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Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 1997

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • National Center for Health Statistics

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Health Interview Survey

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics

Hyattsville, Maryland
January 2002
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Contents

Abstract	1
Introduction	1
Data Source	2
Estimation Procedures	2
Limitations of the Data	2
Variance Estimation and Significance Testing	2
Further Information	3
Selected Highlights	3
Health Conditions (tables 1,2)	3
Attention Deficit Disorder and Learning Disabilities (table 3)	3
Medication Use (table 4)	3
Respondent-Assessed Health Status (tables 5–8)	4
School-Loss Days Due to Illness or Injury (tables 9,10)	4
Usual Source of Medical Care (tables 11,12)	4
Time Since Last Contact with a Health Care Professional (tables 13,14)	4
Unmet Medical Need (tables 15,16)	5
Dental Care (tables 17,18)	5
References	5

Appendix I

Technical Notes on Methods	43
Treatment of Unknown Values	43
Hypothesis Tests	44

Appendix II

Definition of Selected Terms	44
Demographic Terms	44
Socioeconomic Terms	45
Health Terms	46

Detailed Tables

1. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever told had asthma or had an asthma attack in the past 12 months for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	7
2. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of hay fever, respiratory allergies and other allergies in the past 12 months for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	9
3. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever told had a learning disability or Attention Deficit Disorder, for children 3–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	11
4. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of having a problem for which prescription medication had been taken regularly for at least 3 months for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997 ..	13
5. Frequency distributions of respondent-assessed health status for children aged 17 years and younger, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	15

6.	Percent distributions (with standard errors) of respondent-assessed health status for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	17
7.	Frequency distributions of health status compared with a year ago given current health status for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	19
8.	Percent distributions (with standard errors) of health status compared with a year ago given current health status for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	21
9.	Frequency distributions of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	23
10.	Percent distributions (with standard error) of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	25
11.	Frequencies of having a usual source of medical care, and frequency distributions of place of usual source of medical care for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	27
12.	Percents (with standard errors) having a usual source of medical care, and percent distributions (with standard errors) of place of usual source of medical care for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	29
13.	Frequency distributions of length of time since last contact with a health care professional for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	31
14.	Percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last contact with a health care professional for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	33
15.	Frequencies of selected health care risk factors for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	35
16.	Percents (with standard errors) of selected health care risk factors for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	37
17.	Frequencies of unmet dental need in the past 12 months and frequency distributions of length of time since last dental contact for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	39
18.	Percents (with standard errors) of unmet dental need in the past 12 months and percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last dental contact for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997	41

Appendix Tables

I.	Weighted counts and percents of children with “unknown” information: National Health Interview Survey, 1997	43
II.	Weighted counts and percents of children with “unknown” information on selected sociodemographic characteristics: National Health Interview Survey, 1997	44

Objectives

This report presents statistics from the 1997 National Health Interview Survey on selected health measures for sample children under 18 years of age, classified by sex, age, race/ethnicity, family structure, parent's education, family income, poverty status, health insurance coverage, place of residence, region, and current health status. The topics covered are asthma, allergies, learning disability, Attention Deficit Disorder, use of medication, respondent-assessed health status, school-loss days, usual source of medical care, time since last contact with a health care professional, selected health care risk factors, and time since last dental contact.

Source of Data

The NHIS is a multistage probability sample survey conducted annually by interviewers of the U. S. Census Bureau for the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and is representative of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Data are collected during face-to-face interviews with adults present at the time of interview. Information about children is collected for one sample child per family in face-to-face interviews with an adult proxy respondent familiar with the child's health.

Highlights

In 1997, most U.S. children under 18 years of age enjoyed excellent or very good health (82%). However, 13% of children had no health insurance coverage, and 6% of children had no usual place of medical care. The percent of children with unmet medical need was twice as high in single-mother families (4%) as in two-parent families (2%). Eleven percent of children had ever been diagnosed with asthma. An estimated 8% of children 3–17 years of age had a learning disability, and an estimated 6% of children had Attention Deficit Disorder.

Keywords: *child health • health conditions • access to care • health provider contacts • unmet medical need • ADD*

Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 1997

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Introduction

This report is one of a set of reports summarizing data from the 1997 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), a multipurpose health survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This report provides national estimates for a broad range of health measures for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population of children under 18 years of age. Two other reports in this set provide data on health measures for the U.S. population and for adults (1,2). A fourth report focusing on technical issues related to the survey design and estimation procedures will be published (3). It is anticipated that the three data reports will be published for each year of the NHIS, replacing the annual one-volume *Current Estimates* from the National Health Interview Survey. The technical report will be updated less frequently.

Estimates are presented here for asthma, allergies, learning disability, Attention Deficit Disorder, use of medication, respondent-assessed health status, school-loss days, usual source of medical care, time since last contact with a health care professional, selected health care risk factors, and time since last dental contact. They are derived from the Sample Child component of the annual NHIS Basic Module. These estimates are shown in [tables 1–18](#) for various groups of the population, including those defined by sex, age, race/ethnicity, family structure, parent's education, family income, poverty status, health insurance coverage, place

of residence, region, and current health status. Estimates for other characteristics of special relevance are also included when appropriate. [Appendix I](#) contains brief technical notes, and [appendix II](#) contains definitions of terms used in this report.

The NHIS has been an important source of information about health and health care in the United States since it was first conducted in 1957. Given the ever-changing nature of the U.S. population, the NHIS has been revised every 10–15 years. The first design changes were introduced in 1973 and the first procedural changes in 1975 (4). In 1982, the NHIS questionnaire and data preparation procedures of the survey were extensively revised. The basic concepts of NHIS changed in some cases, and in other cases the concepts were measured in a different way. A more complete explanation of these changes is in appendix IV of Series 10-No. 150 (5). In 1985, a new sample design for NHIS and a different method of presenting sampling errors were introduced (6,7). In 1995, another change in the sample design was introduced, including the oversampling of black and Hispanic persons (8). In 1997, the latest revision was implemented. The 1997 design of the NHIS features both a substantially revised instrument (in terms of content) as well as a new means of administration (i.e., computer-assisted personal interviewing). This new design should improve the ability of the NHIS to provide important health information in the future. However, comparisons of the 1997 data with data from previous NHIS survey years should not be undertaken without a careful

examination of the changes across survey instruments. (5,7, 9–21)

Data Source

The main objective of the NHIS is to monitor the health of the U.S. population through the collection and analysis of data on a broad range of health topics. The target population for the NHIS is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Persons excluded are patients in long-term care institutions (e.g., nursing homes for the elderly; hospitals for the chronically ill, disabled, or retarded; and wards for abused/neglected children), correctional facilities (e.g., prisons or jails, juvenile detention centers, and halfway houses), active duty Armed Forces personnel (although their dependents are included), and U.S. nationals living in foreign countries. Each year, a representative sample of households across the country is selected for the NHIS using a multistage cluster sample design. Details about the sample design in effect for 1995–2004 have been published (8). Trained interviewers from the U.S. Census Bureau visit each selected household and administer the NHIS in person. Detailed interviewer instructions are found in the NHIS Field Representative's Manual (22).

The forthcoming technical report will describe in detail the changes to the basic health and demographic questionnaire that occurred in the redesigned survey introduced in 1997. Briefly, the annual NHIS questionnaire, now called the Basic Module, consists of three main components: the Family Core, the Sample Adult Core, and the Sample Child Core. The Family Core is the source of data for this report; it collects information for all family members regarding household composition and sociodemographic characteristics, along with basic indicators of health status, activity limitations, and utilization of health care services. All adult members of the household 17 years of age and over who are at home at the time of the interview are invited to participate and respond for themselves. For children and those adults not at home during the interview,

information is provided by a knowledgeable adult family member (18 years of age or over) residing in the household. Although considerable effort is made to insure accurate reporting, the information from both proxy and self-respondents may be inaccurate because the respondent is unaware of relevant information, has forgotten it, does not wish to reveal it to an interviewer, or does not understand the intended meaning of the question.

The Sample Adult and Sample Child Cores obtain additional information on the health of one randomly selected adult and child in the family; the Sample Adult responds for himself/herself, and a knowledgeable adult in the family provides proxy responses for the sample child.

The interviewed sample for 1997 consisted of 39,832 households, which yielded data for 103,477 persons in 40,623 families. There were 15,244 children aged 0–17 years who were eligible for the Sample Child questionnaire. Data were collected for 14,290 children, a conditional response rate of 93.7%. The unconditional or final response rate for the Sample Child component was calculated by multiplying the conditional rate by the overall family response rate of 90.3%, yielding a rate of 84.1% (23).

Estimation Procedures

Data presented in this report are weighted to provide national health estimates. For each health measure, both weighted frequencies and percents for all persons and for various subgroups of the population are shown. All counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. To make the presentation of the data more straightforward, persons of unknown status with respect to each health characteristic of interest are neither shown separately in the tables nor included in the calculation of percents. For all health measures in this report, the overall percent unknown is typically small, in most cases less than 1%. Nevertheless, these unknown cases are included in the total population counts for each table. Therefore, it should be noted that the reader may obtain slightly different percents than those shown in

the tables if he or she calculates percents based on the frequencies and population counts presented in the tables.

Additionally, some of the sociodemographic variables used to delineate various subgroups of the population have unknown values. Again, for most of these variables, the percent unknown is small. However, in the case of family income, there is no income information for about 7% of respondents in the 1997 survey, and 10% of respondents stated that their combined family income was \$20,000 or more without providing additional detail. Poverty status, which is based on family income, has a high nonresponse rate as a result. Health estimates for persons with these unknown sociodemographic characteristics are not shown in the tables, but readers should refer to [appendix I](#) for more information on the unknowns.

Limitations of the Data

Although the data are presented for various age groups, estimates for other sociodemographic subgroups are not age adjusted. Therefore, differences among groups should be interpreted with caution. Also, as mentioned previously, the 1997 NHIS is quite different in content, format, and mode of data collection from earlier versions of the survey. These changes make it difficult to compare 1997 NHIS estimates with those of earlier years.

In addition, it is important to note that frequencies are underestimates due to item nonresponse and unknowns, both of which are excluded from the tables (with the exception of the “All Children” or total columns shown in each table). See [appendix I](#) for more information about the number of unknowns with respect to each health characteristic.

Variance Estimation and Significance Testing

The NHIS data are based on a sample of the population and are, therefore, subject to sampling error. Standard errors are reported to indicate

the reliability of the estimates. Estimates and standard errors were calculated using SUDAAN software that takes into account the complex sampling design of the NHIS. The Taylor series linearization method was used (24).

Standard errors are shown for all percents in the tables. Estimates with relative standard errors of greater than 30% are considered unreliable and are indicated with an asterisk. The statistical significance of differences between point estimates was evaluated using two-sided *t* tests at the 0.05 level and assuming independence. These tests did not take multiple comparisons into account.

Further Information

Data users can obtain the latest information about the National Health Interview Survey by periodically checking the web site

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

The Web site features downloadable public use data and documentation for recent surveys and important information about any modifications or updates to the data and/or documentation. Published reports from previous years' surveys are also available, as are updates about future surveys and data sets.

Researchers may also wish to join the NHIS electronic mail list. To do so, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/subscribe.html>

Fill in the appropriate information and click the "National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) researchers" box, followed by the "Subscribe" button at the bottom of the page. The LISTSERV consists of approximately 3,000 NHIS data users located around the world who receive e-news about NHIS surveys (e.g., new releases of data or modifications to existing data), publications, and conferences.

Selected Highlights

This section presents brief, bulleted summaries of the estimates shown in

tables 1–18. All estimates were calculated using the appropriate weight variable, which is calibrated by NCHS staff to produce numbers consistent with the population estimates of the United States by age, sex, and race/ethnicity, based on projections from the 1990 U.S. Census Bureau.

Health Conditions (tables 1,2)

- Eleven percent of U.S. children under 18 years of age, or 8.1 million children, have ever been diagnosed with asthma. Boys were more likely than girls to have ever been diagnosed with asthma (13% versus 10%).
- Nearly 4 million children had an asthma attack in the past 12 months. Boys were most likely to have had an asthma attack in the past 12 months at ages 5–11 years, while girls were most likely to have had an asthma attack in the past 12 months at ages 12–17 years.
- Non-Hispanic black children (14%) were more likely than non-Hispanic white or Hispanic children (11% and 10%, respectively) to have ever been diagnosed with asthma.
- Children from single-mother families (14%) were more likely to have ever been diagnosed with asthma than children from two-parent families (11%).
- Twelve percent of U.S. children under 18 years of age suffered from respiratory allergies, 10% suffered from hay fever, and 10% suffered from other allergies in the past 12 months.
- As the level of a parent's education increases, the proportion of children with all types of allergies increases. Six percent of children whose parent had less than a high school education had hay fever compared with 13% of children whose parent continued education beyond high school.
- Children with private health insurance coverage were more likely to have had hay fever and respiratory allergies (12% and 13%, respectively) than children with

Medicaid (8% and 10%, respectively) or who were uninsured (8% and 9%, respectively).

Attention Deficit Disorder and Learning Disabilities (table 3)

- An estimated 4.6 million children 3–17 years of age (8%) had a learning disability (LD), and an estimated 3.3 million children (6%) had Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).
- The percent of boys with LD was almost double that for girls, and the percent of boys with ADD was more than triple that for girls.
- The percent of children with ADD remains fairly constant for all levels of income, but the percent of children with LD in the lowest income group is double that of the highest income group.
- The percent with LD was about the same (7%) for children with private health insurance coverage and children who were uninsured. Nearly twice as many children with Medicaid coverage had LD (13%).
- Children with a fair or poor health status were 4 times as likely to have LD and 3 times as likely to have ADD compared with children with an excellent, very good, or good health status.

Medication Use (table 4)

- Nine percent or 6.6 million children in the United States had a problem for which prescription medication had been taken regularly for at least 3 months.
- Children aged 12–17 years were more likely to have been on medication regularly for at least 3 months (13%) than children aged 5–11 years (9%) or children less than 5 years of age (5%).
- Eleven percent of boys compared with 8% of girls were on medication regularly for at least 3 months.
- Hispanic children (7%) were less likely to have been on medication regularly for at least 3 months than either non-Hispanic white or non-Hispanic black children (10% and 9%, respectively).

- The percent of children who were on medication regularly for at least 3 months was about twice as high for children with either private health insurance coverage or Medicaid as for children with no insurance coverage.

Respondent-Assessed Health Status (tables 5–8)

- In 1997, the overwhelming majority of children in the United States enjoyed excellent or very good health (58 million children or 82%). In addition, 11 million children (16%) were in good health. The remaining 2% of children were in fair (1.2 million) or poor (0.2 million) health.
- Children's health status was associated with race/ethnicity. Sixty percent of non-Hispanic white children had excellent health compared with 45% of non-Hispanic black children and 42% of Hispanic children.
- Parent's education was positively associated with their children's health. Only 38% of children whose parents did not complete high school were in excellent health compared with 48% of children whose parents completed 12 years of school and 62% of children whose parents had more than 12 years of education.
- Children living in two-parent families were more likely to be in excellent health (58%) than children living in single-mother families (44%) or children living in single father families (49%).
- Poverty status was also positively associated with children's health. Children from not poor families were more likely to be in excellent health (63%) than children from near poor families (50%) or children from poor families (40%).
- Children with Medicaid insurance coverage were far less likely to be in excellent health (38%) than children with private health insurance (60%) or children with no health insurance coverage (48%).
- In general, a child's health status was much more likely to be the same as last year than to be better than last year and much more likely to be better than last year than to be worse than last year.
- Among children with a currently good health status, the chance of the child's having experienced an improved health status since a year ago was greater for children whose parent had more than 12 years of education (35%) than for children whose parent had less than 12 years of education (23%).

School-Loss Days Due to Illness or Injury (tables 9, 10)

- Of the 51.6 million school-aged children (aged 5–17 years) in the United States, 13 million or about one quarter never missed a day of school in the past 12 months due to illness or injury. Approximately one quarter missed 1–2 days, and about one quarter missed 3–5 days of school.
- Six percent of all school-aged children (aged 5–17 years) missed more than 10 days of school because of illness or injury in the past 12 months.
- Non-Hispanic black and Hispanic children were more likely than non-Hispanic white children to have missed no school in the past 12 months due to illness or injury. Children who were poor or near poor were more likely than children who were not poor to have missed no school due to illness or injury.
- Children in a single-mother family were absent from school for more than 10 days in the past year at about twice the rate of children in two-parent families or children in single-father families.
- Children whose parents are less educated were more likely to miss more than 10 days of school in the past 12 months than children whose parents have more education. Nine percent of children whose parents do not have a high school education and 7% whose parents have a high school diploma missed more than 10 days of school compared with 5% of

children whose parents have education beyond high school.

Usual Source of Medical Care (tables 11,12)

- In 1997, most children in the United States had a usual source of medical care (94%).
- Among children with a usual source of medical care, 76% visited a doctor's office, 21% received care in a clinic, 2% used a hospital outpatient department, and 1% used a hospital emergency room (ER) as a usual source of medical care.
- The highest percent of children who used the ER for routine care was children who were uninsured (4%) compared with the lowest percent among children who had private health insurance coverage (0.2%) or Medicaid (1%).
- Non-Hispanic white children with a usual source of care were more likely to use a doctor's office for that care (81%) than non-Hispanic black children or Hispanic children (64% and 65%, respectively). Hispanic and non-Hispanic black children were more likely to have a clinic as their usual source of care (30% each) than were non-Hispanic white children (17%).
- Children living with two parents were more likely to go to a doctor's office for care (79%) compared with those living in a single-mother family (67%).

Time Since Last Contact with a Health Care Professional (tables 13,14)

- Most children had contact with a doctor or other health professional at some time during the past 12 months, ranging from 84% of children (aged 12–17 years) to 97% of children 0–4 years of age.
- Children living in a single-father family were less likely to have had contact with a doctor or other health professional in the past 6 months (57%) compared with children living

in a single-mother or a two-parent family (72% and 72%, respectively).

- Ninety-one percent of children with private health insurance coverage and 93% of those with Medicaid had contact with a doctor or other health professional in the past 12 months compared with 74% of children with no insurance coverage. Seven percent of uninsured children had not had a contact with a doctor or other health professional in over 3 years (or never had such contact) compared with 1% for both children with private coverage and children with Medicaid.

Unmet Medical Need (tables 15,16)

- In 1997, there were 9.4 million or 13% of children with no health insurance coverage. This ranged from 3% of children in families with an income of \$75,000 or more to 22% of children in families with an income of less than \$20,000.
- One and one-half million children (2%) were unable to get needed medical care because the family couldn't afford it, and medical care for 2.7 million children (4%) was delayed because of worry about the cost.
- The percent of children with unmet medical need was twice as high in single-mother families (4%) as in two-parent families (2%).
- Poor and near poor families were most likely to have selected health care risk factors such as being uninsured, having unmet medical need, delaying care, having no usual source of medical care, and having high use of emergency room services.
- When compared with children with an excellent, very good, or good health status, children with a fair or poor health status were:
 - 5 times as likely to have unmet medical needs (10% versus 2%)
 - 3 times as likely to have delayed medical care (12% versus 4%)
 - 4 times as likely to have two or more emergency room visits (28% versus 7%).

Dental Care (tables 17,18)

- An estimated 3.8 million children had unmet dental needs because families could not afford dental care.
- Non-Hispanic white children were most likely to have had a dental contact in the past 6 months and in the past 12 months (59% and 76%, respectively) compared with non-Hispanic black children (45% and 69%), Hispanic children (40% and 61%), and Mexican-American children (36% and 56%).
- Hispanic children were more than 1.5 times as likely as non-Hispanic white children or non-Hispanic black children to have had no dental contact for more than 3 years.

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Table 1. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever told had asthma or had an asthma attack in the past 12 months, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Ever told had asthma ¹	Had asthma attack in past 12 months ¹	Percent ² (standard error)	
				Ever told had asthma	Had asthma attack in past 12 months
	Number in thousands ²			Percent ² (standard error)	
Total	71,359	8,118	3,885	11.4 (0.33)	5.4 (0.22)
Sex					
Male	36,534	4,740	2,163	13.0 (0.50)	5.9 (0.33)
Female	34,825	3,378	1,722	9.7 (0.42)	4.9 (0.31)
Age					
0–4 years	19,724	1,398	812	7.1 (0.51)	4.1 (0.39)
5–17 years	51,635	6,720	3,073	13.0 (0.40)	6.0 (0.26)
5–11 years	28,272	3,460	1,628	12.3 (0.53)	5.8 (0.38)
12–17 years	23,364	3,260	1,445	14.0 (0.60)	6.2 (0.41)
Race/ethnicity ³					
White, non-Hispanic	46,509	5,180	2,437	11.2 (0.41)	5.2 (0.28)
Black, non-Hispanic	10,824	1,471	725	13.6 (0.77)	6.7 (0.54)
Other, non-Hispanic	3,369	394	177	11.7 (1.60)	5.2 (1.08)
Hispanic	10,657	1,072	546	10.1 (0.61)	5.1 (0.43)
Mexican American	5,914	517	270	8.8 (0.80)	4.6 (0.51)
Family structure ⁴					
Mother and father	51,645	5,482	2,716	10.6 (0.38)	5.3 (0.26)
Mother, no father	15,979	2,220	1,000	13.9 (0.73)	6.3 (0.50)
Father, no mother	1,674	177	67	10.7 (1.79)	4.0 (1.14)
Neither mother nor father	2,048	239	103	11.7 (1.74)	5.0 (1.23)
Parent's education ⁵					
Less than 12 years	9,599	1,063	536	11.1 (1.01)	5.6 (0.69)
12 years	17,514	1,901	772	10.9 (0.59)	4.4 (0.40)
More than 12 years	41,744	4,895	2,458	11.7 (0.43)	5.9 (0.31)
Family Income ⁶					
Less than \$20,000	16,561	2,173	947	13.2 (0.73)	5.7 (0.45)
\$20,000 or more	52,144	5,787	2,862	11.1 (0.37)	5.5 (0.26)
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,656	1,159	599	9.9 (0.79)	5.1 (0.57)
\$35,000–\$54,999	14,009	1,615	772	11.5 (0.61)	5.5 (0.51)
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,880	1,037	505	10.5 (0.85)	5.1 (0.64)
\$75,000 or more	10,992	1,376	698	12.5 (0.93)	6.4 (0.67)
Poverty status ⁷					
Poor	12,021	1,541	677	12.9 (0.92)	5.6 (0.59)
Near poor	13,252	1,370	702	10.3 (0.71)	5.3 (0.53)
Not poor	35,437	4,140	2,013	11.7 (0.47)	5.7 (0.34)
Health insurance coverage ⁸					
Private	47,358	5,156	2,448	10.9 (0.39)	5.2 (0.27)
Medicaid/other public	12,276	1,821	927	14.9 (0.86)	7.6 (0.60)
Other	1,735	258	107	14.8 (2.15)	6.2 (1.44)
Uninsured	9,386	811	377	8.7 (0.76)	4.0 (0.57)
Place of residence					
Large MSA ⁹	33,535	3,864	1,887	11.6 (0.48)	5.6 (0.32)
Small MSA ⁹	23,258	2,617	1,253	11.3 (0.59)	5.4 (0.40)
Not in MSA ⁹	14,566	1,637	745	11.3 (0.72)	5.1 (0.46)
Region					
Northeast	13,860	1,829	845	13.2 (0.90)	6.1 (0.52)
Midwest	17,815	1,884	907	10.6 (0.62)	5.1 (0.44)
South	24,899	2,540	1,232	10.2 (0.52)	4.9 (0.36)
West	14,785	1,865	901	12.6 (0.74)	6.1 (0.48)

Table 1. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever told had asthma or had an asthma attack in the past 12 months, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Ever told had asthma ¹	Had asthma attack in past 12 months ¹	Ever told had asthma	Had asthma attack in past 12 months
	Number in thousands ²		Percent ² (standard error)		
Current health status					
Excellent/very good/good	69,883	7,595	3,498	10.9 (0.33)	5.0 (0.22)
Fair/poor	1,441	519	387	36.2 (3.26)	27.0 (3.11)
Sex and age					
Male:					
0–4 years	10,092	869	504	8.7 (0.80)	5.0 (0.61)
5–17 years	26,442	3,871	1,659	14.7 (0.62)	6.3 (0.40)
5–11 years	14,390	2,142	1,007	14.9 (0.86)	7.0 (0.61)
12–17 years	12,052	1,729	653	14.4 (0.88)	5.4 (0.53)
Female:					
0–4 years	9,632	529	309	5.5 (0.58)	3.2 (0.47)
5–17 years	25,193	2,848	1,413	11.3 (0.54)	5.6 (0.40)
5–11 years	13,881	1,318	621	9.5 (0.63)	4.5 (0.45)
12–17 years	11,312	1,530	792	13.6 (0.81)	7.0 (0.65)

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) questions: "Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that [S.C.name] had asthma?" "During the past 12 months, has [S.C.name] had an episode of asthma or an asthma attack?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Additionally, numbers may not add to their respective totals because of rounding.

³"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁵Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 2. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of hay fever, respiratory allergies, and other allergies in the past 12 months for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Hay fever ¹	Respiratory allergies ¹	Other allergies ¹	Hay fever	Respiratory allergies	Other allergies
Total	71,359	7,380	8,526	7,304	10.4 (0.29)	12.0 (0.31)	10.3 (0.30)
Sex							
Male	36,534	4,038	4,665	3,690	11.1 (0.43)	12.8 (0.48)	10.1 (0.41)
Female	34,825	3,342	3,861	3,614	9.6 (0.42)	11.1 (0.47)	10.4 (0.44)
Age							
0–4 years	19,724	898	1,641	2,182	4.6 (0.37)	8.3 (0.51)	11.1 (0.57)
5–17 years	51,635	6,483	6,885	5,122	12.6 (0.38)	13.4 (0.40)	9.9 (0.35)
5–11 years	28,272	3,095	3,438	2,773	11.0 (0.48)	12.2 (0.56)	9.8 (0.52)
12–17 years	23,364	3,387	3,447	2,349	14.6 (0.63)	14.8 (0.57)	10.1 (0.51)
Race/ethnicity ³							
White, non-Hispanic	46,509	5,218	6,234	4,825	11.3 (0.40)	13.5 (0.43)	10.4 (0.38)
Black, non-Hispanic	10,824	934	1,111	1,311	8.7 (0.65)	10.3 (0.75)	12.2 (0.81)
Other, non-Hispanic	3,369	353	350	390	10.5 (1.35)	10.4 (1.59)	11.6 (1.56)
Hispanic	10,657	875	832	779	8.2 (0.54)	7.8 (0.52)	7.3 (0.51)
Mexican American	5,914	419	392	353	7.1 (0.70)	6.6 (0.65)	6.0 (0.61)
Family structure ⁴							
Mother and father	51,645	5,440	6,187	5,115	10.6 (0.37)	12.0 (0.38)	9.9 (0.34)
Mother, no father	15,979	1,585	1,998	1,918	10.0 (0.57)	12.6 (0.68)	12.0 (0.66)
Father, no mother	1,674	201	145	101	12.1 (2.05)	8.7 (1.63)	6.1 (1.46)
Neither mother nor father	2,048	155	196	168	7.6 (1.28)	9.6 (1.60)	8.2 (1.47)
Parent's Education ⁵							
Less than 12 years	9,599	552	775	764	5.8 (0.55)	8.1 (0.76)	8.0 (0.70)
12 years	17,514	1,415	1,605	1,623	8.1 (0.49)	9.2 (0.57)	9.3 (0.60)
More than 12 years	41,744	5,247	5,935	4,734	12.6 (0.43)	14.3 (0.46)	11.3 (0.39)
Family income ⁶							
Less than \$20,000	16,561	1,370	1,801	1,774	8.3 (0.50)	10.9 (0.63)	10.7 (0.63)
\$20,000 or more	52,144	5,847	6,539	5,353	11.3 (0.36)	12.6 (0.39)	10.3 (0.35)
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,656	1,122	1,341	1,298	9.7 (0.68)	11.5 (0.83)	11.2 (0.77)
\$35,000–\$54,999	14,009	1,527	1,875	1,275	10.9 (0.69)	13.4 (0.78)	9.1 (0.64)
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,880	1,147	1,244	1,082	11.7 (0.83)	12.6 (0.88)	11.0 (0.84)
\$75,000 or more	10,992	1,602	1,545	1,339	14.6 (0.97)	14.1 (0.95)	12.2 (0.83)
Poverty status ⁷							
Poor	12,021	911	1,278	1,298	7.6 (0.59)	10.6 (0.68)	10.8 (0.79)
Near poor	13,252	1,288	1,459	1,344	9.7 (0.68)	11.0 (0.74)	10.2 (0.71)
Not poor	35,437	4,424	4,858	3,923	12.5 (0.46)	13.8 (0.48)	11.1 (0.42)
Health insurance coverage ⁸							
Private	47,358	5,437	6,199	4,907	11.5 (0.39)	13.1 (0.40)	10.4 (0.37)
Medicaid/other public	12,276	944	1,222	1,402	7.7 (0.58)	10.0 (0.73)	11.4 (0.78)
Other	1,735	183	184	189	10.6 (2.14)	10.6 (2.20)	10.9 (1.94)
Uninsured	9,386	736	849	755	7.9 (0.64)	9.1 (0.75)	8.1 (0.75)
Place of Residence							
Large MSA ⁹	33,535	3,309	3,566	3,287	9.9 (0.40)	10.7 (0.44)	9.8 (0.39)
Small MSA ⁹	23,258	2,571	3,068	2,582	11.1 (0.53)	13.2 (0.58)	11.1 (0.55)
Not in MSA ⁹	14,566	1,500	1,892	1,436	10.4 (0.69)	13.0 (0.75)	9.9 (0.72)
Region							
Northeast	13,860	1,225	1,450	1,514	8.9 (0.62)	10.5 (0.71)	10.9 (0.70)
Midwest	17,815	1,812	2,009	1,712	10.2 (0.58)	11.3 (0.58)	9.6 (0.58)
South	24,899	2,668	3,637	2,566	10.8 (0.54)	14.7 (0.56)	10.3 (0.53)
West	14,785	1,676	1,431	1,512	11.4 (0.55)	9.7 (0.70)	10.2 (0.61)

Table 2. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of hay fever, respiratory allergies, and other allergies in the past 12 months for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Hay fever ¹	Respiratory allergies ¹	Other allergies ¹	Hay fever	Respiratory allergies	Other allergies
Current health status	Number in thousands ²				Percent ² (standard errors)		
Excellent/very good/good	69,883	7,152	7,981	6,966	10.3 (0.30)	11.5 (0.31)	10.0 (0.30)
Fair/poor	1,441	229	542	339	16.1 (2.38)	38.0 (3.58)	23.8 (2.93)
Sex and age							
Male:							
0–4 years	10,092	480	895	1,195	4.8 (0.50)	8.9 (0.75)	11.9 (0.85)
5–17 years	26,442	3,559	3,770	2,495	13.5 (0.56)	14.4 (0.60)	9.5 (0.46)
5–11 years	14,390	1,794	1,983	1,410	12.5 (0.77)	13.9 (0.84)	9.8 (0.71)
12–17 years	12,052	1,764	1,788	1,085	14.7 (0.85)	14.9 (0.83)	9.0 (0.65)
Female:							
0–4 years	9,632	418	746	987	4.4 (0.50)	7.8 (0.82)	10.3 (0.79)
5–17 years	25,193	2,924	3,115	2,627	11.7 (0.55)	12.4 (0.56)	10.4 (0.53)
5–11 years	13,881	1,301	1,455	1,363	9.4 (0.70)	10.5 (0.71)	9.8 (0.76)
12–17 years	11,312	1,623	1,660	1,264	14.4 (0.86)	14.7 (0.84)	11.2 (0.77)

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) questions: "During the past 12 months, has [S.C.name] had any of the following conditions? Hay fever? Any kind of respiratory allergy? Any kind of food or digestive allergy? Eczema or any kind of skin allergy?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report. A child may be counted in more than one category.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Additionally, numbers may not add to their respective totals because of rounding.

³"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁵Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 3. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever told had a learning disability or Attention Deficit Disorder, for children 3–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 3–17 years	Ever told had learning disability ¹	Ever told had Attention Deficit Disorder ¹	Percent ² (standard error)	
				Learning disability ¹	Attention Deficit Disorder ¹
	Number in thousands ²			Percent ² (standard error)	
Total	59,903	4,642	3,296	7.8 (0.30)	5.5 (0.24)
Sex					
Male	30,617	3,092	2,534	10.1 (0.49)	8.3 (0.41)
Female	29,286	1,550	762	5.3 (0.36)	2.6 (0.26)
Age					
3–4 years	8,267	146	43	1.8 (0.37)	0.5 (0.15)
5–17 years	51,635	4,496	3,252	8.7 (0.34)	6.3 (0.28)
5–11 years	28,272	2,041	1,659	7.2 (0.41)	5.9 (0.37)
12–17 years	23,364	2,455	1,594	10.5 (0.58)	6.8 (0.44)
Race/ethnicity ³					
White, non-Hispanic	39,242	3,341	2,557	8.5 (0.39)	6.5 (0.32)
Black, non-Hispanic	9,166	695	389	7.6 (0.75)	4.3 (0.50)
Other, non-Hispanic	2,869	116	70	4.1 (1.16)	*2.4 (0.82)
Hispanic	8,626	489	280	5.7 (0.47)	3.3 (0.42)
Mexican American	4,763	211	113	4.4 (0.53)	2.4 (0.49)
Family Structure ⁴					
Mother and father	42,817	2,939	2,148	6.9 (0.34)	5.0 (0.28)
Mother, no father	13,603	1,449	898	10.7 (0.70)	6.6 (0.53)
Father, no mother	1,589	125	145	7.9 (1.62)	9.1 (1.89)
Neither mother nor father	1,894	128	105	6.8 (1.31)	5.5 (1.29)
Parent's education ⁵					
Less than 12 years	7,837	743	392	9.5 (0.90)	5.0 (0.67)
12 years	14,877	1,382	859	9.3 (0.62)	5.8 (0.54)
More than 12 years	34,900	2,388	1,936	6.9 (0.36)	5.6 (0.32)
Family income ⁶					
Less than \$20,000	13,372	1,460	872	11.0 (0.69)	6.5 (0.58)
\$20,000 or more	44,275	3,065	2,337	6.9 (0.33)	5.3 (0.27)
\$20,000–\$34,999	9,751	838	550	8.6 (0.76)	5.7 (0.65)
\$35,000–\$54,999	11,793	964	642	8.2 (0.68)	5.5 (0.54)
\$55,000–\$74,999	8,403	552	445	6.6 (0.74)	5.3 (0.68)
\$75,000 or more	9,431	521	543	5.5 (0.61)	5.8 (0.62)
Poverty status ⁷					
Poor	9,888	1,002	540	10.2 (0.79)	5.5 (0.67)
Near poor	10,927	1,158	699	10.6 (0.82)	6.4 (0.71)
Not poor	30,063	1,984	1,686	6.6 (0.38)	5.6 (0.35)
Health insurance coverage ⁸					
Private	40,511	2,709	2,193	6.7 (0.34)	5.4 (0.29)
Medicaid/other public	9,334	1,233	758	13.3 (0.90)	8.2 (0.72)
Other	1,425	97	74	6.8 (1.83)	5.2 (1.49)
Uninsured	8,147	585	249	7.2 (0.79)	3.1 (0.48)
Place of residence					
Large MSA ⁹	27,839	2,014	1,402	7.3 (0.36)	5.1 (0.34)
Small MSA ⁹	19,464	1,526	1,207	7.9 (0.57)	6.2 (0.48)
Not in MSA ⁹	12,600	1,102	686	8.8 (0.74)	5.5 (0.52)
Region					
Northeast	11,521	916	536	8.0 (0.66)	4.7 (0.53)
Midwest	14,996	1,218	919	8.1 (0.62)	6.1 (0.50)
South	21,064	1,669	1,289	8.0 (0.55)	6.1 (0.44)
West	12,321	838	552	6.8 (0.50)	4.5 (0.47)

Table 3. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever told had a learning disability or Attention Deficit Disorder, for children 3–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 3–17 years	Ever told had learning disability ¹	Ever told had Attention Deficit Disorder ¹	Learning disability ¹	Attention Deficit Disorder ¹
Current health status	Number in thousands ²			Percent ² (standard error)	
Excellent/very good/good	58,596	4,259	3,089	7.3 (0.30)	5.3 (0.24)
Fair/poor	1,275	383	207	30.4 (3.51)	16.5 (3.13)
Sex and age					
Male:					
3–4 years	4,174	94	26	2.3 (0.55)	*0.6 (0.24)
5–17 years	26,442	2,998	2,508	11.4 (0.55)	9.5 (0.46)
5–11 years	14,390	1,274	1,231	8.9 (0.66)	8.6 (0.64)
12–17 years	12,052	1,725	1,277	14.3 (0.89)	10.6 (0.72)
Female:					
3–4 years	4,093	52	17	*1.3 (0.51)	*0.4 (0.19)
5–17 years	25,193	1,498	744	6.0 (0.40)	3.0 (0.30)
5–11 years	13,881	767	428	5.5 (0.53)	3.1 (0.45)
12–17 years	11,312	730	316	6.5 (0.63)	2.8 (0.40)

*Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) questions: “Has a representative from a school or a health professional ever told you that [S.C.name] had a learning disability?” “Has a doctor or health professional ever told you that [S.C.name] had Attention Deficit Disorder?” See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. They are, however, included in the “All children” column. Additionally, numbers may not add to their respective totals because of rounding.

³“Other, non-Hispanic” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

⁵Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 4. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of having a problem for which prescription medication had been taken regularly for at least 3 months for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Prescription medication taken regularly for at least 3 months ¹	Prescription medication taken regularly for at least 3 months ¹
Total	71,359	6,559	9.2 (0.29)
Sex			
Male	36,534	3,922	10.8 (0.44)
Female	34,825	2,637	7.6 (0.38)
Age			
0–4 years	19,724	966	4.9 (0.38)
5–17 years	51,635	5,593	10.9 (0.38)
5–11 years	28,272	2,521	8.9 (0.45)
12–17 years	23,364	3,072	13.2 (0.61)
Race/ethnicity ³			
White, non-Hispanic	46,509	4,732	10.2 (0.39)
Black, non-Hispanic	10,824	926	8.6 (0.76)
Other, non-Hispanic	3,369	192	5.7 (1.26)
Hispanic	10,657	709	6.7 (0.46)
Mexican American	5,914	345	5.8 (0.62)
Family structure ⁴			
Mother and father	51,645	4,479	8.7 (0.34)
Mother, no father	15,979	1,742	10.9 (0.61)
Father, no mother	1,674	186	11.1 (1.93)
Neither mother nor father	2,048	153	7.5 (1.40)
Parent's education ⁵			
Less than 12 years	9,599	761	7.9 (0.72)
12 years	17,514	1,459	8.3 (0.57)
More than 12 years	41,744	4,157	10.0 (0.39)
Family income ⁶			
Less than \$20,000	16,561	1,587	9.6 (0.60)
\$20,000 or more	52,144	4,788	9.2 (0.35)
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,656	986	8.5 (0.78)
\$35,000–\$54,999	14,009	1,310	9.4 (0.68)
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,880	879	8.9 (0.79)
\$75,000 or more	10,992	1,188	10.8 (0.78)
Poverty status ⁷			
Poor	12,021	1,209	10.1 (0.75)
Near poor	13,252	1,013	7.6 (0.66)
Not poor	35,437	3,567	10.1 (0.44)
Health insurance coverage ⁸			
Private	47,358	4,468	9.4 (0.37)
Medicaid/other public	12,276	1,417	11.6 (0.75)
Other	1,735	179	10.3 (1.64)
Uninsured	9,386	455	4.9 (0.57)
Place of residence			
Large MSA ⁹	33,535	2,956	8.8 (0.40)
Small MSA ⁹	23,258	2,229	9.6 (0.51)
Not in MSA ⁹	14,566	1,373	9.4 (0.68)
Region			
Northeast	13,860	1,207	8.7 (0.58)
Midwest	17,815	1,717	9.7 (0.61)
South	24,899	2,437	9.8 (0.51)
West	14,785	1,197	8.1 (0.63)

Table 4. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of having a problem for which prescription medication had been taken regularly for at least 3 months for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Prescription medication taken regularly for at least 3 months ¹	Prescription medication taken regularly for at least 3 months ¹
Current health status	Number in thousands ²		Percent ² (standard error)
Excellent/very good/good	69,883	5,842	8.4 (0.27)
Fair/poor	1,441	717	50.0 (3.49)
Sex and age			
Male:			
0–4 years	10,092	561	5.6 (0.60)
5–17 years	26,442	3,361	12.7 (0.55)
5–11 years	14,390	1,652	11.5 (0.68)
12–17 years	12,052	1,709	14.2 (0.85)
Female:			
0–4 years	9,632	405	4.2 (0.50)
5–17 years	25,193	2,232	8.9 (0.50)
5–11 years	13,881	868	6.3 (0.60)
12–17 years	11,312	1,363	12.1 (0.83)

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) question: "Does [S.C.name] now have a problem for which [he/she] has regularly taken prescription medication for at least three months?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Additionally, numbers may not add to their respective totals because of rounding.

³"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁵Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 5. Frequency distributions of respondent-assessed health status for children aged 17 and younger, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Respondent-assessed health status ¹				
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
		Number in thousands ²				
Total	71,359	38,978	19,746	11,158	1,214	227
Sex						
Male	36,534	19,687	10,223	5,792	663	141
Female	34,825	19,292	9,523	5,366	551	86
Age						
0–4 years	19,724	11,231	5,370	2,744	321	53
5–17 years	51,635	27,747	14,376	8,414	893	174
5–11 years	28,272	15,411	7,649	4,600	486	108
12–17 years	23,364	12,336	6,727	3,814	407	66
Race/ethnicity ³						
White, non-Hispanic	46,509	27,941	12,376	5,551	529	90
Black, non-Hispanic	10,824	4,825	3,140	2,429	352	71
Other, non-Hispanic	3,369	1,753	902	671	31	9
Hispanic	10,657	4,459	3,328	2,508	301	57
Mexican American	5,914	2,343	1,787	1,587	161	36
Parental structure ⁴						
Mother and father	51,645	30,094	14,025	6,726	679	100
Mother, no father	15,979	7,098	4,633	3,645	486	108
Father, no mother	1,674	814	557	276	17	10
Neither mother nor father	2,048	972	524	508	32	8
Parent's education ⁵						
Less than 12 years	9,599	3,662	2,706	2,757	396	76
12 years	17,514	8,338	5,110	3,665	348	46
More than 12 years	41,744	25,844	11,227	4,147	429	97
Family income ⁶						
Less than \$20,000	16,561	6,706	4,757	4,378	602	114
\$20,000 or more	52,144	31,092	14,179	6,233	537	104
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,656	5,902	3,221	2,284	204	46
\$35,000–\$54,999	14,009	8,094	3,981	1,756	166	12
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,880	6,264	2,679	815	108	14
\$75,000 or more	10,992	7,658	2,689	605	41	*–
Poverty status ⁷						
Poor	12,021	4,743	3,404	3,353	429	92
Near poor	13,252	6,642	3,706	2,564	282	55
Not poor	35,437	22,379	9,495	3,197	336	31
Health insurance ⁸						
Private	47,358	28,415	13,082	5,345	415	94
Medicaid/other public	12,276	4,661	3,481	3,463	571	96
Other	1,735	1,021	425	274	15	*–
Uninsured	9,386	4,516	2,603	2,010	210	38
Place of residence						
Large MSA ⁹	33,535	18,389	9,484	5,036	508	104
Small MSA ⁹	23,258	12,863	6,253	3,581	461	94
Not in MSA ⁹	14,566	7,727	4,009	2,541	244	29
Region						
Northeast	13,860	7,586	4,119	1,921	192	35
Midwest	17,815	10,052	5,115	2,372	220	49
South	24,899	13,296	6,532	4,432	531	89
West	14,785	8,045	3,980	2,433	270	54

Table 5. Frequency distributions of respondent-assessed health status for children aged 17 and younger, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Respondent-assessed health status ¹				
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Sex and age		Number in thousands ²				
Male:						
0–4 years	10,092	5,701	2,860	1,343	160	28
5–17 years	26,442	13,986	7,363	4,449	503	113
5–11 years	14,390	7,589	3,878	2,529	306	70
12–17 years	12,052	6,397	3,485	1,920	197	43
Female:						
0–4 years	9,632	5,530	2,510	1,401	161	25
5–17 years	25,193	13,761	7,013	3,965	390	60
5–11 years	13,881	7,823	3,770	2,071	180	38
12–17 years	11,312	5,939	3,243	1,894	210	23

*Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Data in this table are based on the following question: “Would you say [subject’s name] health in general was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?” Information about all children under 18 years of age was obtained from a knowledgeable family member.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions. They are, however, included in the “All children” column. Hence, row frequencies may not sum to the total number of children in column 1. Additionally, numbers may not add to their respective totals because of rounding.

