



National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN), 2001

FAST FACTS about the SURVEY

What is the National Survey of CSHCN?

- A national survey conducted by telephone for the first time during 2000 – 2001.
- Telephone numbers are randomly dialed to find households with one or more children under 18 years old. Trained interviewers ask parents or guardians of a series of questions to identify all children in the household with special health care needs
- A total of 372,174 children under 18 years old representing 196,888 households nationally screened to identify those with special health care needs
- A total of 750 children with special health care needs in EACH state selected to be the focus child for the longer, more detailed CSHCN interview
- A total of 38,866 CSHCN interviews collected nationally during 2000 – 2001, with independent samples taken for all 50 states and the District of Columbia
- The survey is conducted in twelve languages, including English and Spanish

What is the purpose of the National Survey of CSHCN?

- To provide national and state estimates for the numbers of CSHCN in the population, plus national and state baseline measures to compare with future survey results over time
- To provide information for the Title V Block Grant needs assessment states are required to conduct every five years
- To provide state-level information about insurance status for all children
- To provide information about CSHCN and their families to help guide policy makers, advocates, and researchers

Who sponsors the National Survey of CSHCN?

- The National Survey of CSHCN is sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- The National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention oversees the sampling and telephone interviews for the National Survey of CSHCN

Why is the survey sometimes called "SLAITS"?

- The sampling and data collection for the National Survey of CSHCN, 2001 were conducted using the SLAITS program.
- SLAITS is an acronym for the "State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey," an approach developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to quickly and consistently collect information on a variety of health topics at the state and local levels.
- Other national surveys collected through the SLAITS program include: the National Survey of Children's Health, the National Immunization Survey, and the National Survey of Early Childhood Health.

What information from the survey is available for EACH state?

- The estimated number of CSHCN in the state's population and the estimated number of households in the state with one or more CSHCN under 18 years old
- 750 in-depth CSHCN interviews — including information on health insurance status and adequacy of coverage

What topics are covered by the CSHCN interview?

- Child's health and functional status
- Child's health insurance status and adequacy of coverage
- Access to health care — including amounts and types of health care services used by child and any unmet needs for care
- Care coordination
- Family-centeredness of child's health care
- Impact of child's health on family

Are the data from the National Survey of CSHCN available to the public?

- Datasets from the National Survey of CSHCN can be downloaded in SAS file format at no cost from the National Center for Health Statistics website: www.cdc.gov/nchs
- State-level datasets with all of the questions shown on the Data Resource Center are available in SAS and SPSS formats at www.cshcndata.org