
Inventory of Rural Health Research Related Databases

Database name:	Hospital Mental Health Database
Thematic Coverage:	This database collects hospitalization data for mental illness across Canada. It is meant to support management decision making at the hospital, regional, and provincial/territorial levels and to facilitate hospital, regional, provincial/territorial and national comparative reporting.
Maintained by:	CIHI; prior to 1994/95, maintained by Statistics Canada
Availability:	Data disclosure is determined by CIHI's Privacy and Confidentiality Policy (see www.cihi.ca). 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:	1930
Release Date:	Approximately 12 months after the reference fiscal year
Frequency of collection:	Annual

Data Collection: Data are gathered from administrative separation records of psychiatric and general hospitals. Mental health data from provincial psychiatric hospitals comes from the Hospital Mental Health Survey and general hospitals from the Hospital Morbidity Database. They are obtained electronically through selected extracts of the Discharge Abstract Database for those provinces/territories participating in DAD. Data files for the remaining hospitals are submitted by the appropriate province or territory.

Sample size: All inpatient separations (discharges/deaths) for hospitalizations for mental disorders in psychiatric and general hospitals.

Geographic coverage:	All provinces and territories
Lowest geographic level collected:	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)

[†] Results for these areas of geography could conceivably be derived from postal codes if respondent confidentiality is ensured.

Data elements:

Selected data elements include:

- Demographic information (age, sex, birth date, marital status)
- Medical diagnosis
- Admission/ separation information

Notes:

Data are based on inpatient events only and exclude patients treated as outpatients, in residential care facilities and group homes, and in community-based mental health services.

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.

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