National Hospital Care Survey:
Redesigning the Annual Hospital Interview

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Session G-1: If We Modernize the Survey, Will They Respond?

Presentation Overview

1. Overview of National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS)
2. Overview of Annual Hospital Interview (AHI)
3. Redesign of AHI Questionnaire and Online Portal
4. Overview of AHI Response Rate

Overview of
National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS)

NHCS – Goal and Objectives

- **Goal:**
  - Provide reliable and timely healthcare utilization data for hospital-based settings.

- **Objectives:**
  - Provide national data for benchmarking.
  - Link episodes of care across hospital units as well as link to other data sources, including the National Death Index; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services data such as the Master Beneficiary Summary File; and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development data.

NHCS – Sample Design and Data Collection

- **Sample Design:**
  - Hospitals are randomly selected and each hospital selected for the survey uniquely represents facilities of similar size, service type, and/or geographic location and cannot be replaced.
  - The 2020-2022 NHCS sample consisted of 608 non-institutional, non-federal hospitals with six or more staffed inpatient beds.
  - Participation is voluntary and there is no penalty for not participating.
- **Data collection:**
  - All inpatient discharges and emergency department (ED) visits for up to a 12-month period, including patient personally identifiable information.
  - Hospitals can submit electronic health records, Uniform Bill-04 administrative claims, state files, or data from third party sources (e.g. Vizient and American College of Emergency Physicians).

Overview of
# Annual Hospital Interview (AHI)

AHI Purpose & History

- The AHI is an annual supplemental component of NHCS that collects hospital summary information to be used as adjustment factors in the creation of weights to produce reliable national estimates.
  - The AHI is a retrospective survey that collects information on the previous calendar year.
- Prior to 2017, the AHI was administered by an interviewer.
  - Due to budget restraints, the AHI was pulled out of the field in 2017.
- When the AHI was reinstated in 2020, it was implemented as a self-response web survey. However, the question wording and interview structure were not updated for the new mode of collection.

AHI Eligibility and Respondents

- All eligible sampled NHCS hospitals are requested to complete the AHI.
  - Sampled hospitals with a recruitment status of "ineligible," "soft refusal," or "firm refusal" are not eligible to complete the AHI.
- A respondent may be responsible for completing the AHI for more than one hospital.
- The AHI for a hospital may only be completed by one respondent.

	Hospital Count			Respondent Count
Year	Eligible	Not Eligible	Total	
2020	533	75	608	378
2021	496	112	608	371
2022	482	126	608	368

AHI Fielding
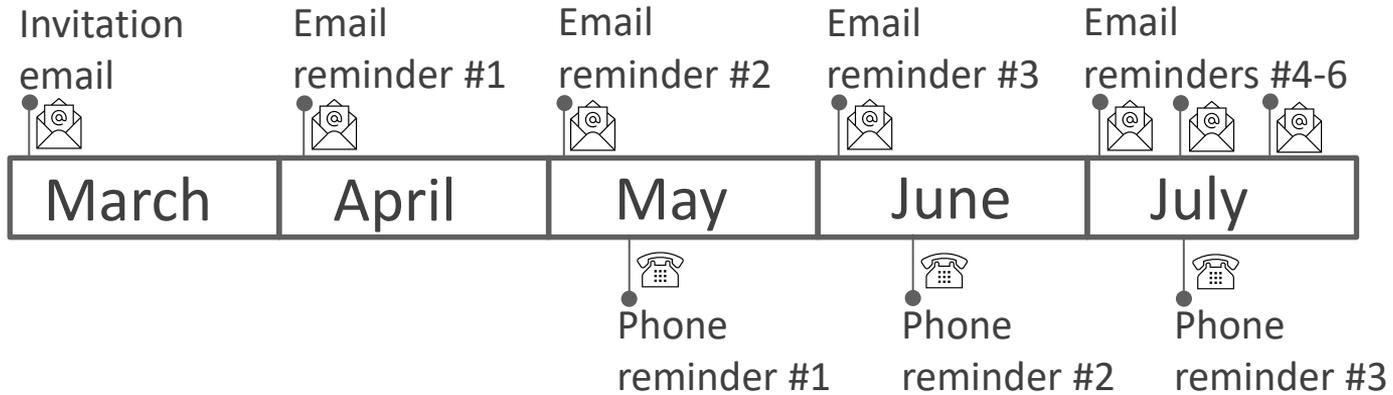
Redesign of AHI Questionnaire and Online Portal

Issues with 2020 AHI

- Questions and answer categories were not designed for web collection.
- Collected information retrospectively and prospectively.
- Reporting time frame varied by question.
  - e.g., monthly inpatient discharge counts vs quarterly ED visit counts
- Confusing options for providing data.
  - e.g., separate inpatient discharge counts from live birth counts
  - e.g., separate counts by insurance status
- Multiple versions of the questionnaire caused confusion for developers.
- Blue question text.
- Skipped questions were greyed out but remained visible.
- Low number of hospitals completed.

