

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

The National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN) asks parents about the types of chronic health conditions experienced by their children and how these conditions impact both the child and their family. These chronic conditions include developmental difficulties such as Down Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder, seizure disorders such as epilepsy, mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety, and other conditions which have lasted, or are expected to last, 12 or more months. Among CSCHN, the conditions (from a list of 20 specific conditions) that children are most commonly reported to

have are allergies, asthma, ADD/ADHD, and developmental delay. Co-morbidities are common, as more than half of all CSHCN experience more than one chronic condition. In the 2009–10 NS-CSHCN, 28.0 percent of all CSHCN reported 2 conditions, while an additional 29.1 percent of CSHCN reported 3 or more conditions.

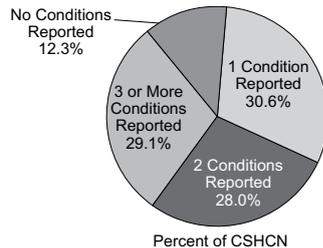
The impact of these conditions on the child varies by a number of factors. In general, CSHCN are as likely to participate in organized activities, volunteer and work for pay as those children without special health care needs; however, children with functional limitations experience additional barriers to participation.⁷⁶ The parents of over one-third of CSHCN reported

that in the past 12 months their child's condition never affected the child's ability to do the things that other children could do. A consistent barrier, where the condition always limited the child, was reported for 15.3 percent of CSHCN.

CSCHN who only require prescription medication to care for their condition are the least likely to experience a great deal of difficulty doing the things that other children can do (5.1 percent) as compared to children who require additional services (13.6 percent) or who have a functional limitation (40.9 percent). Only 10.7 percent of CSHCN who have a functional limitation experience "very little" difficulty in participation.

Number of Health Conditions* Reported for CSHCN, 2009–10

Source (II.24): Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs



*Of 20 addressed in the survey. Because CSHCN status is determined by the presence of health-related impacts rather than a specific diagnosis, children may have a special health care need without having been diagnosed with one of the 20 conditions parents were asked about on the survey.

Degree to Which Special Health Care Need Affects the Child's Ability to Do Things, by Type of Special Health Care Need, 2009–10

Source (II.24): Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs

