



## Maximizing the Power of the National Survey of Children’s Health to Promote Health Equity Among the Nation’s Children

Health equity refers to social justice in health—equal access and opportunity to attain one’s optimal level of health and well-being. Health equity and health disparities are two important, intertwined terms with health disparities being a key metric by which we can measure progress toward achieving health equity.<sup>1</sup> The **National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH)** is an excellent source of health-related information regarding the nation’s children. The annual survey collects information spanning children’s lives, including physical and mental health, access to and quality of health care, and the child’s family, neighborhood, school, and social context. Measures used to examine health disparities at the state and national level are also available, such as race and ethnicity, parent/caregiver education and income level, neighborhood safety and amenities, and experiences of trauma.

The **[Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative’s \(CAHMI\) Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health](#)** (DRC)<sup>2</sup> has partnered with the **[Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau](#)** (HRSA MCHB) since 2003 to provide the public with user-friendly access to NSCH data findings, including the ability to assess health disparities, through our online interactive data query, overview resources, and downloadable datasets and codebooks. These data provide an excellent starting point for promoting health equity in your state.

Below we present examples of ways to use the DRC’s interactive data query to better understand available data. This brief explains how to look at the ***prevalence of a measure*** to ascertain the proportion of children who experience a phenomenon by different subgroups, such as race/ethnicity. This answers questions like “What is the prevalence of a measure for each race/ethnicity group”. Next, this brief shows how to look at the ***distribution of a measure***, showing how children that experience a phenomenon are distributed across race/ethnicity groups”. This answers the question “Of all children that experience a phenomenon, what proportion are represented by each race/ethnicity group. Is the proportion in each subgroup higher or lower than would be expected based on the overall proportion of children in this subgroup in the population as a whole; or is there a disproportionate share of children in a specific subgroup represented?”

Visit [www.childhealthdata.org](http://www.childhealthdata.org) to get data on children in your state.

Select resources found at <http://www.childhealthdata.org>:

- [Introduction to the Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health](#)
- [How to use the interactive data query](#)
- [Ask us a question](#)
- [Request a dataset](#)

<sup>1</sup> Braveman, P. What are health disparities and health equity? We need to be clear. Public Health Rep 2014 129(Suppl 2) 5-8. PMID 24385658

## Table of Contents

<b>Get started! Interactive Data Search</b> .....	3
<b>Part 1: Using the DRC to Assess Variations in Prevalence by Subgroups</b> .....	3
<b>Subgroup Comparison Example 1:</b> Prevalence of children and adolescents who are flourishing by family resilience.....	3
Subgroup Comparison – Nationwide .....	4
Subgroup Comparison in Your State – Compare your state with the national average.....	5
<b>Subgroup Comparison Example 2:</b> Prevalence of children who experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences by their race/ethnicity .....	6
Subgroup Comparison – Nationwide .....	7
Subgroup Comparison in Your State – Compare your state with the national average.....	8
Comparing Across All States .....	9
<b>Part 2: Using the DRC to Assess the Distribution of Children on a Measure Across a Subgroup</b> .....	10
Distribution of Children with a Specific Issue/Topic, by Race/Ethnicity: .....	10

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## Get started! Interactive Data Search

To begin your interactive data search, visit the [DRC's Interactive Data Query](#).

1. Select a survey year and geographic level.
2. Select your desired topic/starting point (at-a-glance content maps are available at this step).
3. Select your measure.

These steps will direct you to a results page where you can compare across states and by numerous subgroups. For the most reliable estimates, use the two-year combined data (e.g., 2021-2022).

