

National Survey of Children's Health

Data Brief | October 2021

TOPICS

- Family health and activities
- Health conditions and functional difficulties
- Health insurance status, type, and adequacy
- Health care service use and access
- Impact of child's health on family
- Medical home
- Parental health
- Parental perceptions of neighborhood characteristics
- Physical and mental health
- Preventive and specialty care
- School readiness
- Transition to adult health care

STATE OVERSAMPLE

In 2020, four states sponsored oversampling to increase state-specific sample sizes: Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon, Wisconsin.

2020 DATA RELEASE

Access the most recent [data and supporting materials](#).

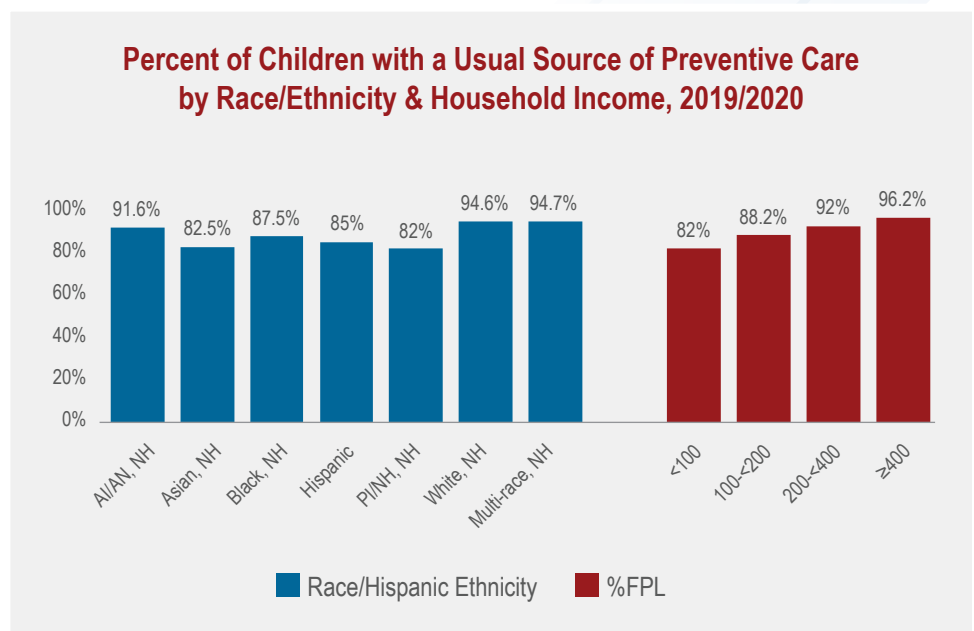
ABOUT

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funds and directs the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH). The NSCH is the **largest national- and state-level survey on the health and health care needs of children ages 0-17, their families, and their communities.**

Key Findings

Usual Source of Preventive Care in 2019/2020

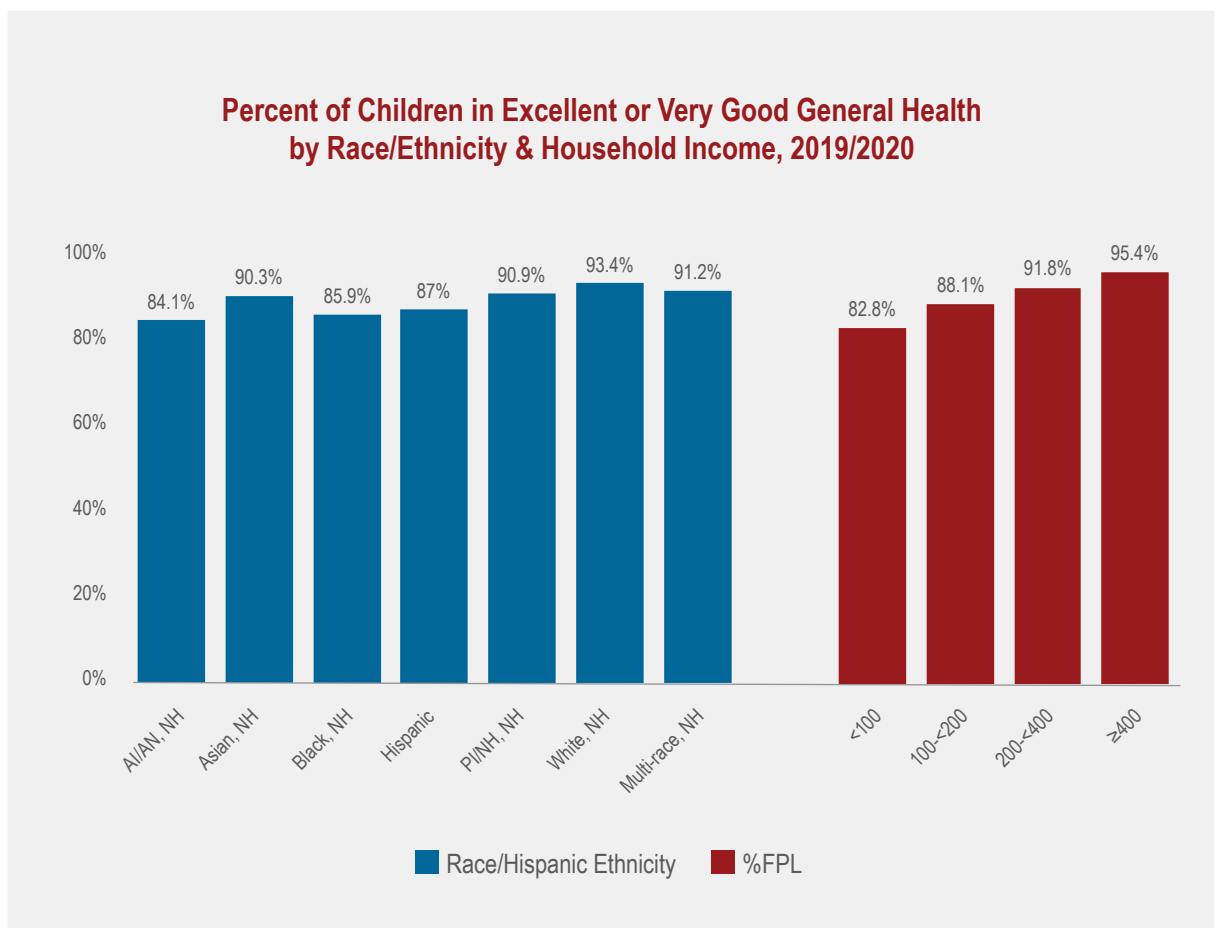
- Nearly 66 million, or 90.6%, of U.S. children 0-17 years, had a place they usually went for routine preventive care like a well-child visit.
- The proportion of children with a usual source of preventive care was highest among non-Hispanic White (94.6%) and multi-race (94.7%) children, and lowest among non-Hispanic Asian (82.5%) and Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian (82.0%) children.
- The proportion of children with a usual source of preventive care increased as household income increased, from 82.0% at less than 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 96.2% at 400% FPL or greater.