AHI Redesign Goals

- Increase the number of hospitals completing the survey
- Reduce respondent burden and improve respondent experience
- Collect information pertinent to weighting of NHCS and selected special topics
- Restructure questions to only collect retrospective information

- Paginate questions based on topic
- Change question visibility based on skip pattern
- Add hard and soft edit checks
- Add links to support documents to assist respondents

AHI Questionnaire Redesign 2020 to 2021-2022

- Removed questions that collected information already available to NHCS in other data sources (e.g. hospital sample frame)

- Removed questions that collected information not pertinent to weighting NHCS

- Simplified questions that collected information on inpatient discharge and ED visit counts

- Reduced six COVID-19 questions into one COVID-19 question

- Added questions about use of telemedicine

AHI Portal Redesign 2020 to 2021-2022: Login Page

2020

2021-2022

14
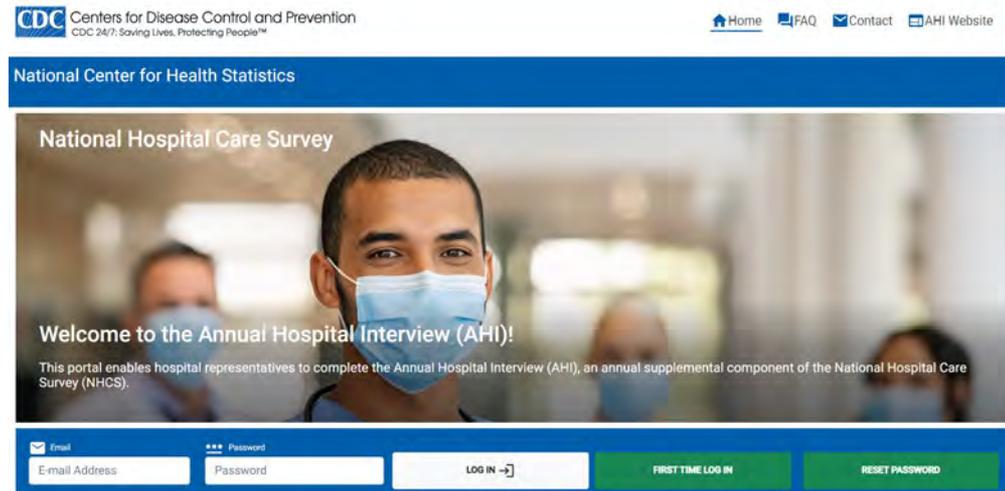
AHI Portal Redesign 2020 to 2021-2022: Start Page

2020

Notice — CDC estimates the average public reporting burden for this collection of information as 120 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data/information sources, gathering and maintaining the data/information needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC/ATSDR Information Collection Review Office, 1600 Clifton Road, MS D-74, Atlanta, GA 30333; ATTN: PRA (0920-0212).

Assurance of Confidentiality — We take your privacy very seriously. All information that relates to or describes identifiable characteristics of individuals, a practice, or an establishment will be used only for statistical purposes. NCHS staff, contractors, and agents will not disclose or release responses in identifiable form without the consent of the individual or establishment in accordance with section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m) and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (Title III of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Pub. L. No. 115-435, 132 Stat. 5529 § 302)). In accordance with CIPSEA, every NCHS employee, contractor, and agent has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to five years, a fine of up to $250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you.

2021-2022

National Center for Health Statistics

OMB Number: 0920-0212
Expiration date : 12/31/2024

Annual Hospital Interview	Status: New	Hospital ID: 9994

1	2	3	4	5
Notice	Hospital Information	Emergency Department and Outpatient Department Visits	Inpatient Discharges	Telemedicine

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Next >

AHI Portal Redesign 2020 to 2021-2022: Questions Page

2020

2021-2022

AHI Portal Redesign 2020 to 2021-2022: Functionality

- **Help Text pop-up**

- **Saving progress pop-up**

AHI Portal Redesign 2020 to 2021-2022: Functionality (cont'd)

- **Skip pattern**

- **Submission pop-up**

AHI Website

National Hospital Care Survey

National Hospital Care Survey

🏠 National Hospital Care Survey

National Health Care Surveys Registry

About NHCS

Why Participate in NHCS

How to Participate in NHCS

Annual Hospital Interview

What's New

Community Benefit

Confidentiality

Data Uses

Datasets

Frequently Asked Questions

Annual Hospital Report Portal

Continuing Education

NHCS Survey Participants

Annual Hospital Interview

The Annual Hospital Interview (AHI) is a yearly supplemental component of the National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS). All sampled hospitals are asked to complete the AHI to create national estimates on hospital care and utilization.