³“Other, non-Hispanic” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

⁵Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 6. Percent distribution (with standard errors) of respondent-assessed health status for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Respondent-assessed health status ¹				
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
		Percent distribution ² (standard error)				
Total	100.0 (0.00)	54.6 (0.53)	27.7 (0.49)	15.6 (0.39)	1.7 (0.13)	0.3 (0.05)
Sex						
Male	100.0 (0.00)	53.9 (0.77)	28.0 (0.69)	15.9 (0.52)	1.8 (0.19)	0.4 (0.08)
Female	100.0 (0.00)	55.4 (0.72)	27.4 (0.66)	15.4 (0.55)	1.6 (0.17)	0.2 (0.06)
Age						
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	57.0 (0.94)	27.2 (0.84)	13.9 (0.62)	1.6 (0.24)	*0.3 (0.09)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	53.8 (0.60)	27.9 (0.58)	16.3 (0.46)	1.7 (0.16)	0.3 (0.06)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	54.5 (0.88)	27.1 (0.78)	16.3 (0.63)	1.7 (0.20)	0.4 (0.10)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	52.8 (0.86)	28.8 (0.85)	16.3 (0.66)	1.7 (0.25)	0.3 (0.08)
Race/ethnicity ³						
White, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	60.1 (0.67)	26.6 (0.58)	11.9 (0.45)	1.1 (0.13)	0.2 (0.06)
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	44.6 (1.34)	29.0 (1.31)	22.5 (1.09)	3.3 (0.44)	0.7 (0.19)
Other, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	52.1 (2.49)	26.8 (2.22)	19.9 (2.15)	*0.9 (0.44)	*0.3 (0.21)
Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	41.9 (1.13)	31.2 (1.16)	23.5 (0.86)	2.8 (0.31)	0.5 (0.14)
Mexican American	100.0 (0.00)	39.6 (1.38)	30.2 (1.46)	26.8 (1.25)	2.7 (0.39)	*0.6 (0.22)
Family structure ⁴						
Mother and father	100.0 (0.00)	58.3 (0.64)	27.2 (0.54)	13.0 (0.42)	1.3 (0.13)	0.2 (0.05)
Mother, no father	100.0 (0.00)	44.4 (1.02)	29.0 (1.00)	22.8 (0.94)	3.0 (0.32)	0.7 (0.16)
Father, no mother	100.0 (0.00)	48.6 (3.16)	33.2 (2.63)	16.5 (2.16)	*1.0 (0.52)	*0.6 (0.43)
Neither mother nor father	100.0 (0.00)	47.6 (2.93)	25.6 (2.60)	24.9 (2.47)	*1.6 (0.55)	*0.4 (0.41)
Parent's education ⁵						
Less than 12 years	100.0 (0.00)	38.2 (1.27)	28.2 (1.18)	28.7 (1.22)	4.1 (0.51)	0.8 (0.21)
12 years	100.0 (0.00)	47.6 (1.04)	29.2 (0.94)	20.9 (0.91)	2.0 (0.26)	*0.3 (0.10)
More than 12 years	100.0 (0.00)	61.9 (0.65)	26.9 (0.61)	9.9 (0.40)	1.0 (0.14)	0.2 (0.06)
Family income ⁶						
Less than \$20,000	100.0 (0.00)	40.5 (0.99)	28.7 (0.96)	26.4 (0.98)	3.6 (0.36)	0.7 (0.16)
\$20,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	59.6 (0.62)	27.2 (0.55)	12.0 (0.42)	1.0 (0.12)	0.2 (0.05)
\$20,000–\$34,999	100.0 (0.00)	50.6 (1.27)	27.6 (1.18)	19.6 (1.02)	1.8 (0.26)	*0.4 (0.13)
\$35,000–\$54,999	100.0 (0.00)	57.8 (1.17)	28.4 (1.11)	12.5 (0.76)	1.2 (0.23)	*0.1 (0.05)
\$55,000–\$74,999	100.0 (0.00)	63.4 (1.31)	27.1 (1.19)	8.3 (0.73)	*1.1 (0.34)	*0.1 (0.11)
\$75,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	69.7 (1.23)	24.5 (1.10)	5.5 (0.60)	*0.4 (0.15)	*–
Poverty status ⁷						
Poor	100.0 (0.00)	39.5 (1.20)	28.3 (1.16)	27.9 (1.15)	3.6 (0.44)	0.8 (0.20)
Near poor	100.0 (0.00)	50.1 (1.15)	28.0 (1.09)	19.4 (0.92)	2.1 (0.28)	0.4 (0.12)
Not poor	100.0 (0.00)	63.2 (0.74)	26.8 (0.63)	9.0 (0.40)	0.9 (0.16)	*0.1 (0.04)
Health insurance ⁸						
Private	100.0 (0.00)	60.0 (0.62)	27.6 (0.57)	11.3 (0.41)	0.9 (0.12)	0.2 (0.06)
Medicaid/other public	100.0 (0.00)	38.0 (1.12)	28.4 (1.20)	28.2 (1.19)	4.7 (0.49)	0.8 (0.17)
Other	100.0 (0.00)	58.8 (3.04)	24.5 (2.75)	15.8 (2.21)	*0.9 (0.53)	*–
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	48.2 (1.43)	27.8 (1.15)	21.4 (1.09)	2.2 (0.36)	*0.4 (0.16)
Place of residence						
Large MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	54.9 (0.75)	28.3 (0.70)	15.0 (0.51)	1.5 (0.17)	0.3 (0.07)
Small MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	55.3 (0.92)	26.9 (0.85)	15.4 (0.68)	2.0 (0.25)	0.4 (0.10)
Not in MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	53.1 (1.23)	27.6 (1.12)	17.5 (1.04)	1.7 (0.27)	*0.2 (0.11)
Region						
Northeast	100.0 (0.00)	54.8 (1.45)	29.7 (1.24)	13.9 (0.75)	1.4 (0.26)	*0.3 (0.12)
Midwest	100.0 (0.00)	56.4 (0.93)	28.7 (0.96)	13.3 (0.81)	1.2 (0.20)	*0.3 (0.11)
South	100.0 (0.00)	53.4 (0.91)	26.3 (0.86)	17.8 (0.71)	2.1 (0.26)	0.4 (0.09)
West	100.0 (0.00)	54.4 (1.05)	26.9 (0.90)	16.5 (0.74)	1.8 (0.24)	0.4 (0.11)

Table 6. Percent distribution (with standard errors) of respondent-assessed health status for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Respondent-assessed health status ¹				
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Sex and age		Percent distribution ² (standard error)				
Male:						
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	56.5 (1.34)	28.3 (1.23)	13.3 (0.83)	1.6 (0.33)	*0.3 (0.13)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	52.9 (0.83)	27.9 (0.79)	16.8 (0.63)	1.9 (0.24)	0.4 (0.10)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	52.8 (1.14)	27.0 (1.04)	17.6 (0.86)	2.1 (0.33)	*0.5 (0.15)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	53.1 (1.20)	28.9 (1.12)	15.9 (0.91)	1.6 (0.36)	*0.4 (0.14)
Female:						
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	57.4 (1.33)	26.1 (1.11)	14.6 (0.91)	1.7 (0.34)	*0.3 (0.13)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	54.6 (0.86)	27.8 (0.82)	15.7 (0.63)	1.5 (0.20)	*0.2 (0.07)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	56.4 (1.28)	27.2 (1.14)	14.9 (0.86)	1.3 (0.23)	*0.3 (0.11)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	52.5 (1.27)	28.7 (1.16)	16.7 (0.94)	1.9 (0.33)	*0.2 (0.08)

*Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Data in this table are based on the following question: “Would you say [subject’s name] health in general was excellent, very good, fair, or poor?” Information about all children under 18 years of age was obtained from a knowledgeable family member.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100.0% because of rounding.

³“Other, non-Hispanic” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

⁵Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 7. Frequency distributions of health status compared with a year ago given current health status for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 1–17 years	Current health status ¹								
		Excellent/very good			Good			Fair/poor		
		Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year
		Number in thousands ²								
Total	67,562	11,503	43,282	529	3,072	7,205	397	356	823	203
Sex										
Male	34,588	6,322	21,619	264	1,539	3,789	182	184	443	125
Female	32,974	5,180	21,663	265	1,533	3,416	215	172	380	78
Age										
1–4 years	15,927	3,753	9,390	132	873	1,288	115	115	174	35
5–17 years	51,635	7,749	33,892	397	2,199	5,918	282	241	650	168
5–11 years	28,272	4,466	18,336	204	1,290	3,144	159	165	352	68
12–17 years	23,364	3,284	15,556	193	909	2,773	123	76	297	100
Race/ethnicity ³										
White, non-Hispanic	44,073	7,159	30,546	325	1,602	3,511	226	155	320	115
Black, non-Hispanic	10,335	1,609	5,890	70	605	1,623	85	66	272	67
Other, non-Hispanic	3,200	690	1,752	61	155	480	3	7	34	*–
Hispanic	9,954	2,045	5,094	72	710	1,591	82	129	197	21
Mexican American	5,532	1,072	2,705	43	463	1,022	37	71	105	10
Family structure ⁴										
Mother and father	48,587	8,361	32,581	408	1,923	4,218	251	238	392	113
Mother, no father	15,299	2,486	8,555	91	926	2,447	142	110	380	84
Father, no mother	1,655	327	1,017	13	91	180	*–	*–	19	5
Neither mother nor father	2,016	330	1,130	17	129	360	3	8	32	*–
Parent's education ⁵										
Less than 12 years	9,008	1,474	4,361	67	602	1,960	70	135	270	57
12 years	16,663	2,671	9,977	76	947	2,471	104	89	245	38
More than 12 years	39,433	7,012	27,541	369	1,368	2,367	219	123	276	108
Family income ⁶										
Less than \$20,000	15,531	2,716	7,799	107	1,142	2,885	159	192	407	95
\$20,000 or more	49,490	8,503	33,950	391	1,796	3,950	223	153	356	104
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,081	2,088	6,442	90	658	1,499	51	37	178	24
\$35,000–\$54,999	13,250	2,468	8,782	103	585	1,050	82	49	101	15
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,390	1,593	6,866	48	196	524	40	54	32	36
\$75,000 or more	10,456	1,736	7,988	130	192	346	23	14	17	7
Poverty status ⁷										
Poor	11,315	2,054	5,496	55	860	2,217	127	140	296	69
Near poor	12,525	2,227	7,381	82	793	1,653	49	52	240	37
Not poor	33,620	6,033	23,867	306	957	1,932	155	126	158	60
Health insurance coverage ⁸										
Private	45,100	7,537	31,514	343	1,480	3,432	223	118	256	108
Medicaid/other public	11,166	1,911	5,271	71	973	2,155	121	161	408	67
Other	1,629	303	1,001	32	83	172	10	5	9	1
Uninsured	9,102	1,626	5,161	77	517	1,398	43	72	149	26
Place of residence										
Large MSA ⁹	31,513	5,486	20,303	264	1,355	3,223	181	136	387	61
Small MSA ⁹	22,059	3,779	14,069	180	1,060	2,317	89	144	273	107
Not in MSA ⁹	13,990	2,237	8,910	85	657	1,666	127	75	163	36
Region										
Northeast	13,074	2,058	8,816	123	563	1,174	90	36	158	33
Midwest	16,864	2,659	11,569	121	588	1,583	64	64	130	45
South	23,690	4,100	14,469	163	1,199	2,877	184	146	381	74
West	13,935	2,687	8,427	122	722	1,572	59	109	154	51

Table 7. Frequency distributions of health status compared with a year ago given current health status for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	Current health status ¹									
	All children 1–17 years	Excellent/very good			Good			Fair/poor		
		Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year
Sex and age		Number in thousands ²								
Male:										
1–4 years	8,146	2,047	4,790	54	428	594	48	54	69	22
5–17 years	26,442	4,276	16,829	211	1,111	3,195	134	131	374	103
5–11 years	14,390	2,357	8,994	101	629	1,803	93	106	225	37
12–17 years	12,052	1,919	7,835	110	482	1,392	42	24	150	66
Female:										
1–4 years	7,781	1,707	4,600	78	445	693	67	62	105	13
5–17 years	25,193	3,474	17,063	187	1,088	2,723	148	110	275	65
5–11 years	13,881	2,109	9,342	103	661	1,341	67	59	128	31
12–17 years	11,312	1,364	7,721	83	427	1,382	81	51	148	34

