

# **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture Comparative Database: Information and Instructions for Requesting De-identified Data**

This document is for researchers interested in requesting *de-identified data* from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture Comparative Database. The hospitals in the database have agreed to grant access to their de-identified data files for health care research purposes only. De-identified data files do not identify individual hospitals or respondents.

De-identified data files are available from the Hospital Comparative Database.

## **Introduction**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture Comparative Database is managed and administered by Westat, a private research organization under contract with AHRQ. The purpose of the Comparative Database is to establish a central repository of Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture data to facilitate comparisons across health care organizations. The Comparative Database is populated with survey data from U.S. hospitals that have administered and voluntarily submitted their Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture data to Westat for inclusion in the database.

**Rolling Database 2007-2012.** Hospitals do not necessarily administer the patient safety culture survey every year. Therefore from 2007 to 2012, the Comparative Database was a “rolling” database and annually accepted the most recent data from hospitals. It retained data from prior years when a hospital did not submit new data, replaced older data with more recent data when available, and added data from hospitals submitting for the first time. In order to keep the database current, data more than 3.5 years old were removed.

**Biennial Database Beginning in 2014.** Beginning in 2014, the Comparative Database only accepts data submissions every two years. The Hospital Comparative Database only contains data that was collected within the past 2 years and is no longer a rolling database.

**Hospital Characteristics.** The Comparative Database collects information on several hospital characteristics such as: AHA bed size category (e.g., 6-24 beds, 25-49 beds, etc.), ownership (government-owned or non-government owned), teaching status, and geographic region.

**Breakouts by Respondent Characteristics.** The Comparative Database includes information on respondent characteristics, including work area/unit, staff position, and whether the staff member has direct interaction with patients. Separate datasets have been created by aggregating data by respondent characteristics within hospitals, enabling analyses by unit, staff position, and direct interaction with patients.

**Trending Database.** Hospitals included in the 2007 to 2012 trending databases administered their most recent data in the past 3.5 years and administered their previously submitted data in the past 5.5 years. Beginning in 2014, the Trending Database only includes hospitals that administered their most recent data in the past 2 years and administered their previously submitted data in the past 4 years. Only data from a hospital's two most recent submissions of the survey are included.

### **Process for Requesting De-Identified Data**

Researchers interested in obtaining data from the Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture Comparative Database must submit a completed Hospital De-identified Data Request Form. This form is available by emailing [SOPSPResearchData@westat.com](mailto:SOPSPResearchData@westat.com) (Subject line: De-identified Data Request).

### **Timeline**

Requests will be fulfilled year round. The review period (i.e., the time from receipt of request to release of data) is approximately 2 weeks.

### **Publication Requirements**

Researchers receiving Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture Comparative Database files are required to include the following acknowledgment in any publication or presentation using data from the Database:

“Data used in this analysis were from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture Comparative Database. The database is funded by AHRQ and managed by Westat under contract # HHS 290201300003C”

### **Disclaimer**

Approval of data requests does not constitute endorsement by AHRQ or Westat of the proposed research project, study findings, or recommendations of the research team.

### **Applying for De-identified Data and Contact Information**

For questions or to apply for Hospital De-identified Data, please E-mail [SOPSPResearchData@westat.com](mailto:SOPSPResearchData@westat.com) (Subject line: De-identified Data Request) or call 1-888-324-9790.