The AHI asks hospitals to provide summary information on emergency department, outpatient department, and inpatient department visits for the calendar year. This information will be used for statistical purposes and for further insight on sampled hospitals.

AHI Portal

The AHI is accessible on the AHI Portal. Hospitals invited to complete the AHI will receive an invitation email with their four-digit NHCS-sampled hospital identifier and instructions to access the AHI Portal. The invitation email will be sent by ahi-support@cdc.gov. For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), please view the FAQs 📄 [PDF – 275 KB].

Preview Questionnaire

The AHI has been streamlined into short sections of questions: emergency department, outpatient department, and inpatient department visit counts, and timely hospital topics of interest. You can access the list of questions in its entirety here 📄 [PDF – 416 KB]. Please note that this list of questions is for planning purposes only and cannot be used to complete the AHI. Responses to the AHI questions must be entered into the AHI Portal in order to complete the AHI. Do not send any data through email.

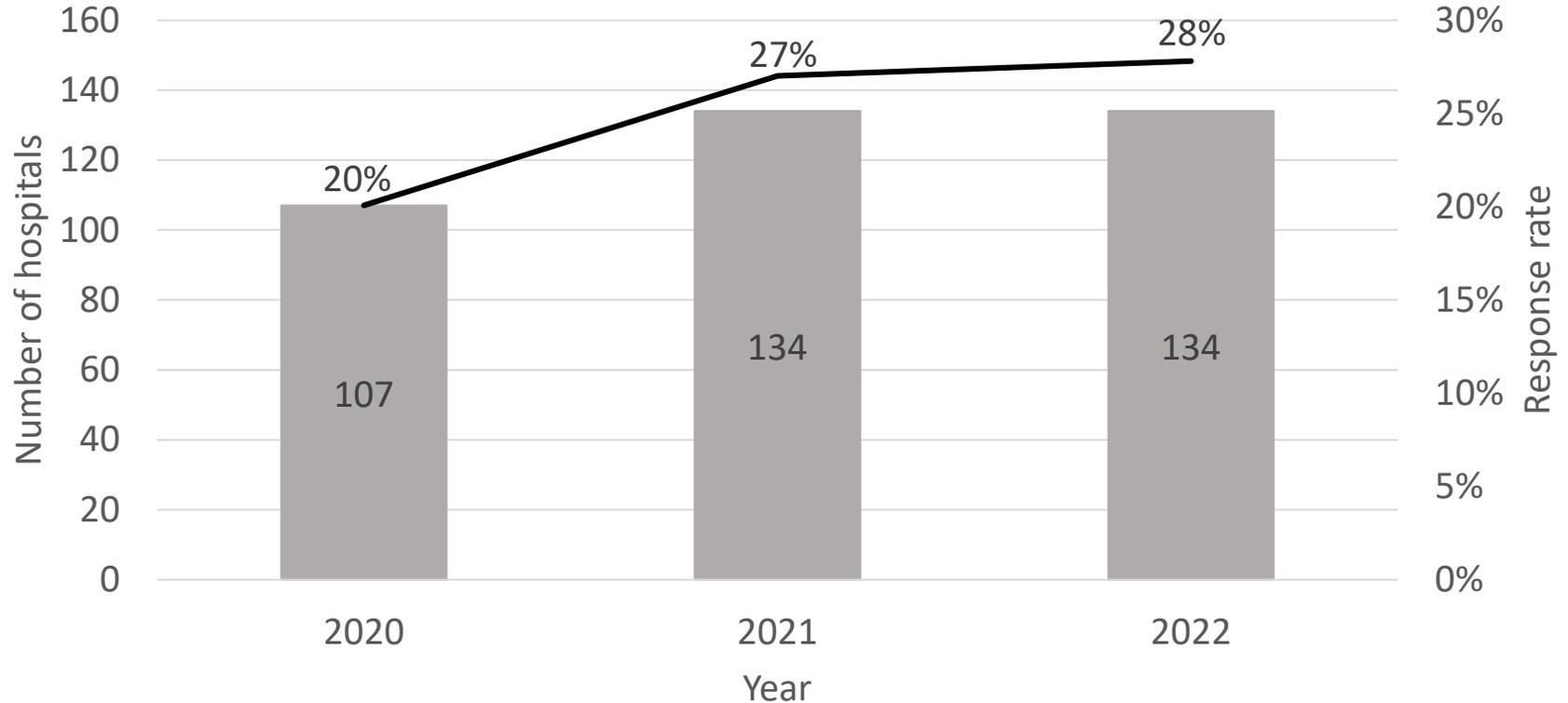### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

