

Findings from the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health

April 16, 2013

3:00 –4:00 p.m. ET

Questions and Answers

Q: Was height and weight only collected for adolescents, or was it also collected for younger children?

A: (Christina Bethell and the Data Resource Center [DRC] team) Height and weight was only collected for children ages 10 to 17 years. Note that height and weight are not reported separately in the Public Use File (PUF), they are only used to calculate Body Mass Index (BMI), which is reported publicly.

Q: **Do you ever ask parental heights and weights, too?**

A: (Christina Bethell and the DRC team) No. Questions related to parental health are outlined at the following link (http://childhealthdata.org/learn/topics_questions/2011-12-nsch#S9). Some additional questions are asked of parents in two sections on demographics (section 1 and section 11).

Q: **Did you consider that some children would not need a preventive care when looking at rate of receipt of preventive care?**

A: (Christina Bethell and the DRC team) Receipt of preventive care comes from a single question (K4Q20): “During the past 12 months, how many times did [CHILD's NAME] see a doctor, nurse, or other health care provider for preventive medical care such as a physical exam or well-child check-up?” The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children have 11 well-child visits in first 3 years of life followed by one well visit per year up to 21 years of age.

Q: **Tell me more about the National Survey of Children in Nonparental Care 2013 – When will the analysis of this dataset be available?**

A: (Matthew Bramlett/Stephen Blumberg) The National Survey of Children in Nonparental Care (NSCNC) is a 2013 follow-back to children from the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) who were identified during the NSCH as living apart from their biological or adoptive parents and are still under age 18 at re-interview. Most were living in relative care and most of those were living with their grandparents. Children in foster care or in nonrelative care are also included, although very few were living in nonrelative non-foster care. The pretest has just concluded and we will be starting main data collection shortly. There currently is no data file to analyze; it will be months before data collection is completed, and then there will be a period of more months of data cleaning, quality assurance and quality control analysis, and weighting before we prepare a public-use data file. We hope to begin analysis of this data in 2014.

Q: In the adverse experiences question, does "separated" parent include only legal separation among formerly married parents?

A: (Christina Bethell and the DRC team) This is the 3rd questions in the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) series which asks, "Did [CHILD'S NAME] ever live with a parent or guardian who got divorced or separated after [CHILD'S NAME] was born?" "Separated" parents include those who responded "separated" when asked their current marital status (married, widowed, divorced, separated or never-married). We did not follow up that question to confirm that the respondents understood that to mean only legal separation among formerly married people. The question did not specify to whom the respondent may have been married (i.e., not necessarily separated from the sample child's other parent) – merely the current marital status (so presumably, separated from the most recent spouse). Further validity and reliability testing on the ACEs series is forthcoming, but there is no reason to believe that question was misinterpreted.

(Matthew Bramlett/Stephen Blumberg) The question does not confirm that the respondent understands this to mean a legal separation among formerly married people. Like the marital status question, it also doesn't specify that the person in question had to be separating from the child's other parent, only that the separation occurred during the child's lifetime. It's possible that the child's married parents got divorced prior to the child's birth, and then the child experienced the custodial parent's separation or divorce from a later step-parent although this should be rare. However, people who never got married, had a child, and now live apart may consider themselves "separated" even though they were not previously married. Such respondents might answer "yes" if their separation occurred after the child's birth, even though they were never married. The answer to the question is "Probably, but maybe not."

Q: Does this survey provide prevalence estimates for Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)?

A: (Christina Bethell and the DRC team) Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) is not specifically asked about the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) nor the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN). Also note these are parent report surveys and not clinical records data. This said there are some questions that may capture some of the SED population. Below are links to the list of conditions asked about in the 2011/12 NSCH and 2009/10 NS-CSHCN. The CSHCN screen is also administered as part of these surveys which would probably capture children that have been diagnosed with SED (see this link for more information on CSHCN screener: <http://cahmi.org/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=115>). I imagine you could come up with an indicator built from several questions in these surveys that would act as a proxy for SED prevalence, but this work has not been done.

