



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



AHRQ's Surveys on Patient Safety Culture® (SOPS®) Program



Jonathan Bakdash, Ph.D.

Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, AHRQ

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



- AHRQ is:
 - ▶ A research and science-based agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services that supports evidence-based practices
 - ▶ The lead Federal agency charged with improving the safety and quality of America's healthcare system
- AHRQ is not:
 - ▶ A regulatory agency. AHRQ cannot require the use of our tools and products



Voluntary Data Submission and Confidentiality



- AHRQ encourages voluntary submission of data
- **AHRQ Confidentiality Statute:** Use and access to data limited to only stated purposes, protects all identifying information
 - Public Health Service Act 42 USC § 299c-3(c)

AHRQ's SOPS Program

- Initiated and funded by AHRQ since 2001 to advance the understanding, measurement, and improvement of patient safety culture within healthcare settings
- Develops validated surveys and measures
- Supports voluntary data submission to SOPS databases
- Conducts research to further the measurement and understanding of patient safety culture
- Develops resources to improve safety culture in facilities



What is Patient Safety Culture?