^{*}Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Data in this table are based on the following questions: “Would you say [subject’s name] health in general was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?” “Compared with 12 months ago, would you say [subject’s name]’s health is better, worse, or about the same?” Information about all children under 18 years of age was obtained from a knowledgeable family member. See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions. They are, however, included in the “All children” column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

³“Other, non-Hispanic” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

⁵Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 8. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of health status compared with a year ago given current health status for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	Current health status ¹								
	Excellent/very good			Good			Fair/poor		
	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year
	Percent distribution ² (standard error)								
Total	20.8 (0.47)	78.2 (0.46)	1.0 (0.11)	28.8 (1.11)	67.5 (1.12)	3.7 (0.48)	25.7 (3.09)	59.6 (3.25)	14.7 (2.49)
Sex									
Male	22.4 (0.65)	76.6 (0.65)	0.9 (0.14)	27.9 (1.58)	68.8 (1.55)	3.3 (0.65)	24.5 (4.15)	58.9 (4.25)	16.6 (3.76)
Female	19.1 (0.65)	79.9 (0.64)	1.0 (0.15)	29.7 (1.66)	66.2 (1.68)	4.2 (0.69)	27.2 (4.53)	60.4 (4.88)	12.4 (3.03)
Age									
1–4 years	28.3 (1.07)	70.7 (1.05)	1.0 (0.21)	38.4 (2.40)	56.6 (2.49)	5.0 (1.08)	35.5 (6.90)	53.6 (7.20)	*10.8 (3.70)
5–17 years	18.4 (0.50)	80.6 (0.50)	0.9 (0.12)	26.2 (1.28)	70.5 (1.28)	3.4 (0.51)	22.8 (3.36)	61.4 (3.69)	15.8 (3.21)
5–11 years	19.4 (0.69)	79.7 (0.70)	0.9 (0.17)	28.1 (1.82)	68.4 (1.86)	3.5 (0.80)	28.2 (4.72)	60.2 (5.24)	*11.6 (3.55)
12–17 years	17.3 (0.71)	81.7 (0.71)	1.0 (0.17)	23.9 (1.76)	72.9 (1.81)	3.2 (0.64)	16.0 (4.17)	62.9 (5.44)	21.1 (5.25)
Race/ethnicity ³									
White, non-Hispanic	18.8 (0.55)	80.3 (0.55)	0.9 (0.13)	30.0 (1.73)	65.8 (1.77)	4.2 (0.70)	26.2 (5.16)	54.3 (5.22)	19.5 (4.83)
Black, non-Hispanic	21.3 (1.25)	77.8 (1.28)	0.9 (0.28)	26.2 (2.59)	70.2 (2.70)	*3.7 (1.24)	16.2 (4.69)	67.2 (6.03)	16.6 (4.56)
Other, non-Hispanic	27.6 (2.48)	70.0 (2.60)	*2.5 (0.92)	24.3 (4.94)	75.2 (4.95)	*0.5 (0.39)	*16.6 (15.12)	83.4 (15.12)	*0.0 (0.00)
Hispanic	28.4 (1.16)	70.6 (1.14)	1.0 (0.24)	29.8 (1.74)	66.8 (1.77)	3.4 (0.78)	37.1 (5.02)	56.9 (5.22)	*5.9 (1.82)
Mexican American	28.1 (1.69)	70.8 (1.66)	*1.1 (0.38)	30.4 (2.33)	67.1 (2.27)	*2.4 (0.98)	38.3 (7.06)	56.4 (7.24)	*5.3 (2.40)
Family structure ⁴									
Mother and father	20.2 (0.53)	78.8 (0.53)	1.0 (0.14)	30.1 (1.47)	66.0 (1.50)	3.9 (0.65)	32.0 (4.72)	52.7 (4.78)	15.2 (4.11)
Mother, no father	22.3 (1.08)	76.9 (1.09)	0.8 (0.17)	26.3 (2.03)	69.6 (2.08)	4.1 (0.93)	19.1 (3.65)	66.3 (4.84)	14.6 (3.60)
Father, no mother	24.1 (2.76)	74.9 (2.74)	*1.0 (0.55)	33.6 (6.73)	66.4 (6.73)	*–	*–	77.5 (19.57)	*22.5 (19.57)
Neither mother nor father	22.3 (2.88)	76.5 (2.85)	*1.1 (0.70)	26.3 (5.04)	73.1 (5.05)	*0.7 (0.66)	*20.2 (12.00)	79.8 (12.00)	*–
Parent's education ⁵									
Less than 12 years	25.0 (1.59)	73.9 (1.57)	1.1 (0.34)	22.9 (2.02)	74.5 (2.15)	*2.7 (0.83)	29.3 (5.15)	58.5 (5.79)	12.3 (3.66)
12 years	21.0 (0.99)	78.4 (0.99)	0.6 (0.16)	26.9 (2.11)	70.1 (2.13)	3.0 (0.75)	24.0 (5.35)	65.8 (5.60)	10.2 (2.62)
More than 12 years	20.1 (0.58)	78.9 (0.58)	1.1 (0.15)	34.6 (1.95)	59.9 (1.99)	5.5 (0.95)	24.3 (5.37)	54.4 (6.02)	21.3 (5.66)
Family income ⁶									
Less than \$20,000	25.6 (1.16)	73.4 (1.17)	1.0 (0.23)	27.3 (1.89)	68.9 (1.89)	3.8 (0.85)	27.6 (4.17)	58.7 (4.79)	13.7 (3.04)
\$20,000 or more	19.8 (0.52)	79.2 (0.52)	0.9 (0.12)	30.1 (1.57)	66.2 (1.58)	3.7 (0.61)	25.0 (4.96)	58.0 (4.76)	17.0 (4.55)
\$20,000–\$34,999	24.2 (1.21)	74.7 (1.21)	1.0 (0.24)	29.8 (2.78)	67.9 (2.80)	*2.3 (0.70)	*15.5 (5.14)	74.4 (6.32)	*10.1 (4.57)
\$35,000–\$54,999	21.7 (1.00)	77.4 (1.03)	0.9 (0.23)	34.1 (3.00)	61.2 (2.96)	4.8 (1.33)	29.6 (8.81)	61.2 (9.75)	*9.1 (6.78)
\$55,000–\$74,999	18.7 (1.10)	80.7 (1.09)	*0.6 (0.18)	25.8 (4.16)	68.9 (4.53)	*5.3 (2.15)	*44.2 (14.28)	*26.5 (11.88)	*29.3 (15.06)
\$75,000 or more	17.6 (1.09)	81.1 (1.10)	1.3 (0.37)	34.2 (5.43)	61.7 (5.70)	*4.1 (1.86)	*36.7 (20.89)	*44.6 (21.81)	*18.7 (16.91)
Poverty status ⁷									
Poor	27.0 (1.49)	72.3 (1.49)	*0.7 (0.22)	26.8 (2.25)	69.2 (2.33)	4.0 (1.04)	27.8 (4.83)	58.5 (5.59)	13.6 (3.72)
Near poor	23.0 (1.08)	76.2 (1.07)	0.8 (0.21)	31.8 (2.62)	66.3 (2.60)	*2.0 (0.62)	15.8 (4.27)	73.1 (5.39)	*11.1 (4.02)
Not poor	20.0 (0.59)	79.0 (0.59)	1.0 (0.16)	31.4 (2.02)	63.5 (2.02)	5.1 (0.98)	36.6 (7.67)	45.9 (6.67)	*17.5 (6.40)
Health insurance coverage ⁸									
Private	19.1 (0.53)	80.0 (0.53)	0.9 (0.12)	28.8 (1.69)	66.8 (1.75)	4.3 (0.70)	24.5 (5.66)	53.1 (5.65)	22.5 (5.89)
Medicaid/other public	26.3 (1.49)	72.7 (1.49)	1.0 (0.26)	29.9 (2.20)	66.3 (2.26)	3.7 (0.90)	25.3 (4.10)	64.2 (4.61)	10.5 (2.62)
Other	22.7 (2.82)	74.9 (3.12)	*2.4 (1.16)	31.5 (7.61)	64.8 (7.92)	*3.7 (3.60)	*29.2 (25.59)	*61.2 (27.22)	*9.6 (10.32)
Uninsured	23.7 (1.27)	75.2 (1.28)	1.1 (0.30)	26.4 (2.39)	71.4 (2.44)	*2.2 (0.95)	29.1 (7.21)	60.4 (7.60)	*10.5 (4.23)
Place of residence									
Large MSA ⁹	21.1 (0.64)	77.9 (0.65)	1.0 (0.15)	28.5 (1.59)	67.7 (1.66)	3.8 (0.71)	23.3 (4.62)	66.3 (4.77)	*10.4 (3.20)
Small MSA ⁹	21.0 (0.96)	78.0 (0.96)	1.0 (0.21)	30.6 (2.13)	66.8 (2.04)	2.6 (0.60)	27.5 (5.27)	52.1 (5.29)	20.3 (4.82)
Not in MSA ⁹	19.9 (0.89)	79.3 (0.89)	0.8 (0.23)	26.8 (2.26)	68.0 (2.32)	5.2 (1.29)	27.5 (6.56)	59.5 (6.92)	13.0 (3.78)
Region									
Northeast	18.7 (1.07)	80.2 (1.08)	1.1 (0.26)	30.8 (3.02)	64.2 (2.96)	4.9 (1.39)	*15.9 (5.51)	69.4 (6.82)	14.6 (4.03)
Midwest	18.5 (0.85)	80.6 (0.83)	0.8 (0.17)	26.3 (2.61)	70.8 (2.73)	*2.9 (0.86)	26.9 (7.29)	54.4 (7.89)	*18.7 (7.00)
South	21.9 (0.77)	77.2 (0.77)	0.9 (0.17)	28.1 (1.75)	67.5 (1.72)	4.3 (0.86)	24.4 (4.69)	63.4 (5.13)	*12.3 (3.98)
West	23.9 (1.12)	75.0 (1.10)	1.1 (0.29)	30.7 (2.03)	66.8 (1.96)	2.5 (0.63)	34.6 (7.30)	49.1 (6.20)	*16.2 (5.08)

Table 8. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of health status compared with a year ago given current health status for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	Current health status ¹								
	Excellent/very good			Good			Fair/poor		
	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year
Percent distribution ² (standard error)									
Sex and age									
Male:									
1–4 years	29.7 (1.47)	69.5 (1.44)	*0.8 (0.26)	40.0 (3.71)	55.5 (3.59)	*4.5 (1.34)	37.1 (10.46)	47.5 (10.52)	*15.4 (6.16)
5–17 years	20.1 (0.76)	79.0 (0.76)	1.0 (0.17)	25.0 (1.70)	72.0 (1.69)	3.0 (0.74)	21.5 (4.38)	61.6 (4.57)	16.9 (4.42)
5–11 years	20.6 (0.99)	78.5 (1.00)	0.9 (0.25)	24.9 (2.30)	71.4 (2.30)	*3.7 (1.14)	28.9 (5.75)	61.1 (6.26)	*10.0 (3.90)
12–17 years	19.5 (1.12)	79.4 (1.11)	1.1 (0.23)	25.2 (2.51)	72.6 (2.59)	*2.2 (0.85)	*10.2 (4.80)	62.4 (7.67)	27.5 (7.91)
Female:									
1–4 years	26.7 (1.40)	72.0 (1.41)	1.2 (0.35)	36.9 (3.91)	57.5 (3.93)	*5.6 (1.67)	34.3 (8.88)	58.5 (9.45)	*7.2 (4.47)
5–17 years	16.8 (0.71)	82.3 (0.71)	0.9 (0.17)	27.5 (1.96)	68.8 (2.01)	3.7 (0.72)	24.4 (5.16)	61.1 (6.02)	*14.4 (4.47)
5–11 years	18.3 (0.99)	80.9 (1.00)	0.9 (0.24)	32.0 (2.86)	64.8 (2.95)	*3.2 (1.10)	27.0 (7.66)	58.7 (8.61)	*14.3 (6.56)
12–17 years	14.9 (0.94)	84.2 (0.95)	0.9 (0.24)	22.6 (2.33)	73.1 (2.43)	4.3 (0.94)	*22.0 (6.80)	63.4 (8.25)	*14.6 (6.06)

*Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Data in this table are based on the following questions: “Would you say [subject’s name] health in general was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?” “Compared with 12 months ago, would you say [subject’s name]’s health is better, worse, or about the same?” Information about all children under 18 years of age was obtained from a knowledgeable family member. See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100.0% because of rounding.

