The 2021 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 online, 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.

- Online respondents submitted Screen and moved directly to topical questionnaire.
- Online respondents were automatically directed to age-appropriate Topical Questionnaire.
- Both paper and online respondents were initially asked if one or more children ages 0-17 lived in the household.
- Respondents filled out an initial Screen with age and sex of all children in household. Additional information collected on the 4 youngest children included race/ethnicity, household language, housing status, and the presence of special health care needs.

If No

End of survey (Submitted online or via mail)

If Yes

- 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)
- Paper respondents mailed back Screen
- 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 2021:
  - Approximately 106,000 households screened for age-eligible children in sampled addresses
  - 62,010 children reported on completed screeners
  - 50,892 child-level topical questionnaires completed (state ranges from 788 to 2,956)
  - 11,172 of topical questionnaires completed on CSHCN.

- To view the questionnaires in English or 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.