

The 2019 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) FAST FACTS

What is the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)?

- The NSCH is a national survey, funded and directed by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA MCHB) that provides rich data on multiple, intersecting aspects of children's health and well-being – including physical and mental health, access to and quality of health care, and the child's family, neighborhood, school, and social context.
- Starting in 2016, the NSCH instituted several key changes from prior years of the survey. Among these changes, the NSCH consolidated content from two previous surveys (the [NSCH](#) and the [National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs](#)) and began administering the survey via web-based and mail instruments.
- From 2016 onward, the NSCH is being fielded annually by the US Census Bureau. 2019 is the fourth administration of the redesigned NSCH.
- Most data collected during the 2019 NSCH will be comparable to data collected in 2016, 2017 and 2018 as the surveys were conducted with the same design and administration.

What is the purpose of the National Survey of Children's Health?

- The NSCH is designed to produce national and state-level data on the physical and emotional health of children 0 - 17 years old in the United States.
- Additionally, the NSCH provides estimates for 19 [Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant](#) National Outcome and Performance Measures, and data for each state's Title V needs assessment (note that not all data will be available for all states; the state level sample size determines the available data).
- For more information on the purpose and specific topics asked about in the NSCH, see [2019 NSCH Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) and [NSCH supporting documents](#).

Who sponsors and conducts the National Survey of Children's Health?

- The Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA MCHB) provides the primary funding and direction for the NSCH. More information can be found here: <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys>.
- The NSCH is conducted by the United States (US) Census Bureau on behalf of the US Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA MCHB. The US Census Bureau oversees the NSCH's sampling plan and administration by web and mail. They also collect the data and create the sampling weights.
- Additional funding for specific questions on the 2019 survey was provided by:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)
 - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service.

Who were the participants in the National Survey of Children's Health?

- Households were randomly sampled and contacted by mail in order to identify those with one or more children under 18 years old. In households with more than one child only one was randomly selected to be the subject of the survey.

- The survey oversampled children with special health care needs and children 0-5 years of age.
- For the 2019 NSCH, a total of 29,433 surveys were completed nationally for children between the ages of 0-17 years. The Overall Eeighted Response Rate was 42.4%.
- Approximately 577 surveys were collected per state (state range: 474 to 651).
- Survey data were weighted to represent the population of non-institutionalized children ages 0-17 who live in housing units nationally and in each state.

How were data for the survey collected?

- Households received a mailed invitation asking an adult in the household who is familiar with the child’s health and health care (usually a parent) to complete a short screener questionnaire (via web or paper). The screener asked participants to identify all children ages 0-17 living in the household.
- If a child (or children) was reported to live in the household, participants who chose to respond online were immediately directed to a more detailed, age-specific topical questionnaire for one randomly selected child.
- Participants could also request a paper copy of the screener and topical questionnaire if they did not wish to complete it online.
- For more details about individual surveys, see [2019 NSCH Survey Sampling and Administration Diagram](#) and [2019 Methodology Report](#).

What topics are asked about in the survey?

- Child and family demographics
- Children’s physical and mental health status, including health conditions and functional difficulties
- Health insurance status, adequacy and type of coverage
- Access to and use of health care services
- Medical home
- Transition to adult care
- Early childhood-specific information (0-5 years)
- Middle childhood and adolescent-specific information (6-17 years)
- Family health and activities
- Impact of child’s health on family
- Parental perceptions of neighborhood characteristics
- Access to community-based services

For more details regarding the content available in the 2019 NSCH, please see the [full-length 2019 NSCH instrument](#). To see what is new or changed in the 2019 NSCH, [click here](#).

Are data from the NSCH available to the public?

- The Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health (DRC) website (www.childhealthdata.org) provides quick, easy, hands-on access to 2019 NSCH survey data. The DRC’s interactive data query (www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey) allows users to instantly access the data and compare national and state-level findings among children of different ages, race/ethnicity, income levels, health status, and many more subgroups.
- Cleaned and labeled 2019 NSCH datasets in SAS, Stata, and SPSS formats will also be available from the DRC at no cost. These datasets include key indicators, available at the national and state level, created by DRC staff. You can request the datasets on the DRC website under “[Request a Dataset](#)”. For more information, contact info@cahmi.org.
- You can also access the public use data sets in SAS and Stata via the [Census Bureau](#).

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