³“Other, non-Hispanic” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

⁵Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 9. Frequency distributions of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 5–17 years	Number of school days missed in past 12 months ¹					
		None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–10 days	11 days or more	Did not go to school
		Number in thousands ²					
Total	51,635	12,975	13,915	13,956	6,183	3,024	723
Sex							
Male	26,442	6,707	7,235	7,099	3,172	1,405	366
Female	25,193	6,269	6,680	6,857	3,012	1,619	357
Age							
5–17 years	51,635	12,975	13,915	13,956	6,183	3,024	723
5–11 years	28,272	7,075	7,953	7,636	3,291	1,324	564
12–17 years	23,364	5,900	5,962	6,320	2,892	1,700	159
Race/ethnicity ³							
White, non-Hispanic	34,085	7,217	9,700	9,818	4,409	1,992	468
Black, non-Hispanic	7,908	2,623	1,931	1,855	747	453	101
Other, non-Hispanic	2,443	811	635	595	192	99	22
Hispanic	7,199	2,323	1,649	1,688	836	480	132
Mexican American	3,942	1,352	849	875	481	254	87
Family structure ⁴							
Mother and father	36,781	9,129	10,636	9,824	4,428	1,815	468
Mother, no father	11,674	2,854	2,561	3,258	1,436	1,067	203
Father, no mother	1,422	378	298	463	158	59	19
Neither mother nor father	1,758	614	421	412	161	83	32
Parent's education ⁵							
Less than 12 years	6,716	2,136	1,235	1,587	880	563	140
12 years	12,799	3,167	3,120	3,564	1,545	923	262
More than 12 years	30,007	7,004	9,070	8,363	3,582	1,444	288
Family income ⁶							
Less than \$20,000	11,095	2,958	2,291	2,831	1,556	1,014	218
\$20,000 or more	38,520	9,488	11,173	10,649	4,484	1,906	459
\$20,000–\$34,999	8,390	2,215	2,127	2,327	953	537	167
\$35,000–\$54,999	10,225	2,406	2,774	3,077	1,184	651	81
\$55,000–\$74,999	7,172	1,646	2,278	1,868	953	333	69
\$75,000 or more	8,377	1,925	2,833	2,237	1,033	222	96
Poverty status ⁷							
Poor	8,121	2,183	1,634	2,100	1,137	754	175
Near poor	9,487	2,442	2,418	2,598	1,207	617	157
Not poor	26,018	6,007	7,908	7,292	3,142	1,269	277
Health insurance coverage ⁸							
Private	35,432	8,360	10,612	9,810	4,179	1,644	376
Medicaid/other public	7,464	2,042	1,349	2,012	971	741	153
Other	1,208	367	319	241	164	113	4
Uninsured	7,118	2,086	1,544	1,764	844	516	190
Place of residence							
Large MSA ⁹	23,988	6,355	6,261	6,344	2,864	1,270	365
Small MSA ⁹	16,575	3,989	4,686	4,406	2,030	1,037	236
Not in MSA ⁹	11,073	2,631	2,968	3,206	1,290	717	122
Region							
Northeast	9,873	2,411	2,479	2,705	1,284	646	98
Midwest	12,990	2,962	3,963	3,498	1,560	602	152
South	18,219	4,913	4,788	4,709	2,100	1,100	349
West	10,553	2,689	2,685	3,044	1,239	675	124

Table 9. Frequency distributions of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 5–17 years	Number of school days missed in past 12 months ¹					
		None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–10 days	11 days or more	Did not go to school
Current health status		Number in thousands ²					
Excellent/very good/good	50,538	12,820	13,771	13,805	6,005	2,648	677
Fair/poor	1,067	155	144	143	179	372	45
Sex and age							
Male:							
5–17 years	26,442	6,707	7,235	7,099	3,172	1,405	366
5–11 years	14,390	3,588	4,159	3,752	1,717	651	305
12–17 years	12,052	3,119	3,076	3,347	1,455	754	61
Female:							
5–17 years	25,193	6,269	6,680	6,857	3,012	1,619	357
5–11 years	13,881	3,487	3,794	3,884	1,575	674	259
12–17 years	11,312	2,782	2,886	2,973	1,437	945	98

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) question: "During the past 12 months, that is since [12-month ref. date], about how many days did [S.C.name] miss school because of illness or injury?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

³"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁵Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 10. Percent distributions (with standard error) of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 5–17 years	Number of school days missed in past 12 months ¹					
		None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–10 days	11 days or more	Did not go to school
		Percent distribution ² (standard error)					
Total	100.0 (0.00)	25.6 (0.52)	27.4 (0.53)	27.5 (0.55)	12.2 (0.39)	6.0 (0.27)	1.4 (0.15)
Sex							
Male	100.0 (0.00)	25.8 (0.70)	27.8 (0.77)	27.3 (0.72)	12.2 (0.55)	5.4 (0.36)	1.4 (0.20)
Female	100.0 (0.00)	25.3 (0.77)	26.9 (0.76)	27.7 (0.78)	12.1 (0.57)	6.5 (0.41)	1.4 (0.19)
Age							
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.6 (0.52)	27.4 (0.53)	27.5 (0.55)	12.2 (0.39)	6.0 (0.27)	1.4 (0.15)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.4 (0.68)	28.6 (0.79)	27.4 (0.82)	11.8 (0.53)	4.8 (0.35)	2.0 (0.22)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.7 (0.80)	26.0 (0.76)	27.6 (0.78)	12.6 (0.57)	7.4 (0.42)	0.7 (0.16)
Race/ethnicity ³							
White, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	21.5 (0.63)	28.9 (0.71)	29.2 (0.67)	13.1 (0.54)	5.9 (0.32)	1.4 (0.19)
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	34.0 (1.50)	25.0 (1.34)	24.1 (1.46)	9.7 (0.99)	5.9 (0.78)	1.3 (0.32)
Other, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	34.5 (2.96)	27.0 (2.56)	25.3 (2.86)	8.2 (1.56)	4.2 (1.04)	*0.9 (0.45)
Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	32.7 (1.13)	23.2 (1.06)	23.7 (0.97)	11.8 (0.79)	6.7 (0.61)	1.9 (0.32)
Mexican American	100.0 (0.00)	34.7 (1.55)	21.8 (1.37)	22.5 (1.25)	12.3 (1.08)	6.5 (0.89)	2.2 (0.49)
Family structure ⁴							
Mother and father	100.0 (0.00)	25.1 (0.63)	29.3 (0.68)	27.1 (0.66)	12.2 (0.47)	5.0 (0.29)	1.3 (0.17)
Mother, no father	100.0 (0.00)	25.1 (1.05)	22.5 (1.02)	28.6 (1.14)	12.6 (0.81)	9.4 (0.74)	1.8 (0.31)
Father, no mother	100.0 (0.00)	27.5 (2.57)	21.7 (2.30)	33.7 (2.79)	11.5 (2.04)	4.3 (1.07)	*1.4 (0.82)
Neither mother nor father	100.0 (0.00)	35.7 (3.04)	24.4 (2.75)	23.9 (2.33)	9.4 (1.51)	4.8 (1.17)	*1.9 (0.83)
Parent's education ⁵							
Less than 12 years	100.0 (0.00)	32.7 (1.48)	18.9 (1.25)	24.3 (1.34)	13.5 (1.05)	8.6 (0.88)	2.1 (0.44)
12 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.2 (1.02)	24.8 (1.08)	28.3 (1.01)	12.3 (0.82)	7.3 (0.62)	2.1 (0.35)
More than 12 years	100.0 (0.00)	23.5 (0.71)	30.5 (0.73)	28.1 (0.75)	12.0 (0.51)	4.9 (0.32)	1.0 (0.15)
Family income ⁶							
Less than \$20,000	100.0 (0.00)	27.2 (1.14)	21.1 (1.08)	26.1 (1.11)	14.3 (0.90)	9.3 (0.66)	2.0 (0.35)
\$20,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	24.9 (0.60)	29.3 (0.63)	27.9 (0.61)	11.8 (0.46)	5.0 (0.28)	1.2 (0.16)
\$20,000–\$34,999	100.0 (0.00)	26.6 (1.23)	25.5 (1.31)	28.0 (1.32)	11.5 (1.00)	6.4 (0.71)	2.0 (0.37)
\$35,000–\$54,999	100.0 (0.00)	23.6 (1.03)	27.3 (1.12)	30.2 (1.18)	11.6 (0.89)	6.4 (0.61)	*0.8 (0.24)
\$55,000–\$74,999	100.0 (0.00)	23.0 (1.37)	31.9 (1.50)	26.1 (1.52)	13.3 (1.04)	4.7 (0.62)	*1.0 (0.29)
\$75,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	23.1 (1.31)	33.9 (1.43)	26.8 (1.32)	12.4 (1.12)	2.7 (0.44)	*1.1 (0.41)
Poverty status ⁷							
Poor	100.0 (0.00)	27.3 (1.40)	20.5 (1.34)	26.3 (1.43)	14.2 (1.10)	9.5 (0.93)	2.2 (0.46)
Near poor	100.0 (0.00)	25.9 (1.16)	25.6 (1.27)	27.5 (1.16)	12.8 (0.97)	6.5 (0.67)	1.7 (0.34)
Not poor	100.0 (0.00)	23.2 (0.69)	30.5 (0.79)	28.2 (0.78)	12.1 (0.54)	4.9 (0.35)	1.1 (0.19)
Health insurance coverage ⁸							
Private	100.0 (0.00)	23.9 (0.63)	30.3 (0.66)	28.0 (0.64)	11.9 (0.44)	4.7 (0.27)	1.1 (0.15)
Medicaid/other public	100.0 (0.00)	28.1 (1.38)	18.6 (1.32)	27.7 (1.52)	13.4 (1.13)	10.2 (0.92)	2.1 (0.41)
Other	100.0 (0.00)	30.4 (4.06)	26.4 (3.61)	19.9 (3.14)	13.6 (3.04)	9.4 (2.14)	*0.3 (0.32)
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	30.0 (1.40)	22.2 (1.33)	25.4 (1.39)	12.2 (1.10)	7.4 (0.75)	2.7 (0.57)
Place of residence							
Large MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	27.1 (0.73)	26.7 (0.75)	27.0 (0.83)	12.2 (0.56)	5.4 (0.32)	1.6 (0.21)
Small MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	24.3 (0.92)	28.6 (0.99)	26.9 (0.84)	12.4 (0.73)	6.3 (0.53)	1.4 (0.27)
Not in MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	24.1 (1.25)	27.1 (1.18)	29.3 (1.20)	11.8 (0.84)	6.6 (0.67)	1.1 (0.31)
Region							
Northeast	100.0 (0.00)	25.1 (1.15)	25.8 (1.16)	28.1 (1.20)	13.3 (0.77)	6.7 (0.55)	1.0 (0.27)
Midwest	100.0 (0.00)	23.3 (1.11)	31.1 (1.16)	27.5 (1.09)	12.2 (0.83)	4.7 (0.49)	1.2 (0.26)
South	100.0 (0.00)	27.4 (0.93)	26.7 (0.89)	26.2 (0.94)	11.7 (0.69)	6.1 (0.50)	1.9 (0.30)
West	100.0 (0.00)	25.7 (0.95)	25.7 (1.12)	29.1 (1.25)	11.9 (0.83)	6.5 (0.56)	1.2 (0.27)

