



*N*ational Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), 2003

FAST FACTS about the SURVEY

What is the National Survey of Children's Health?

- A national survey conducted by telephone in English and Spanish during 2003 – 2004.
- Provides a broad range of information about children's health and well-being collected in a manner that allows comparisons among states as well as nationally.
- Telephone numbers are called at random to identify households with one or more children under 18 years old. In each household, one child was randomly selected to be the subject of the interview.
- A total of 102,353 surveys completed nationally for children between the ages of 0-17 years.
- Between 1,483 – 2,241 surveys collected per state – 25 states exceeded the goal of 2,000 completed surveys.
- Survey results are weighted to represent the population of non-institutionalized children ages 0-17 nationally, and in each state.

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

- To estimate national and state-level prevalence for a variety of physical, emotional, and behavioral child health indicators in combination with information on the child's family context and neighborhood environment.
- To generate information about children, their families, and neighborhoods to help guide policymakers, advocates, and researchers
- To provide baseline estimates for federal and state Title V Maternal and Child Health performance measures, MCHB companion objectives for Healthy People 2010, and data for each state's 5-year Title V needs assessment.
- To complement the 2001 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs by providing data on the health of the general child population.

Who sponsors the National Survey of Children's Health?

- The Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided the primary funding for the National Survey of Children's Health, 2003.

- The National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention oversaw the sampling and telephone interviews for the survey.

How are data for the survey collected?

- The sampling and data collection for the National Survey of Children's Health, 2003 were conducted using the SLAITS program.
- SLAITS is an acronym for the "State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey," an approach developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to quickly and consistently collect information on a variety of health topics at the state and local levels.
- Other national surveys collected through the SLAITS program include: the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, the National Immunization Survey, and the National Survey of Early Childhood Health.

What topics are asked about in the survey?

- Child and family demographics
- Children's physical and mental health status
- Health insurance status and type of coverage
- Access and use of health care services
- Medical home
- Early childhood-specific information (0-5 years)
- Middle childhood and adolescent-specific information (6-17 years)
- Family health and activities
- Parental health status
- Parent's perceptions of neighborhood characteristics

Are data from the survey available to the public?

- The interactive data query feature on the National Survey of Children's Health Data Resource Center website provides hands on access to the survey data – and allows users to compare national and state-level findings for children of different ages, race/ethnicity, income levels, health status, etc. Visit: www.nschdata.org
- Data files from the National Survey of Children's Health, 2003 can be downloaded in SAS format at no cost from the National Center for Health Statistics website: www.cdc.gov/nchs
- Cleaned and labeled state-specific datasets with new variables that include the key national and state indicators appearing in the chart book and on the Data Resource Center website's interactive data query are available SAS and SPSS formats. For more information, contact cahmi@ohsu.edu