List of conditions asked in the NSCH: <http://childhealthdata.org/docs/nsch-docs/2011-12-list-of-conditions.pdf>

List of conditions asked in the NS-CSHCN: <http://childhealthdata.org/docs/cshcn/2009-cshcn-conds-func-diff.pdf>

Q: Are there plans to administer the survey again in 2014?

A: (Christina Bethell and the DRC team) Plans for future surveys hinge upon current on-going discussions. At this time we cannot answer this question definitively.

(Michael Kogan) We are in the midst of revising the survey and it will not be in the field by 2014. We are hoping that the revised survey will begin by 2015.

Q: For estimates of preterm birth and low birth weight, how do these compare with estimates based on birth certificates?

A: (Michael Kogan) The overall estimates for preterm birth and low birth weight found on the survey are very close to the estimates obtained from birth certificates. However, please recognize that the overall estimates from the survey are based on a number of different birth years and cannot be compared directly to specific years from the birth certificate since the public use file does not have the child's date of birth.

Q: I have great difficulty finding data specific to adolescents. Are there subgroups of ages 10-14 and/or 15-17 for many of your measures?

A: (Christina Bethell and the DRC team) Under the "browse the data" then "browse by survey and topic" tabs you can search for all the data available on our website from the NSCH and the NS-CSHCN. In the coming weeks will be releasing "survey sections" for the 2011/12 NSCH which will include a section on middle childhood and adolescence.

Further, most survey results can be stratified by age into three groups: 0 to 5 years, 6 to 11 years, and 12 to 17 years. To do this, simply select "compare subgroups" found in the top right-hand corner of every result page. The following link provides visual guidance on how to stratify result pages by subgroups: http://childhealthdata.org/docs/nsch-docs/qgtosearchingthedata_1page_508-pdf.pdf

Q: How do I search the National Survey of Children's Health 2011/2012 data to find who provided the family with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

A: (Christina Bethell and the DRC team) The 2011/12 added a series follow up questions related to Autism/ASD diagnosis, including a question on the type of doctor or other health care provider that first diagnosed the child with Autism or ASD. Results will be posted to our website in the coming month. Those interested in further analysis can request the full data set (www.childhealthdata.org/help/dataset) in SAS, SPSS, and STATA. For more information on the autism/ASD related questions asked about in the 2011/12 NSCH please visit the guide to topics and questions asked at the following link. Autism/ASD questions can be found at the bottom of section two (http://childhealthdata.org/learn/topics_questions/2011-12-nsch#S2).

The Survey of Pathways to Diagnosis and Services is a follow back to the 2009/10 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs which surveys CSHCN aged 6 to 17 years old ever diagnosed with ASD, intellectual disability, or developmental delay. For more information please see <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/slaitis/spds.htm>. The Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health is planning to have data from Pathways available on their website in 2013 or 2014.

Q: How would one go about merging 2+ cycles of NSCH to look at associations that might require a larger sample size than could be analyzed in just one cycle (for questions that remained identical across years)?

A: (Matthew Bramlett/Stephen Blumberg) The technique of concatenating (not “merging”) data sets from different time periods to overcome sample size deficiencies and produce a single estimate using multi-year data is only recommended when the prevalence of the characteristic in question did not change significantly from one time period to the next. In such cases, the appropriate procedure is to concatenate the data from two years together, and to specify the full design structure wherein primary sampling units (PSUs) are households sampled within strata defined by YEAR, STATE and SAMPLE (where SAMPLE has been set to landline for all cases from previous iterations of the survey where we did not have both cell and landline sample). Then, the percentage estimates that are derived (the estimated percent of children with the characteristic) can be multiplied by an external, independent estimate of the total number of children at a particular time point to derive the estimate of the number of children with the characteristic at that time point.

Q: Are there any plans to include the surveys of children's health on the DataFerrett website?

A: (Christina Bethell and the DRC team) Data from the 2011/12 NSCH is available at www.childhealthdata.org. These data are not collected as part of the Census Bureau. There is currently no plan to move this data to DataFerrett.

About DataSpeak

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s DataSpeak webinar series is dedicated to the goal of helping MCH practitioners on the Federal, State, and local levels to improve their capacity to gather, analyze, and use data for planning and policymaking.

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This question and answer sheet was created by moderator Sarah Lifsey, MPP.

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