1. Select a Survey Year and Geographic Area

Select a Year

Select a State/Region

2. Select a Starting Point/Topic

- + **Child and Family Health Measures** [\(Content Map\)](#)  
Over 300 indicators and survey items for child and family health and well-being
- + **Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Measures** [\(Content Map\)](#)  
National Performance and Outcome Measures, and Standardized Measures

## Part 1: Using the DRC to Assess Variations in Prevalence by Subgroups

### Subgroup Comparison Example 1: Prevalence of children and adolescents who are flourishing by family resilience

**Current Search Criteria**

Survey: 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health  
 Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures  
 State/Region: Nationwide [\(quick edit\)](#)  
 Topic: Emotional and Mental Health  
 Question: Indicator 2.4: Flourishing for children and adolescents, age 6-17 years [i](#)

**Edit Search Criteria**

Select a State or Region to Compare

Select a Subgroup

[Change Question, Topic or Survey](#)

Indicator 2.4: Is this child or adolescent flourishing, age 6-17 years? [i](#)

	Meets 0-1 flourishing items	Meets 2 flourishing items	Meets all 3 flourishing items	Total %
%	19.0	20.5	60.5	100.0
C.I.	18.3 - 19.6	19.9 - 21.2	59.7 - 61.3	
Sample Count	12,546	13,582	37,691	
Pop. Est.	9,364,896	10,138,868	29,863,306	

C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval.  
 Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US.

Select State or Region (if none selected, results will show nationwide data as default)

Select subgroup; i.e. Family resilience

Click to learn more

## Subgroup Comparison – Nationwide:

Once you select a subgroup, the table will show the selected measure (i.e. Flourishing for children and adolescents, age 6-17 years) by subgroup (i.e. Family resilience). This reports differences in prevalence of children who are flourishing by whether the child’s family demonstrated resilience or not.

**Current Search Criteria**

Survey: 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health

Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures

State/Region: Nationwide (quick edit)

Topic: Emotional and Mental Health

Question: Indicator 2.4: Flourishing for children and adolescents, age 6-17 years ⓘ

Sub Group: Family resilience

**Edit Search Criteria**

Select a State or Region to Compare ▼

Family resilience ← Subgroup

Change Question, Topic or Survey

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Indicator 2.4: Is this child or adolescent flourishing, age 6-17 years? ⓘ ← The main measure

		Meets 0-1 flourishing items	Meets 2 flourishing items	Meets all 3 flourishing items	Total %
Family demonstrates resilience	%	15.2	19.7	65.1 ←	100.0
	C.I.	14.6 - 15.8	19.0 - 20.4	64.3 - 66.0	
	Sample Count	8,432	10,690	33,175	
	Pop. Est.	6,064,993	7,835,675	25,969,169	
Family does not demonstrate resilience	%	37.7	25.0	37.3 ←	100.0
	C.I.	35.5 - 39.9	23.2 - 26.9	35.2 - 39.5	
	Sample Count	3,779	2,546	3,520	
	Pop. Est.	3,011,709	2,000,800	2,982,985	

C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval.  
Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US.

**DATA ALERT:** The "Family Resilience" is based on the responses to 4 survey items: When your family faces problems, how often are you likely to do each of the following: 1) talk together about what to do; 2) work together to solve our problems; 3) know we have strengths to draw on; 4) stay hopeful even in difficult times. For a family to qualify as demonstrating resilience, a response of either "all of the time" or "most of the time" on all four items is required.

### Report interpretation:

This measure shows that children age 6-17 years old who live in families that demonstrate resilience characteristics are significantly more likely to flourish as assessed in the NSCH (65.1% versus 37.3%).

For more information, see Bethell CD, Gombojav N, Whitaker RC. Family Resilience and Connection Promotes Child Flourishing, Even Amid Adversity. Health Affairs. 2019;38(5):729-737. Available at: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05425>

**Subgroup Comparison in Your State – Compare your state with the national average:**

**Current Search Criteria**

Survey: 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health

Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures

State/Region: Nationwide vs. Maryland (quick edit)

Topic: Emotional and Mental Health

Question: Indicator 2.4: Flourishing for children and adolescents, age 6-17 years i

Sub Group: Meets all 3 flourishing items x Family resilience

**Edit Search Criteria**

Maryland ← Your state

Family resilience ← Subgroup

[Change Question, Topic or Survey](#)

