

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Children are considered to have a special health care need if, in addition to a chronic medical, behavioral, or developmental condition that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or longer, they experience either service-related or functional consequences, including the need for prescription medications and/or specialized therapies.¹³ In 2009-10, 15.1 percent of U.S. children under the age of 18 had a special health care need, representing 11.2 million children. Among households with children under the age of 18 years, 18.3 percent have

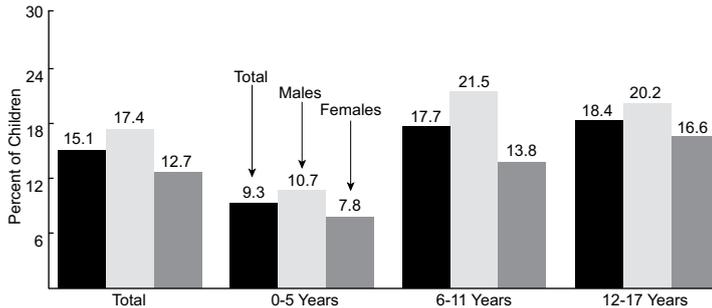
one child with special health care needs and 4.7 percent have two or more children with such needs, representing 8.7 million households with at least one child who has special health care needs (data not shown).

The prevalence of special health care needs in 2009-10 varied by sociodemographic characteristics. Significantly more males than females were reported to have such conditions, 17.4 percent compared to 12.7 percent, as were school-aged children compared to children aged 0-5 years. Approximately 18 percent of children ages 6-11 and 12-17 years were reported to have a special health care need, compared to 9.3 percent of those aged 0-5 years.

The proportion of children with reported special health care needs also varied by race and ethnicity; non-Hispanic children of multiple races had the highest rate (20.0 percent) while non-Hispanic Asian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander children had the lowest (7.7 and 8.7 percent, respectively). Non-Hispanic Black children had a slightly higher rate (17.5 percent) than non-Hispanic Whites (16.3) while Hispanics had a slightly lower rate (11.2 percent). No significant difference was observed between non-Hispanic Whites and American Indian/Alaska Native children.

Children Under Age 18 with Special Health Care Needs, by Sex and Age, 2009-10

Source (I.12): 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



Children Under Age 18 with Special Health Care Needs, by Race/Ethnicity, 2009-10

Source (I.12): 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

