Maryland Hospitalization Data for the Maryland Tracking Network: Retrospective Assessment

Hospitalization Data Acquisition for Tracking, NAHDO Webinar, December 10, 2009, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., ET
MD Data Sharing Agreement

- IP hospitalization and AC (ED) visits available from Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC)/HSCRC
- Challenge: Re-release of hospitalization data to CDC required in-depth discussions with MHCC; aided by NAHDO and multi-state discussions
- DSA template adapted to MHCC IP hospitalization and ED data availability
- DSA ratified on August 8, 2008
Data Content

- Variables in the DSA (~800,000 IP and ~5,000,000 ED records per year)
  - Admit and discharge dates, DOB and admit hour
  - Nature, source and admit from ER
  - Patient demographics (sex, race, ethnicity, age—entered & computed)
  - County and five digit zip code of residence
  - Principal diagnosis & 14 (IP) or 15 (ED) other diagnoses, E-Code, Length of stay
Data Quality & Usage

- **Data Quality**
  - Data dictionaries accurate
  - Consistently formatted variables
  - Minimal data entry or coding errors
  - No duplicate records found

- **Usage**
  - EPHT linkage pilot study
  - BenMAP
  - DHMH data requests
Retrospective Evaluation

○ Strengths
  ● Maryland health code determines data sharing policies
  ● Umbrella MOU between DHMH and HSCRC
  ● Most DSA data access and use issues resolved with assistance from NAHDO and use of other state examples
  ● MD CEHC/EPHT designated gatekeeper
  ● Population based data source
  ● Co-morbidities
  ● Hour of admission
  ● No recall bias, as is the case with the BRFSS

○ Limitation
  ● No street addresses (zip codes only)
Questions?

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