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Indicator 2.4: Is this child or adolescent flourishing, age 6-17 years? i ← The main measure

Select a Response Category: Meets all 3 flourishing items

		Family demonstrates resilience	Family does not demonstrate resilience
<b>Nationwide</b>	%	<b>65.1</b>	<b>37.3</b>
	C.I.	64.3 - 66.0	35.2 - 39.5
	Sample Count	33,175	3,520
	Pop. Est.	25,969,169	2,982,985
<b>Maryland</b>	%	<b>65.9</b>	<b>43.9</b>
	C.I.	61.2 - 70.3	33.0 - 55.4
	Sample Count	502	58
	Pop. Est.	469,896	64,886

C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval.  
 Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US.  
  Please interpret with caution: estimate has a 95% confidence interval width exceeding 20 percentage points or 1.2 times the estimate and may not be reliable. For more information about the data suppression and display criteria [click here](#).

**Report interpretation:**

This view shows that the association between family resilience and child flourishing does not differ much between children age 6-17 years old in Maryland (65.9%) and nationwide (65.1%).

## Subgroup Comparison Example 2: Prevalence of children who experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences by their race/ethnicity

**Current Search Criteria**

Survey: 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health

Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures

State/Region: Nationwide ([quick edit](#))

Topic: Family Health and Activities

Question: Indicator 6.13: Adverse childhood experiences [i](#)

**Edit Search Criteria**

Select a State or Region to Compare

Select a Subgroup

[Change Question, Topic or Survey](#)

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Indicator 6.13: Has this child experienced one or more adverse childhood experiences from the list of 11 ACEs? [i](#)

	No adverse childhood experiences	One adverse childhood experience	Two or more adverse childhood experiences	Total %
%	61.3	21.3	17.4	100.0
C.I.	60.7 - 61.9	20.7 - 21.8	16.9 - 17.9	
Sample Count	66,433	19,772	16,831	
Pop. Est.	43,676,467	15,160,649	12,416,642	

C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval.  
 Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US.

Select State or Region (if none selected, results will show nationwide data as default)

Select subgroup; i.e. Race/ethnicity of child

Click to learn more

## Subgroup Comparison – Nationwide:

Once you select a subgroup, the table will show the selected measure (i.e. Adverse childhood experiences) by subgroup (i.e. Race/ethnicity). This reports differences in prevalence of children experienced two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by child's race and ethnicity.

**Current Search Criteria**

Survey: 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health

Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures

State/Region: Nationwide (quick edit)

Topic: Family Health and Activities

Question: Indicator 6.13: Adverse childhood experiences i

Sub Group: Race/ethnicity of child

**Edit Search Criteria**

Select a State or Region to Compare ▼

Race/ethnicity of child ←

Change Question, Topic or Survey

Subgroup

**Indicator 6.13: Has this child experienced one or more adverse childhood experiences from the list of 11 ACEs?** i

The main measure

		No adverse childhood experiences	One adverse childhood experience	Two or more adverse childhood experiences	Total %
Hispanic	%	58.7	23.8	17.4	100.0
	C.I.	57.1 - 60.4	22.5 - 25.3	16.2 - 18.7	
	Sample Count	8,625	3,403	2,905	
	Pop. Est.	11,104,237	4,505,989	3,295,000	
White, non-Hispanic	%	65.8	18.5	15.6	100.0
	C.I.	65.1 - 66.5	18.0 - 19.1	15.1 - 16.2	
	Sample Count	45,268	11,899	10,104	
	Pop. Est.	23,066,861	6,500,337	5,481,801	
Black, non-Hispanic	%	46.1	28.6	25.2	100.0
	C.I.	44.1 - 48.2	26.8 - 30.6	23.4 - 27.1	
	Sample Count	2,979	1,823	1,546	
	Pop. Est.	4,155,994	2,578,790	2,270,899	
Other, non-Hispanic	%	64.5	19.0	16.5	100.0
	C.I.	63.0 - 66.0	17.7 - 20.3	15.4 - 17.7	
	Sample Count	9,561	2,647	2,276	
	Pop. Est.	5,349,375	1,575,533	1,368,942	