AI/AN=American Indian/Alaska Native; NH=non-Hispanic;
PI/NH=Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian; FPL=Federal Poverty Level

General Health Status in 2019/2020

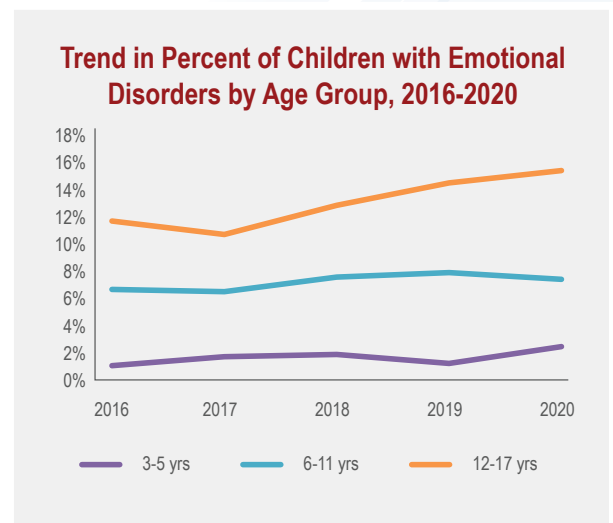
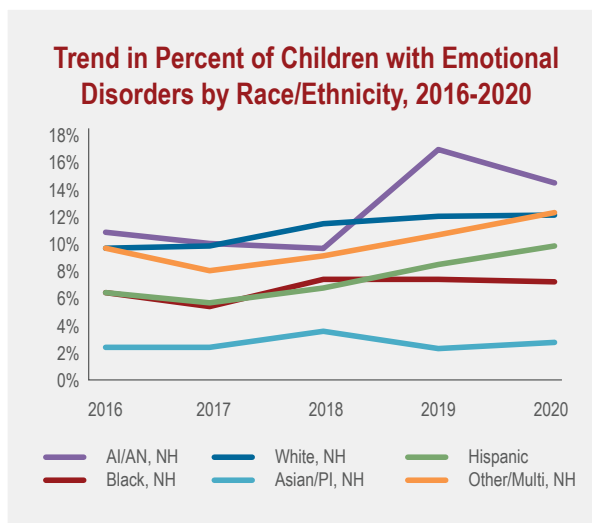
- Nearly 66 million, or 90.4% of U.S. children 0-17 years were in excellent or very good health, as reported by a caregiver.
 - Non-Hispanic White (93.4%) and non-Hispanic multi-race (91.2%) children were most likely to be in excellent or very good health.
 - Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native (84.1%) and non-Hispanic Black (85.9%) children were least likely to be in excellent or very good health.
- The percent of children in excellent or very good health increased with household income, from 82.8% among those living in poverty (<100% FPL) to 95.4% among those living in households with incomes of 400% FPL or higher.
- About 1 million (1.5%) of children were reported to be in poor or fair health.



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Trends in Emotional, Behavioral, and Developmental Disorders from 2016-2020¹

- Among U.S. children 3-17 years, the percent of current, diagnosed emotional disorders increased from 8.0% to 10.2%. Significant increases were seen among 12-17 year olds, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic White children.
- The percent of current, diagnosed behavioral and developmental disorders remained stable among U.S. children for most age and race/Hispanic ethnicity groups: from 12.0%-12.5% and from 11.0%-12.2%, respectively.
- However, non-Hispanic White children and children 12-17 years experienced significant increases in developmental disorders: from 11.0% to 12.5% and from 11.1% to 13.1%, respectively.



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¹ Emotional disorders: anxiety or depression. Behavioral disorders: attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder, behavioral or conduct problems, or Tourette syndrome. Developmental disorders: autism spectrum disorder, learning disability, intellectual disability, developmental delay, or speech or other language disorder

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. We conduct it annually as a household survey, and the respondent is a parent or guardian with knowledge of the sampled child. Respondents complete either web-based or self-administered paper-and-pencil questionnaires. The Census Bureau selects one child per household to be the subject of the detailed age-specific questionnaire.

Data Note: In 2020, parents completed questionnaires for 42,777 children. When we combine these data with an additional 29,433 children from 2019, we have a sample of 72,210 children in 2019/2020. The 2019 and 2020 estimates for General Health Status and Usual Source of Preventive Care were not significantly different from each other and were therefore combined as 2019/2020 estimates. Combining multiple years of data enables more reliable estimates, especially for smaller subpopulations.