NHSN
NATIONAL HEALTHCARE SAFETY NETWORK

NHSN CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE:

HOSPITAL BED CAPACITY PROJECT

Using digital information on healthcare capacity to improve patient outcomes and public health response

What?

The CDC's Hospital Bed Capacity Project enhances healthcare system resilience by enabling near real-time, automated data collection on healthcare bed capacity. This initiative aligns with the CDC Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) and the Public Health Data Strategy (PHDS), ensuring improved preparedness, response, and resource allocation during routine operations and in public health emergencies.

Why?

- To establish ongoing, standardized hospital bed capacity data collection
- To support emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts
- To enable near real-time data sharing across federal, state, and local levels
- To assist in decision-making for resource allocation, healthcare transfers, and facility evacuations to ensure patient safety

Benefits?

This initiative ensures a robust and responsive healthcare infrastructure through data-driven strategies, ultimately improving patient outcomes and disaster preparedness.

- Strengthens public health emergency response
- Supports data-driven equitable allocation of resources
- Enhances decision-making through data-driven insights
- Supports federal, state, and local level coordination during crises

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How?

Using bed capacity data to improve patient outcomes and public health response:

Mass Casualties

Every second counts during a mass casualty event, and immediate access to data that assists in surge capacity management and specialized patient care placement can save lives. Having a lens into current patient tracking and movement ensures timely and appropriate care in emergency situations.

Reporting Mandates

When reporting requirements are mandated by public health authorities in emergencies, having established automated data feeds reduces the reporting burden. Automated bed capacity data allows for near real-time monitoring for situational awareness and supports routine operations of hospitals. Hospitals can use occupancy trends to inform capacity planning so strategic decisions are made quickly and confidently with readily available, accurate data.

Peak Hospitalizations

In a respiratory virus surge, tracking hospital capacity and coordinating response efforts is essential to caring for sick people that require hospitalization. With fast and reliable data, we can better predict incident severity and healthcare needs so resources like medical supplies and equipment are distributed to those that need it most. Access to hospital capacity data allows us to actively monitor available beds and understand when healthcare systems are stressed.

Natural Disasters

When a natural disaster strikes, hospitals need to be informed to safely evacuate and transfer patients. Bed capacity data facilitates patient transfers to prevent hospital overload. When the data is shared with emergency responders, EMS transportation decisions are made quickly to ensure patients arrive at the right hospital and receive immediate care.

LEARN MORE

CDC welcomes jurisdictions and individual facilities to participate in this initiative. If you are interested in joining this work, please email NHSN@cdc.gov and use the subject line "Bed Capacity."

CDC

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CDC.GOV/NHSN/BED-CAPACITY/