



Preparing Your Data: Drug Overdose Hospitalizations and ED Visits

Step 1: Prepare the basic datasets (one for Hospitalization data and one for ED Visit data)

- Use calendar year of data based on date of discharge.
- Only include data from nonfederal, acute care-affiliated facilities; exclude Veterans Affairs (VA) and other federal hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and psychiatric hospitals.
- Include ED visits for jurisdiction residents only. If data on out-of-jurisdiction ED visits for jurisdiction residents are available, please include them.
- **Exclude deaths.**
- *For Nonfatal ED Visit Data only:* If necessary, exclude records of patients that are seen in the ED and then admitted to the hospital. For most jurisdictions, these records are not included in their ED data.
- *For Hospitalization Data only:* Include readmissions and transfers.

Step 2: Create a drug overdose subset

- Include records that have one of the following diagnosis codes (Table 1) **in any field**.

Table 1: Diagnosis codes*

<p>T36-T50 with a <u>6th character</u> of 1, 2, 3, or 4 Note: Include T36.9, T37.9, T39.9, T41.4, T42.7, T43.9, T45.9, T47.9, and T49.9 with a <u>5th character</u> of 1, 2, 3, or 4 (Intent information for these codes is included in the 5th character and not the 6th)</p>	<p>Poisoning by drugs, medicaments, and biological substances (Includes accidental, intentional self-harm, assault, and underdetermined intents; Excludes adverse effects and underdosing)</p>
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*7th character of A, or missing (reflects initial encounter, active treatment).

Step 3: Check the data quality

- Recommend using the measures in the [“Getting to Know Your Data and Its Quality”](#) section of the CSTE ICD-10-CM Injury Surveillance Toolkit to conduct further data quality checks. This toolkit section also includes “Special Considerations for Drug Overdose.”

Step 4: Calculate the specific indicators

- Consult the individual indicator pages that can be found in the [“Injury Indicators: Drug Overdose Indicators”](#) section of the CSTE ICD-10-CM Injury Surveillance Toolkit.
- Nonfatal hospitalization and nonfatal ED visit rates should be age-adjusted to the 2000 standard using the NCHS population distribution. Nonfatal hospitalization and nonfatal ED visit rates should be age-adjusted to the 2000 standard using the NCHS population distribution.^{2,11}