



About This Early Release

Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data From the **January–March 2012 National Health Interview Survey**

(Released 09/25/12)

In this release, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) updates estimates for 15 selected health measures based on data from the January–March 2012 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and presents estimates from 1997 through 2011 for comparison. The 15 Early Release measures are being published prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from NHIS. The estimates will be updated as each new quarter of NHIS data becomes available.

Two additional periodical reports are published through the Early Release Program. *Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey* (1) is published quarterly and provides additional estimates of health insurance coverage. *Wireless Substitution: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey* (2) is published in May and December and provides selected estimates of telephone coverage. Other Early Release reports and tabulations on special topics are released as needed. In addition to these reports, preliminary microdata files containing selected NHIS variables are produced as part of the Early Release Program. For each data collection year, these files are made available three times: in about September and December during the data collection year, and in about March following the data collection year. NHIS data users can analyze these files through the NCHS Research Data Center without having to wait for the final annual NHIS microdata files to be released in about June following the end of the data collection year.

The 15 measures included in the present report are lack of health insurance coverage and type of coverage, having a usual place to go for medical care, obtaining needed medical care, receipt of



influenza vaccination, receipt of pneumococcal vaccination, obesity, leisure-time physical activity, current smoking, alcohol consumption, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing, general health status, personal care needs, serious psychological distress, diagnosed diabetes, and asthma episodes and current asthma. Four of these measures (lack of health insurance coverage, obesity, leisure-time physical activity, and current smoking) are directly related to Healthy People 2020 (3) Leading Health Indicators.

For each selected health measure, a figure is presented showing the trend over time from 1997 through March 2012 for the total population, followed by figures and tables showing estimates by age group and sex, based on data from the January–March 2012 NHIS. Also, estimates (which may be adjusted by age, sex, or both, where appropriate) are provided for three race/ethnicity groups—Hispanic; non-Hispanic white, single race; and non-Hispanic black, single race—using data from the January–March 2012 NHIS. Some measures may include additional tables or figures. Key findings are highlighted by bullets, and data tables containing the values displayed in the figures, along with additional age-adjusted estimates, are included at the end of each section.

The NHIS questions used to define the selected health measures are provided in an Appendix. Technical Notes at the end of the report provide details on data source, transition to weights based on the 2000 U.S. census, implementation of a new sample design, estimation procedures, significance testing, adjustment for age and sex, race/ethnicity categories, health insurance, influenza vaccination, and HIV testing.