On This Page

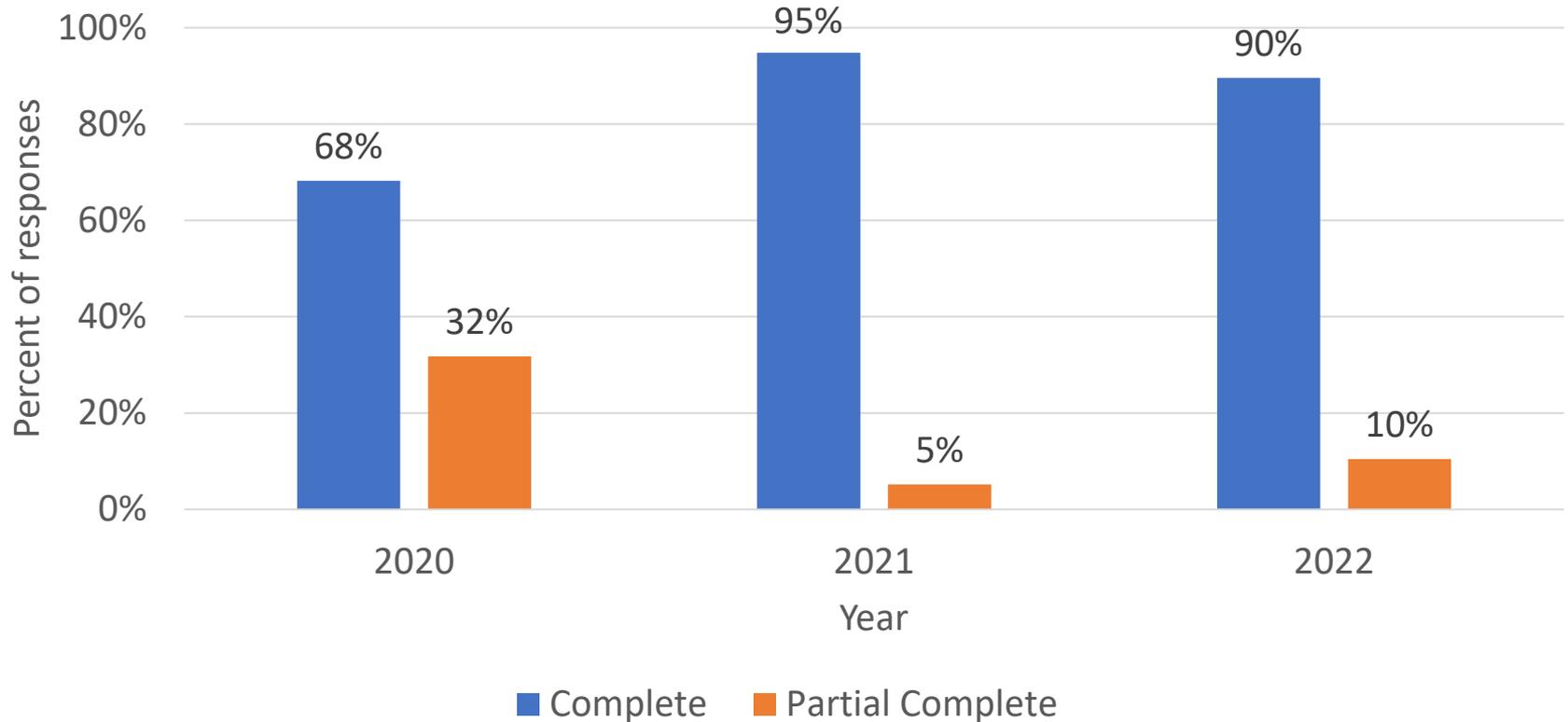AHI Portal

Preview Questionnaire

Frequently Asked Questions

AHI Support

19

Overview of AHI Response Rate

Number and percentage of eligible hospitals that responded to the AHI, by year

Completeness of AHI responses, by year

22

AHI Next Steps

- 2020 AHI inpatient discharge and ED visit counts used in creation of weights for the 2020 NHCS public use file

- 2021 and 2022 AHI inpatient discharge and ED visit counts will be used for the creation of weights for their respective NHCS public use files

- Currently building the 2023 AHI Portal

- Expect to field 2023 AHI from March through July 2024

Thank you!

Contact information

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