The 2016 National Survey of Children’s Health was administered via mail and the internet. Randomly selected addresses from civilian, non-institutionalized households across the United States were mailed instructions to access the survey online. After at least one reminder letter, those households who had not accessed the online survey were mailed a paper screening questionnaire. Please see the “Methods & Sampling Notes” section for more information on this process.

Survey Administration

Participants are sent a mailed invitation to fill out the online survey. Those who don’t complete the online survey are mailed a paper screening questionnaire after reminder letters.

Both paper and online participants are initially asked if one or more children ages 0-17 live in the household. If No, the survey ends (Submitted online or via mail).

If Yes, participants fill out an initial Screener with age and sex of all children in household. Additional information on the 4 youngest children includes race/ethnicity, English proficiency, and the presence of special health care needs.

Online participants submit Screener. Paper participants mail back Screener.

Participants are automatically directed to age-appropriate Topical Questionnaire. (See “Methods & Sampling Notes” for more information)

One child from each household is randomly selected to be the subject of the main Topical Questionnaire. (See “Methods & Sampling Notes” for more information)

Online participants receive age-appropriate Topical Questionnaire through the mail. Paper participants receive age-appropriate Topical Questionnaire through the mail.

Both paper and online participants complete one of three versions of the survey, depending on selected child’s age:

- 0-5 years
- 6-11 years
- 12-17 years

End of survey (Submitted online or via mail)
Methods & Sampling Notes

- To increase sampling efficiency, administrative data were used to determine which addresses were more likely to be households with children aged 0-17 years.

- The survey over-sampled children 0-5 years and children with special health care needs (CHSCN). This means that in households with 2 or more children, CSHCN and children 0-5 years old had a higher probability of being selected as compared to other children in the household.

- Number of surveys completed:
  - 139,923 households screened for age-eligible children (approximately 2744 per state)
  - 50,212 child-level questionnaires completed (approximately 985 per state)
  - 11,392 questionnaires completed on CSHCN (approximately 223 per state)

- To view the questionnaires in English and Spanish, see: http://childhealthdata.org/learn/NSCH/resources/survey-instruments. In addition, participants were able to access telephone-based assistance in order to complete the questionnaire in additional languages.

- For more detailed information on the NSCH, see http://childhealthdata.org/learn/NSCH/FAQ and https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys.