



Data From Hospitals, For Hospitals

How information on hospital operations gathered by the American Hospital Association benefits the field

Why the AHA Collects Data From Members

For nearly 80 years, the American Hospital Association (AHA) has collected data on hospital operations directly from hospitals and health systems to help ensure the field is understood accurately and represented fairly. The AHA Annual Survey, first fielded in 1946, gathers comprehensive operational information from hospitals nationwide.

That direct connection matters. When data comes from the field, it reflects how hospitals truly operate and serve their communities.

Each year, hospitals respond to a survey that creates a consistent and reliable picture of hospital operations across the country. With decades of longitudinal data, the AHA Annual Survey offers both a current snapshot of the hospital field and a deeper view of how it has evolved over time.

To ensure the data remains relevant and accurate, the AHA regularly reviews and updates the AHA Annual Survey to reflect changes in the health care environment, while making participation as efficient as possible and maintaining high data-quality standards.

Why Participation Matters

The results of the AHA Annual Survey are used to inform research, strategy and advocacy for the field.

AHA advocacy relies heavily on AHA Data from members to assess proposed legislation, respond to regulatory activity and explain the real-world impact of policy decisions on hospitals and health systems. This information allows the AHA to engage lawmakers and regulators with clarity and credibility.

National conversations remain grounded in facts, and decisions affecting health care are informed by those who deliver it every day.

When participation is broad, the AHA can represent hospitals with a voice that reflects the full scope of experience across the field.

Surveys on Technology and Government Add Deeper Insight

In addition to the Annual Survey, the AHA fields focused surveys to collect information on hospital and health system technology adoption and on hospital governance.

The **IT Healthcare Database**, now in its 16th year, is conducted in collaboration with the Administration's Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and gathers data on EHR adoption, interoperability, patient engagement in technology, use of AI and other topics.

The **AHA Health Care Governance Survey** covers topics including board composition, structure, selection and evaluation, among others.

How AHA Data Is Used Across the Field

AHA Data is widely used by organizations that study, support and work with hospitals, including:

- Federal and state agencies
- Academic researchers
- Foundations and nonprofit organizations
- Companies that serve hospitals and health systems

Because the AHA Annual Survey spans decades, it provides both a clear view of current operations and a long-term perspective on how the field has changed. That continuity allows leaders to identify patterns, measure progress and respond thoughtfully to new challenges.

Organizations use AHA Data for both tactical and strategic purposes. For example, one of the nation's largest disaster relief organizations integrates AHA Data into its mobile tools for field staff visiting hospitals, and medical staffing companies use the data to align workforce capacity with geographic and functional demand.

AHA Data is frequently cited in peer-reviewed research and public testimony, reinforcing its role as a trusted foundation for understanding hospitals and health systems across health care.



How AHA Members Can Turn AHA Data Into Practical Insight

AHA Data is not only used to support advocacy and research. It is also a practical resource for members.

The AHA focuses on making U.S. hospital data easier to use while preserving accuracy and consistency. Members have access to a wide range of AHA data solutions and publications. Some are included at no cost. Others are available at discounted member pricing.

Hospitals use AHA Data to examine trends, compare performance and answer operational and planning questions using the same information that informs national policy discussions.

Complimentary Member Resources



Customized Reports

By participating in the AHA Annual Survey, hospitals may request customized reports that provide valuable insights, including:

- Summary Report: Overview of services, staffing, and accreditations
- Profile Report: Year-over-year comparisons and peer benchmarking
- Trend Report: Five year view of key self reported data
- Peer Report: Comparisons across state, region, and national cohorts



AHA Chartbook

A curated publication that highlights key national trends and insights drawn from AHA Data in an accessible format.

Data Solutions Available at Member Pricing



AHA Annual Survey Database™

A comprehensive dataset containing detailed operational, workforce and service line information reported by hospitals nationwide.



AHA DataQuery AI™

An AI-enabled solution that allows users to explore AHA and CMS data by asking questions in plain language and viewing results through tables and visualizations.



AHA Custom Data Files

Tailored datasets created to meet specific research, planning or analytical needs based on AHA Data.



AHA Guide®

A comprehensive directory of hospitals and health care systems with detailed information on service lines, utilization, leadership and key organizational characteristics.



AHA Healthcare IT Database

A specialized dataset developed in partnership with ASTP/ONC focused on hospital information technology adoption, capabilities and digital infrastructure.



AHA Hospital Statistics™

An annual publication that presents key hospital statistics and trends at the national and state levels.



AHA Health Care Governance Survey

Data on hospital and health system governance structures, board composition and leadership practices.



AHA Landscape Change Report

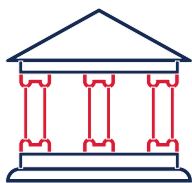
A focused report examining shifts and emerging patterns in the hospital and health care environment using AHA Data.



Our Shared Responsibility

By participating in the AHA Annual Survey, hospitals strengthen the hospital story and its impact on decisions across health care.

Participating in the AHA Annual Survey:



Strengthens advocacy and policy efforts on behalf of hospitals



Ensures the hospital field is represented with accuracy and credibility



Supports research and analysis used across health care



Gives members access to AHA data solutions they can use for benchmarking, trend analysis and organizational planning

To learn more about the AHA Annual Survey and how AHA Data can support your organization, contact us at **312.422.3000** or **support@aha.org**.



www.ahadata.com