rural and Small Town definition (Census Subdivision)
 - ✓ Metropolitan area and census agglomeration Influenced Zones (Census Subdivision)
 - ✓ OECD "rural communities" definition (Census Consolidated Subdivision)
 - ✓ OECD "predominantly rural regions" definition (Census Division)
 - ✓ Ehrensaft's "Beale codes" (Census Division)
-

Data Elements:

- most responsible physician/diagnosis
- principal procedure
- patient gender, date of birth, postal code, institution/hospital number
- admission/discharge, (e.g. admission category, length of stay)

Notes:

Data are reported based on the region of the patient's residence, not region of hospitalization. Consequently, these figures reflect the hospitalization experience of residents of the region wherever they are treated as opposed to the comprehensive activity of the region's hospitals. It represents how frequently residents of a given area received hospital care rather than the volume of services provided by hospitals.

Discharges from any outpatient services in any hospital and discharges from psychiatric hospitals are not contained in this database. Data for hospitalization for mental illnesses across Canada can be found in the Hospital Mental Health Database.

For more information, contact morbidity@cihi.ca