

AHA x Cooper Merger Analysis

February 2019

- Investigating hospital-year mergers identified in the AHA (*aha_combined_final_v2.dta*) and Cooper hospital mergers datasets

Data

- New York
- General, acute care hospitals
- 2006-2012

Total mergers

- AHA: 47 mergers
- Cooper: 67 mergers

Non-matching AHA mergers

- 66% (31/47) of AHA mergers do not correspond to a matching hospital-year merger in Cooper

Of these 31 non-matching AHA mergers:

Add/del-only mergers

- 8 mergers based on add/del info only
 - None of these add/del-only mergers match to Cooper even at the hospital-level (ignoring year)
 - 2 of these add/del-only mergers are hospitals not in Cooper

sysid-only mergers

- 23 mergers based on sysid-only:
 - 11 sysid-only mergers match to Cooper at hospital-level (ignoring year)
 - * 3 of these 11 create an “extra” merger at the hospital-level comparing to Cooper
 - 21 sysid-only mergers involve a missing AHA sysid (sysid missing in the previous year or the year of merger)
 - * 10 of these 21 match a Cooper merger at the hospital-level

Next steps

AHA mergers identified by sysid needs further investigation. For now, I suggest changing the AHA merger definition to not count mergers identified via changes in the AHA sysid that are changes due to missing sysid values. I need to do some light cleaning to match up the sysid's between AHA and Cooper, then I'll fill in the missing AHA sysid's with those from Cooper, regenerate a new AHA merger variable, and see if we get better concordance of hospital-year mergers.

Regarding the non-matching AHA mergers identified by sysid-only, some of the differences at the hospital-year level look like they are due to an information lag in the AHA. That is, there is a merger in a particular hospital-year due to a sysid change, but Cooper shows the sysid change in a different year for the same hospital. I'll continue to investigate this, but from my current analysis there doesn't appear to be any systemic pattern, and it may involve some manual corrections if we go with Cooper's sysid.