

ABOUT THE NSCH

The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), funded and directed by the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), provides information on the health and well-being of children ages 0-17 years in the United States. The NSCH is the largest national and state-level survey on the health and health care needs of children, their families, and their communities.

Each year, the NSCH collects information on topics such as the presence of special health care needs, access to and utilization of health care, receipt of care in a medical home, family interactions, parental health, school and after-school experiences, and neighborhood characteristics. As an annual survey, it provides data for tracking progress toward achieving national health objectives.

2017 DATA RELEASE

New data from the 2017 NSCH are now available. To access these data and supporting materials, please visit **HRSA MCHB** (<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys>) or the **U.S. Census Bureau** (<https://www.census.gov/nsch>).

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Some states have expressed interest in purchasing an oversample of the NSCH to inform state-level decision making around various priorities. This was an option in previous iterations of the NSCH, and HRSA MCHB will resume this opportunity starting with the 2020 NSCH.

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY THE NSCH

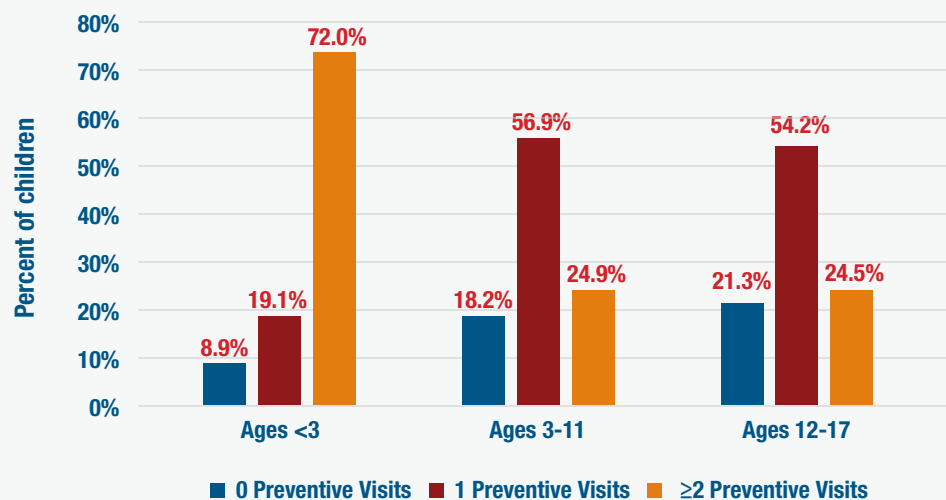
- Physical and mental health status
- Health and functional status, including current conditions
- Health insurance status, type, and adequacy
- Access to and use of health care services
- Preventive care, and specialty services received
- Medical home access
- Early childhood-specific information (0-5 years)
- Middle childhood and adolescent-specific information (6-17 years)
- Transition to adult health care services (12-17 years)
- Family health and activities
- Impact of child's health on family
- Parental health status
- Parents' perceptions of neighborhood characteristics
- Access to community-based services

EXAMPLES OF NSCH DATA

Preventive Health Visits

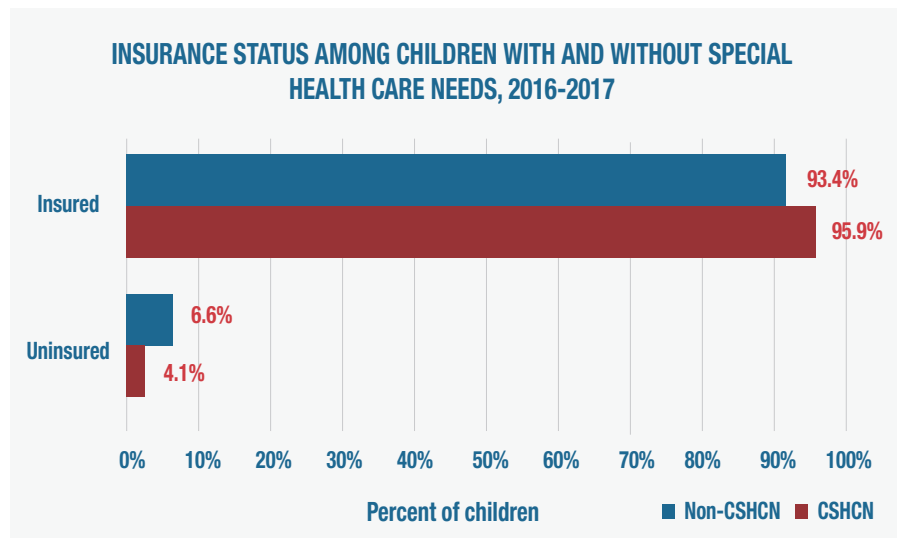
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends infants and children have preventive pediatric health care visits 3 to 5 days after birth, then at 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 24, and 30 months, and every year thereafter. This translates to ≥ 2 preventive visits each year before the age of 3, and ≥ 1 visit every year for children ages 3-21.
- In 2016-2017, 72.0% of children under the age of 3 had ≥ 2 preventive visits in the prior 12 months. In addition, 81.8% of children ages 3-11 and 78.7% of adolescents (ages 12-17) had ≥ 1 preventive visit in the prior 12 months.

NUMBER OF PREVENTIVE VISITS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, BY AGE CATEGORY, 2016-2017



SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

- In 2016-2017, 13.8 million children ages 0-17 years in the United States (18.8%) were reported to have a special health care need (SHCN).
- The state-level prevalence of SHCN among children ages 0-17 ranged from 13.4% to 24.4%, with Hawaii having the lowest prevalence of SHCN and Kentucky having the highest prevalence of SHCN.
- A greater percentage of Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) were insured at the time of the survey, compared to non-CSHCN. However, over 90% of both groups were insured at the time of the survey.



OTHER NSCH DATA FROM 2016-2017

- **Sleep position:** The AAP recommends infants always be placed to sleep on their backs. In 2016-2017, 76.0% of infants age <12 months were placed to sleep on their backs most of the time. In addition, the percentage of infants most often placed to sleep on their backs was highest among non-Hispanic White infants (81.8%), and lowest among non-Hispanic Black infants (62.6%).
- **Days read to:** Among children ages 0-5 years, 38.0% were read to every day of the past week by a family member. Over half of children in households with incomes \geq 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) were read to every day, compared to 27.6% of children in households with incomes <100% FPL.
- **Mental health treatment or counseling:** Among children ages 3-17 who were reported as needing mental health services in the past 12 months, 80.0% received these services. The percentage of children who received mental health services was higher among insured children (81.2%) than uninsured children (58.5%).

NSCH DATA COLLECTION

HRSA MCHB works with the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct the survey, oversee sampling, and produce a final data set for public use.

- **How often is the NSCH conducted?** The NSCH is conducted annually.
- **How are the data collected?** Survey participants complete either web-based or self-administered paper-and-pencil questionnaires.
- **Who completes the survey?** The NSCH is conducted as a household survey, and the respondent is a parent or guardian with knowledge of the sampled child.
- **How many households participate in the NSCH?** One child per household is selected to be the subject of the detailed age-specific questionnaire. In 2017, parents completed age-specific questionnaires for 21,599 children. These data can be combined with an additional 50,212 children from 2016, representing a combined total of 71,811 households in 2016-2017.