



National Data Set 101

The National Data Set (NDS) is comprised of program level descriptive statistical information that provides a comprehensive picture of hospice operations and care delivery. The NDS is a valuable resource for information related to:

- ◆ who provides care (program demographics)
- ◆ who receives care (patient demographics)
- ◆ how care is provided (staffing models, bereavement, volunteer use)
- ◆ financing care (revenue, payer mix, and costs)

What does NHPCO do with the data hospices submit for the NDS?

NHPCO combines and analyzes the submitted data into results which include information on hospice demographics, practices, outcomes and industry effectiveness. For example, NHPCO uses data submitted for the NDS each year to estimate important information on the hospice patient population, such as the average length of service.

Why are the NDS results important?

- ❖ NDS results can be used to illustrate care delivery effectiveness and opportunities for improvement, both within and outside of the hospice industry.
- ❖ NDS results provide hospices with the means for self-assessment in comparison to national and state performance in operations and care delivery processes.
- ❖ NDS results can help hospices define strategic goals, set operating targets, and identify practice improvement objectives, such as referral source education and staff retention.
- ❖ NDS results can be used to inform decision-making at the individual hospice, state, and national levels.
- ❖ NDS results can be employed in state and national leaders' efforts to support hospice needs for growth and legislative change.
- ❖ NDS results can inform communication with the media, the healthcare industry, and governmental regulators and policy makers.



Why should I take the time to submit data to the NDS?

The greater the amount of data submitted to NDS the more comprehensive and applicable the results will be. More data means higher reliability and credibility of the results.

Every hospice's data enhance the value of the NDS. The more information hospices submit, the better the NDS can meet their needs.

How do I participate in data submission for the National Data Set?

Step 1

Go to the NDS page of the NHPCO Web site at www.nhpc.org/NDS. Download a copy of the survey to use as a worksheet for assembling the data.

Step 2

When you have completed as much of the survey as you can, you are ready to submit your data. Data submission is done through the NHPCO DART system. Return to the NDS page of the NHPCO Web site and click on the link for DART. Enter your hospice's NHPCO Provider ID and password to access the DART system.

NOTE: The Provider ID and password is specific to your hospice. It is not the same as your individual id and password you use to access the members-only area of the NHPCO Web site.

Step 3

Once you are in the DART system, click on the link for NDS and follow the directions for data submission.

I don't know my NHPCO Provider ID and password. What should I do?

If you do not know your Provider ID and password, contact the NHPCO Member Service Department at 1-800-646-6460. A member service representative will assist you.

Can only NHPCO member hospices participate in NDS data submission?

If your hospice is not a member of NHPCO, you may still submit data to the National Data Set. Please email NDS@nhpc.org for details on how to submit if not a member.