



NHPCO National Data Set

FAQ's

What is the National Data Set?

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 includes program, patient, process, and financial statistics.

The NDS is more comprehensive than other multi-center data collection efforts because it includes all payer sources. For example, CMS only tracks Medicare and Medicaid reimbursed services, but the NDS information includes all payers.

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

NHPCO combines and analyzes the submitted data into results that answer the following questions:

1. Who provides hospice care?
2. Who are the patients cared for by hospice?
3. How much and what kind of services do hospice patients and their families receive?
4. How much money does hospice cost?

NDS results 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.

NHPCO organizes the NDS results in various reporting formats and posts the reports on the NHPCO website or sends them directly to selected interested parties, such as hospice state organizations. The NDS State report provides information to states without the capacity to do statewide data collection.



Why are the NDS results important?

The NDS provides a platform for the data-driven evaluation of hospice industry performance.

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.

The comparison of NDS results over time facilitates the monitoring of trends in multiple areas such as length of service, case mix by diagnosis, and site of care.

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. 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.