

Making Sense of the Data: How to Use and Interpret National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) Data

NSCH data are weighted to the child population

The population estimates provided on the DRC website are weighted to represent the population of non-institutionalized children in the United States.

The data are always to be interpreted as relating to children

Since the data are weighted to the U.S. child population, all interpretation of the data are in the form of “The percent of children...” For example, “The percent of children who receive family-centered care.”

Data on the child's parents or the child's household, neighborhood, or school are always to be interpreted as relating to children

Even when items in the NSCH are related to the parents of the child, or the child's household, neighborhood, school or any other factor included in the NSCH, the data are always to be interpreted as it relates to children. For example:

- The correct interpretation of Indicator “6.1: Physical health status of child’s mothers” is “The percent of children who live with mothers in excellent or very good health.” It is incorrect to interpret the data as “The percent of mothers who are in excellent or very good health.”
- Similarly, the correct interpretation of Indicator “6.9: Child’s family eats meals together” is “The percent of children living in families that eat meals together every day.” It is incorrect to interpret the data as “The percent of families that eat meals together every day.”
- The correct interpretation of Indicator “7.1: Safe neighborhoods” is “The percent of children living in safe neighborhoods.” It is incorrect to interpret the data as “The percent of families living in safe neighborhoods.”

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