

AHRQ STATE HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP: HCUPNET	
WHAT DOES THIS TOOL DO?	<p>State leaders can use this tool to monitor costs and quality of hospital care in their State. The tool will help State leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, track, analyze, and compare statistics on hospital care across the United States and by region. • Assess utilization, access, charges, quality, and outcomes of hospital care provided in their State. • Pinpoint priority areas for improvement.
WHAT CAN THIS TOOL TELL STATES ABOUT THEIR PERFORMANCE?	<p>HCUPnet is an online query system that gives users access to the largest set of publicly available, all-payer health care databases. By conducting queries through this online tool, users can generate tables and graphs on national and regional statistics and plot trends for community hospitals in the United States.</p>
WHO SHOULD USE THIS TOOL?	<p>Public health and other State agency information analysts, health care analysts, health insurance analysts, health policy analysts, health service researchers, and market analysts.</p>
HOW DOES THIS TOOL WORK?	<p>HCUPnet provides users with access to data from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS), the Kids' Inpatient Database (KID), the State Inpatient Databases (SID),* and the State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD). HCUPnet runs queries from aggregate statistics tables to speed up data transfer and protect individual records. While expediting access, this does limit the number of possible queries that can be addressed. If a query is not possible through HCUPnet, the tool will not allow the selection of the parameters. To get these more detailed analyses or additional information, users should contact the Central Distributor at HCUPDistributor@ahrq.gov.</p>
WHAT DO STATES HAVE TO SAY?	<p>"We used AHRQ's HCUPnet application to compile hospital care cost and access information as part of a large policy report to senior public and private healthcare decision makers in the state. Instead of using only our own state's data, for this report we were able to show the big picture of how Utah compares with other neighbor states and the rest of the nation. It served as a warning of cost trends, and also helped these policy leaders prepare for and understand Utah's place in national quality rankings." <i>Wu Xu, Ph.D., Director, Office of Public Health Informatics, Utah Department of Health</i></p>
HOW CAN I OBTAIN THE TOOL?	<p>The tool is available online at: http://hcupnet.ahrq.gov/.</p> <p>Contact Person:</p> <p>Anne Elixhauser AHRQ Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety 540 Gaither Road, Suite 3000 Rockville, MD 20850 anne.elixhauser@ahrq.hhs.gov</p> <p>Please direct technical questions about the tool to: HCUPDistributor@ahrq.gov.</p>

*Available for participating States. Please check www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/sidoverview.jsp.