**Report interpretation:** Children who experienced two or more adverse childhood (ACEs) events ranged from 15.6% to 25.2% across the 4 race/ethnicity groups evaluated in the NSCH. Specifically, 15.6% of non-Hispanic white children had parents who reported their children experienced two or more ACEs, whereas 25.2% of non-Hispanic black children had parents who did so.

**Subgroup Comparison in Your State – Compare your state with the national average:**

**Current Search Criteria**

Survey: 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health  
 Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures  
 State/Region: Nationwide vs. Maryland (quick edit)  
 Topic: Family Health and Activities  
 Question: Indicator 6.13: Adverse childhood experiences ⓘ  
 Sub Group: Two or more adverse childhood experiences x  
 Race/ethnicity of child

**Edit Search Criteria**

Maryland ▼

Race/ethnicity of child ▼

[Change Question, Topic or Survey](#)

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**Indicator 6.13: Has this child experienced one or more adverse childhood experiences from the list of 11 ACEs?** ⓘ

Select a Response Category: Two or more adverse childhood experiences ▼

		Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Other, non-Hispanic
<b>Nationwide</b>	%	17.4	15.6	25.2	16.5
	C.I.	16.2 - 18.7	15.1 - 16.2	23.4 - 27.1	15.4 - 17.7
	Sample Count	2,905	10,104	1,546	2,276
	Pop. Est.	3,295,000	5,481,801	2,270,899	1,368,942
<b>Maryland</b>	%	13.2	11.8	17.1	10.4
	C.I.	7.8 - 21.4	8.8 - 15.7	12.2 - 23.3	7.1 - 15.1
	Sample Count	24	77	49	35
	Pop. Est.	29,971	61,881	66,243	17,302

C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval.  
 Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US.

**Report interpretation:** This view shows a direct comparison with how children in one state (Maryland) compare with children nationwide. In this example, a smaller proportion of children in Maryland across all race/ethnicity groups experience adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) than the same groups nationwide. For instance, among non-Hispanic black children nationwide, 25.2% experience 2 or more ACEs compared with 17.1% of non-Hispanic black children in Maryland.



Comparing Across All States: Does the prevalence of two or more adverse childhood experiences across race/ethnicity groups vary across states?

**Current Search Criteria**

Survey: 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health

Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures

State/Region: All States (quick edit)

Topic: Family Health and Activities

Question: Indicator 6.13: Adverse childhood experiences ⓘ

Sub Group: Two or more adverse childhood experiences x

Race/ethnicity of child

**Edit Search Criteria**

Select a State:

Select a State or Region ▼

Race/ethnicity of child ▼

Change Question, Topic or Survey

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**Indicator 6.13: Has this child experienced one or more adverse childhood experiences from the list of 11 ACEs? ⓘ**

Notes: Click on the Column Header to sort the results by ascending or descending order. To get a detailed explanation of the data HOVER over the text in the table.

