

## 2012 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) - Child

### FAST FACTS about the SURVEY

#### What is the National Health Interview Survey?

- An annual national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).
- Data are collected by Census Bureau interviewers during a computer-assisted face-to-face interview.
- Has been conducted continuously since its beginning in 1957.
- Provides a broad range of information about the health status of the US civilian non-institutionalized household population.
- Consists of three Core Modules (Family, Sample Child and Sample Adult), Household Composition Section, and Supplements that vary from year to year.
- The Family Core collects information on all child and adult members in the family about their socio-demographic characteristics, basic indicators of health status, activity limitations, injuries, health insurance coverage, immunizations, risk factors, health related behaviors, and access to and utilization of health care services.
- In 2012, a total of 42,366 households were surveyed nationally, and these households included 108,131 persons.
- One child age 17 years or younger (if any) was randomly selected in each household as the sample child in the Sample Child Core and Child CAM Supplement (4-17 years ONLY for 2012).
- In 2012, interviews were completed about 13,275 sample children from each NHIS family. An adult residing in the household knowledgeable about the child's health was interviewed.
- Information on health status, health care services, and behavior for sample children was collected in the Sample Child Core.

- State-level estimates can be produced for the states with larger population. State identifier information is not publicly released, but can be obtained through the NCHS Research Data Centers.
- Survey data files include sampling weights that permit the development of estimates that are nationally representative of the population of civilian noninstitutionalized children ages 0-17 years.

### **What is the purpose of the National Health Interview Survey?**

- To monitor the health and health care access of the United States population.
- To monitor trends in illness and disability and to track progress toward achieving national health objectives.
- The survey data are also used by the public health research community for epidemiologic and policy analysis of such timely issues as characterizing those with various health problems, determining barriers to accessing and using appropriate health care, and evaluating Federal health programs.

### **Who sponsors the National Health Interview Survey?**

- The National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention oversaw the sampling, personal and telephone interviews and data management for the NHIS 2012.

### **How are data for the survey collected?**

- The NHIS uses computer-assisted personal interviewing by U.S. Census Bureau interviewers.
- The survey data are collected through multi-stage area probability design that permits the representation of households and non-institutional group quarters (e.g., college dormitories).

### **What topics are asked about in the NHIS?**

- Household composition
- Socio-economic demographics
- Health Insurance
- Child's immunizations
- Access and use of health care
- Health status and limitations
- Child's voice, speech and language
- Child complementary alternative medicines

- Child's balance
- Child's mental health
- Family food security
- Family injury and poisonings

### **What other national surveys or data can be linked to the NHIS?**

- Medical Expenditures Panel Survey (MEPS) which uses half of the NHIS sampling frame. Since it is linked to the NHIS, MEPS allows assessment of utilization, access to and quality of care, and expenditures for conventional medical care.
- Mortality data from the National Death Index.
- Medicaid/CHIP enrollment and claims data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

### **Are data from the survey available to the public?**

- The Data Resource Center website provides hands-on access to the 2012 NHIS Child CAM Supplement data – and allows users to compare national and US census region findings for children of different ages, race/ethnicity, income levels, health status, etc. Visit: [www.childhealthdata.org](http://www.childhealthdata.org)
- Cleaned and labeled datasets with new variables appearing on the Data Resource Center website's interactive data query are available at no cost in SPSS format. For more information, contact [cahmi@ohsu.edu](mailto:cahmi@ohsu.edu)
- Data files from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey can be downloaded in ASCII format, with programs for reading the ASCII files into SAS, SPSS, or Stata at no cost from the National Center for Health Statistics website: [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)