

The 2017 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) FAST FACTS

What is the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)?

- The NSCH is a national survey that provides rich data on multiple, intersecting aspects of children's health and well-being – including physical and mental health, access to and quality of health care, and the child's family, neighborhood, school, and social context.
- As of 2016, the NSCH is conducted annually by the US Census Bureau and, is administered via web- and mail- (paper) based instruments.
- Data collected during the 2017 NSCH will be comparable to the 2016 NSCH as both surveys were conducted with the same design and administration.

What is the purpose of the National Survey of Children's Health?

- The NSCH is designed to produce national and state-level data on the physical and emotional health of American children 0 - 17 years old.
- Additionally, the NSCH provides estimates for several federal and state Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant National Outcome and Performance Measures, and data for state-level Title V needs assessments (note not all data will be available for all states; the state level sample size determines the available data).

Who sponsors and conducts the National Survey of Children's Health?

- The Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA, MCHB) provides the primary funding and direction for the NSCH. More information can be found here: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys>.
- Additional funding for specific questions on the 2017 survey was provided by:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)
 - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- The 2017 NSCH was conducted by the United States Census Bureau, Associate Director for Demographic Programs on behalf of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA/MCHB. The US Census Bureau oversaw the sampling plan and survey administration by web and mail. They also collected the data and created the sampling weights.

Who were the participants in the National Survey of Children's Health?

- Households were randomly sampled and contacted by mail in order to identify those with one or more children under 18 years old. In each household, one child was randomly selected to be the subject of the survey.
- The survey oversampled children with special health care needs and children 0-5 years of age.
- For the 2017 NSCH, a total of 21,599 surveys were completed nationally for children between the ages of 0-17 years. This was an Overall Weighted Response Rate of 37.4%.
- Approximately 420 surveys were collected per state (state range: 343 to 454). Survey results were weighted to represent the population of non-institutionalized children ages 0-17 who live in housing units nationally and in each state.

How were data for the survey collected?

- Households received a mailed invitation asking an adult in the household who is familiar with the child's health and health care (usually a parent or guardian) to complete a short screener questionnaire (via web or paper). The screener asked participants to identify all children ages 0-17 living in the household.
- If a child (or children) was reported to live in the household, participants (i.e. a parent) who chose to respond online were immediately directed to a more detailed, age-specific topical questionnaire for one randomly selected child.
- Among the 70% of households that did not initially receive the paper version of the screener, those who did not complete the online screener received two web-invites and a postcard reminder before getting a paper screener.
- Participants could also request a paper copy of the screener and topical questionnaire if they did not wish to complete it online.

What topics are asked about in the survey?

- Child and family demographics
- Children's physical and mental health status, including health conditions and functional difficulties
- Health insurance status, adequacy and type of coverage
- Access to and use of health care services
- Medical home
- Transition to adult care
- Early childhood-specific information (0-5 years)
- Middle childhood and adolescent-specific information (6-17 years)
- Family health and activities
- Impact of child's health on family
- Parental perceptions of neighborhood characteristics
- Access to community-based services

What's new in 2017?

- Identification of colors, and other changes to Healthy and Ready to Learn items (ages 3-5)
- Pesticides, mold, or mildew in home
- Parental military service and deployment

For more details regarding the content available in the 2017 NSCH, please see the [full-length 2017 NSCH instrument](#).

Are data from the NSCH available to the public?

- The Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health (DRC) website (www.childhealthdata.org) provides quick, easy, hands-on access to 2017 NSCH survey data. The DRC's interactive data query (www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey) allows users to instantly access the data to compare national and state-level findings among children of different ages, race/ethnicity, household income levels, health status, and many more subgroups (when sample size permits).
- Cleaned and labeled 2017 NSCH datasets in SAS, Stata and SPSS formats will also be available from the DRC at no cost to Title V leaders and partners and other federal, state or local government agencies, academic and not-for-profit research, educators, students and advocates.
- These datasets include additional key indicators, including the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant National Performance and Outcome Measures, available at the national and state level, created by DRC staff. You can request the datasets on the DRC website under "[Request a Dataset](#)". For more information, contact info@cahmi.org.
- You can also access the public use data sets in SAS and Stata via the [Census Bureau](#).