Select a Response Category: Two or more adverse childhood experiences ▼

	State	Hispanic %	White, non-Hispanic %	Black, non-Hispanic %	Other, non-Hispanic %
1	District of Columbia	6.1	4.2	24.9	9.1
2	Georgia	11.5	17.3	24.8	17.5
3	Arkansas	12.6	22.5	26.6	31.4
4	Maryland	13.2	11.8	17.1	10.4
5	Mississippi	13.3	21.9	27.7	42.7
6	Florida	13.8	16.2	21.3	24.3
7	Utah	14.4	13.2	–	16.2
8	South Dakota	15.1	15.5	–	40.7
9	Massachusetts	15.4	12.6	14.8	17.1
10	California	15.8	10.8	38.0	6.3
11	Delaware	15.9	17.6	26.0	23.8
12	Minnesota	16.1	12.1	22.7	17.5
13	New York	16.1	11.1	20.0	10.0
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41	Tennessee	24.1	19.1	27.3	26.7
42	Colorado	24.5	16.3	25.2	16.8
43	West Virginia	25.0	19.7	47.6	21.7
44	Wisconsin	25.5	12.9	32.9	22.1
45	Montana	25.9	23.8	–	40.9
46	Vermont	25.9	22.2	–	15.4
47	New Mexico	26.0	20.8	–	44.6
48	Oklahoma	26.4	22.2	31.8	26.2
49	Connecticut	27.5	10.2	27.8	11.9
50	Wyoming	28.4	23.2	–	33.7
51	Kansas	29.6	18.1	35.4	25.5

**Report Interpretation:** The prevalence of Hispanic children who experienced 2 or more adverse childhood experiences varies widely across US states, ranging from a low of 6.1% in the District of Columbia to 29.6% in Kansas. It is important to see that the experiences of Hispanic children differ across the United States. Knowing this demographic and geographic variation is important for planning how to address health equity at the local and national level.

## Part 2: Part 2: Using the DRC to Assess the Distribution of Children on a Measure Across a Subgroup

**Distribution of Children with a Specific Issue/Topic, by Race/Ethnicity:** Proportion of all children who experience Adverse Childhood Experiences that are Hispanic, Non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, or other race/ethnicities.

Note: This is different from variations in prevalence as shown in previous subgroup comparisons in Part 1. To view distribution by race/ethnicity for a specific health issue or topic, select “Race and ethnicity distribution of the child population” as the main measure, and select the health issue/topic of interest as the subgroup. You may want to know if children are disproportionately represented on a measure.

**Current Search Criteria**

Survey: 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health  
 Starting Point: Child and Family Health Measures  
 State/Region: Nationwide (quick edit)  
 Topic: Child and Family Demographics  
 Question: Race and ethnicity distribution of the child population ⓘ  
 Sub Group: Adverse childhood experiences

**Edit Search Criteria**

Select a State or Region to Compare ▼

Adverse childhood experiences ▼

Change Question, Topic or Survey

What is this child's race/ethnicity? ⓘ

		Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic	Black, non-Hispanic	Other, non-Hispanic	Total %
<b>No adverse childhood experiences</b>	%	25.4	52.8	9.5	12.2	100.0
	C.I.	24.5 - 26.3	52.0 - 53.6	9.0 - 10.1	11.8 - 12.7	
	Sample Count	8,625	45,268	2,979	9,561	
	Pop. Est.	11,104,237	23,066,861	4,155,994	5,349,375	
<b>One adverse childhood experience</b>	%	29.7	42.9	17.0	10.4	100.0
	C.I.	28.2 - 31.3	41.5 - 44.2	15.8 - 18.2	9.6 - 11.2	
	Sample Count	3,403	17,899	1,823	2,647	
	Pop. Est.	4,505,989	6,500,337	2,578,790	1,575,533	
<b>Two or more adverse childhood experiences</b>	%	26.5	44.1	18.3	11.0	100.0
	C.I.	25.0 - 28.2	42.7 - 45.6	17.0 - 19.7	10.3 - 11.9	
	Sample Count	2,905	10,104	1,546	2,276	
	Pop. Est.	3,295,000	5,481,801	2,270,899	1,368,942	

**Report Interpretation:** This look at the data shows how the distribution of children who experience 2 or more ACEs is spread across the four race/ethnicity groups. For example, among all children with 2+ ACEs, 26.5% were Hispanic, 44.1% were white, 18.3% were black, and 11.0% were other race/ethnicity. Since Hispanic children are also 26.5% of the overall population of children (See: <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=10801&r=1>), they are not disproportionately represented among children with 2+ ACEs. However, Black children are 12.9% of the population of children in the US and are disproportionately represented among those with 2+ ACEs (18.3%).