The 2018 National Survey of Children’s Health was administered online and by mail. Randomly selected addresses from households across the United States were mailed instructions to access the survey online; some addresses also received a paper version of the screening questionnaire. After two reminder letters and postcard reminders to complete the survey by web, those households who had not accessed the online survey were mailed a paper screening questionnaire. Please see the “Methods & Sampling Notes” section below or the NSCH Methodology Report and the Data User Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for more information on this process.

Survey Administration

Participants were sent a mailed invitation to fill out the online survey. Some participants were also mailed a paper screening questionnaire, either with the initial invitation or after reminder letters.

Both paper and online respondents were initially asked if one or more children ages 0-17 lived in the household.

if No

End of survey (Submitted online or via mail)

if Yes

Respondents filled out an initial Screener with age and sex of all children in household. Additional information collected on the 4 youngest children included race/ethnicity, English proficiency, housing status, and the presence of special health care needs.

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

Online respondents submitted Screener and move directly to topical questionnaire.

Online respondents were automatically directed to age-appropriate Topical Questionnaire.

Paper respondents mailed back Screener

Paper respondents received age-appropriate Topical Questionnaire through the mail

Respondents completed 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 addresses that 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 in 2018:
  - 176,052 households screened for age-eligible children in sampled addresses.
  - 71,335 children reported on completed screeners.
  - 30,530 child-level topical questionnaires completed (state ranges from 520 to 769)
  - 6,976 of topical questionnaires completed on CSHCN

- To view the questionnaires in English and Spanish, see: https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys/questionnaires-datasets-supporting-documents. In addition, respondents could access telephone-based assistance to complete the questionnaire in additional languages.


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