PREFACE AND READERS GUIDE

The Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is pleased to present Child Health USA 2014. Now in its 24th year, Child Health USA provides a centralized resource for data on the health and well-being of America’s infants, children, and adolescents. MCHB envisions a Nation in which the right to grow to one’s full potential is universally assured through attention to the comprehensive physical, psychological, and social needs of the maternal and child population. To assess the progress toward achieving this vision, MCHB has compiled this resource of secondary data for more than 50 health status and health care indicators. It provides both graphical and textual summaries of relevant data, and addresses long-term trends where applicable and feasible.

All of the data discussed within the text of Child Health USA are from the same sources as the information in the corresponding graphs, unless otherwise noted. In general, only statistically significant differences are commented on; however, not all significant differences are discussed. Data are presented for the following target population groups of the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant: infants, children, adolescents, and children with special health care needs. Child Health USA 2014 addresses health status and health services utilization within this population, and offers insight into the Nation’s progress toward the goals set out in the MCHB’s strategic plan—to assure quality of care, eliminate barriers and health disparities, promote an environment that supports maternal and child health, and improve the health infrastructure and system of care for women, infants, children, and families.

Child Health USA is designed to provide the most current data available for public health professionals and other individuals in the public and private sectors. The website, available at http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa14/, has a succinct format that is intended to facilitate the use of the information as a snapshot of children’s health in the United States.

Population Characteristics is the first section and presents statistics on factors that influence the health and well-being of children, including poverty, education, geographic location, and the presence of special health care needs. The second section, entitled Health Status and Behaviors, contains vital statistics and health behavior data for the maternal and child population presented by developmental stage. Health Services Financing and Utilization, the third section, includes data regarding health care financing and utilization of selected health services, on topics ranging from health insurance coverage to immunization. The final section, titled Special Features, highlights topics of special significance to children’s health and well-being such as exposure to adverse childhood experiences and flourishing in childhood and adolescence.

Child Health USA is not copyrighted and readers may duplicate and use all of the information contained herein; however, the photographs are copyrighted and permission may be required to reproduce. All editions of Child Health USA since 1999 are available online. The Child Health USA 2014 website provides users the opportunity to compare statistical estimates between subpopulations.