Table 10. Percent distributions (with standard error) of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 5–17 years	Number of school days missed in past 12 months ¹					
		None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–10 days	11 days or more	Did not go to school
Current health status		Percent distribution ² (standard error)					
Excellent/very good/good	100.0 (0.00)	25.8 (0.53)	27.7 (0.54)	27.8 (0.56)	12.1 (0.40)	5.3 (0.25)	1.4 (0.14)
Fair/poor	100.0 (0.00)	15.0 (3.46)	13.8 (2.72)	13.8 (2.38)	17.2 (3.41)	35.9 (3.79)	*4.4 (1.62)
Sex and age							
Male:							
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.8 (0.70)	27.8 (0.77)	27.3 (0.72)	12.2 (0.55)	5.4 (0.36)	1.4 (0.20)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.3 (0.91)	29.3 (1.14)	26.5 (1.05)	12.1 (0.77)	4.6 (0.45)	2.2 (0.31)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	26.4 (1.09)	26.0 (1.14)	28.3 (1.11)	12.3 (0.79)	6.4 (0.57)	*0.5 (0.22)
Female:							
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.3 (0.77)	26.9 (0.76)	27.7 (0.78)	12.1 (0.57)	6.5 (0.41)	1.4 (0.19)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.5 (1.07)	27.7 (1.04)	28.4 (1.12)	11.5 (0.77)	4.9 (0.51)	1.9 (0.29)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	25.0 (1.10)	26.0 (1.06)	26.7 (1.16)	12.9 (0.85)	8.5 (0.66)	0.9 (0.23)

* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) question: "During the past 12 months, that is since [12-month ref. date], about how many days did [S.C.name] miss school because of illness or injury?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100.0% because of rounding.

³"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁵Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 11. Frequencies of having a usual source of medical care, and frequency distributions of place of usual source of medical care, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Has usual source of medical care	Place of care ¹				
			Clinic	Doctor's office	Emergency room	Hospital outpatient	Some other place
			Number in thousands ²				
Total	71,359	66,734	14,149	50,589	477	1,113	378
Sex							
Male	36,534	34,102	7,240	25,844	241	581	184
Female	34,825	32,633	6,910	24,745	236	532	194
Age							
0–4 years	19,724	18,911	4,490	13,953	83	271	99
5–17 years	51,635	47,824	9,659	36,636	394	842	279
5–11 years	28,272	26,645	5,296	20,542	195	471	139
12–17 years	23,364	21,178	4,363	16,095	200	370	140
Race/ethnicity ³							
White, non-Hispanic	46,509	44,220	7,562	35,922	135	353	242
Black, non-Hispanic	10,824	10,042	2,969	6,396	160	477	22
Other, non-Hispanic	3,369	3,067	759	2,167	52	40	48
Hispanic	10,657	9,405	2,859	6,104	131	243	66
Mexican American	5,914	5,102	1,740	3,122	60	135	43
Family structure ⁴							
Mother and father	51,645	48,739	9,038	38,612	232	579	270
Mother, no father	15,979	14,808	4,215	9,882	190	427	79
Father, no mother	1,674	1,411	316	1,006	20	54	10
Neither mother nor father	2,048	1,775	580	1,088	35	53	19
Parent's education ⁵							
Less than 12 years	9,599	8,293	3,091	4,727	147	277	48
12 years	17,514	16,217	3,843	11,815	186	290	75
More than 12 years	41,744	40,088	6,587	32,674	109	479	230
Family income ⁶							
Less than \$20,000	16,561	14,744	5,266	8,696	210	481	90
\$20,000 or more	52,144	49,591	8,465	39,973	267	591	288
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,656	10,596	2,691	7,407	150	254	94
\$35,000–\$54,999	14,009	13,374	2,474	10,568	63	178	91
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,880	9,589	1,340	8,123	25	73	27
\$75,000 or more	10,992	10,768	1,198	9,477	6	42	43
Poverty status ⁷							
Poor	12,021	10,665	4,154	5,894	194	353	70
Near poor	13,252	12,031	3,271	8,240	132	287	101
Not poor	35,437	34,256	4,906	28,768	111	306	163
Health insurance coverage ⁸							
Private	47,358	45,813	6,662	38,679	102	218	135
Medicaid/other public	12,276	11,686	4,346	6,793	85	419	41
Other	1,735	1,661	639	592	38	259	132
Uninsured	9,386	7,014	2,438	4,045	248	208	70
Place of residence							
Large MSA ⁹	33,535	31,568	5,703	24,850	237	606	151
Small MSA ⁹	23,258	21,612	4,815	16,102	167	361	162
Not in MSA ⁹	14,566	13,554	3,631	9,636	73	147	64
Region							
Northeast	13,860	13,410	1,862	11,261	73	193	18
Midwest	17,815	16,862	4,637	11,844	72	193	108
South	24,899	23,050	4,479	17,628	218	571	142
West	14,785	13,413	3,172	9,856	113	157	110

Table 11. Frequencies of having a usual source of medical care, and frequency distributions of place of usual source of medical care, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Has usual source of medical care	Place of care ¹				
			Clinic	Doctor's office	Emergency room	Hospital outpatient	Some other place
Current health status		Number in thousands ²					
Excellent/very good/good	69,883	65,396	13,731	49,778	459	1,030	370
Fair/poor	1,441	1,327	419	800	18	83	8
Sex and age							
Male:							
0–4 years	10,092	9,662	2,274	7,153	47	146	39
5–17 years	26,442	24,439	4,966	18,691	194	435	144
5–11 years	14,390	13,547	2,801	10,324	104	238	80
12–17 years	12,052	10,893	2,164	8,367	90	196	65
Female:							
0–4 years	9,632	9,249	2,216	6,799	36	125	60
5–17 years	25,193	23,384	4,693	17,945	200	407	134
5–11 years	13,881	13,098	2,495	10,218	90	233	59
12–17 years	11,312	10,286	2,199	7,727	110	174	75

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) questions: "Is there a place that [S.C.name] USUALLY goes when [he/she] is sick or you need advice about [his/her] health?" "What kind of place is it—a Clinic or health center, Doctor's office or HMO, Hospital emergency room, Hospital outpatient department, or Some other place?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown among the frequencies. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

³"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁵Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 12. Percents (with standard errors) having a usual source of medical care, and percent distributions (with standard errors) of place of usual source of medical care for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Has usual source of medical care	Place of care ¹				
			Clinic	Doctor's office	Emergency room	Hospital outpatient	Some other place
Total	100.0 (0.00)	93.7 (0.23)	Percent distribution ² (standard error)				
			21.2 (0.61)	75.8 (0.61)	0.7 (0.10)	1.7 (0.17)	0.6 (0.08)
Sex							
Male	100.0 (0.00)	93.6 (0.35)	21.2 (0.74)	75.8 (0.74)	0.7 (0.14)	1.7 (0.20)	0.5 (0.10)
Female	100.0 (0.00)	93.8 (0.33)	21.2 (0.75)	75.9 (0.77)	0.7 (0.12)	1.6 (0.23)	0.6 (0.12)
Age							
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	96.2 (0.38)	23.8 (0.96)	73.8 (0.98)	0.4 (0.10)	1.4 (0.21)	0.5 (0.14)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	92.8 (0.30)	20.2 (0.68)	76.6 (0.67)	0.8 (0.13)	1.8 (0.21)	0.6 (0.09)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	94.4 (0.38)	19.9 (0.81)	77.1 (0.82)	0.7 (0.19)	1.8 (0.29)	0.5 (0.12)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	90.9 (0.48)	20.6 (0.89)	76.0 (0.91)	0.9 (0.18)	1.8 (0.26)	0.7 (0.15)
Race/ethnicity³							
White, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	95.3 (0.26)	17.1 (0.73)	81.2 (0.72)	0.3 (0.07)	0.8 (0.14)	0.5 (0.10)
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	93.2 (0.61)	29.6 (1.55)	63.8 (1.69)	1.6 (0.38)	4.8 (0.74)	*0.2 (0.08)
Other, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	91.1 (1.45)	24.8 (2.47)	70.7 (2.51)	*1.7 (0.82)	*1.3 (0.55)	*1.6 (0.63)
Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	88.3 (0.71)	30.4 (1.19)	64.9 (1.27)	1.4 (0.29)	2.6 (0.41)	0.7 (0.19)
Mexican American	100.0 (0.00)	86.4 (1.04)	34.1 (1.71)	61.2 (1.84)	*1.2 (0.40)	2.6 (0.51)	*0.8 (0.27)
Family structure⁴							
Mother and father	100.0 (0.00)	94.5 (0.25)	18.5 (0.66)	79.2 (0.66)	0.5 (0.08)	1.2 (0.15)	0.6 (0.09)
Mother, no father	100.0 (0.00)	93.0 (0.54)	28.5 (1.05)	66.8 (1.07)	1.3 (0.24)	2.9 (0.44)	0.5 (0.15)
Father, no mother	100.0 (0.00)	84.4 (2.32)	22.5 (2.53)	71.5 (2.70)	*1.4 (0.71)	3.8 (1.12)	*0.7 (0.39)
Neither mother nor father	100.0 (0.00)	86.7 (1.87)	32.7 (2.83)	61.3 (2.89)	*2.0 (0.86)	*3.0 (1.01)	*1.1 (0.86)
Parent's education⁵							
Less than 12 years	100.0 (0.00)	86.6 (0.93)	37.3 (1.50)	57.0 (1.54)	1.8 (0.39)	3.3 (0.50)	*0.6 (0.20)
12 years	100.0 (0.00)	92.6 (0.54)	23.7 (1.00)	72.9 (1.03)	1.1 (0.24)	1.8 (0.35)	*0.5 (0.15)
More than 12 years	100.0 (0.00)	96.2 (0.25)	16.4 (0.68)	81.5 (0.67)	0.3 (0.06)	1.2 (0.16)	0.6 (0.10)
Family income⁶							
Less than \$20,000	100.0 (0.00)	89.2 (0.65)	35.7 (1.27)	59.0 (1.36)	1.4 (0.31)	3.3 (0.41)	0.6 (0.15)
\$20,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	95.2 (0.24)	17.1 (0.65)	80.6 (0.64)	0.5 (0.09)	1.2 (0.16)	0.6 (0.09)
\$20,000–\$34,999	100.0 (0.00)	91.0 (0.63)	25.4 (1.28)	69.9 (1.32)	1.4 (0.34)	2.4 (0.49)	*0.9 (0.28)
\$35,000–\$54,999	100.0 (0.00)	95.5 (0.46)	18.5 (1.01)	79.0 (1.04)	0.5 (0.14)	1.3 (0.27)	0.7 (0.17)
\$55,000–\$74,999	100.0 (0.00)	97.1 (0.51)	14.0 (1.06)	84.7 (1.08)	*0.3 (0.15)	0.8 (0.22)	*0.3 (0.16)
\$75,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	98.0 (0.41)	11.1 (0.99)	88.0 (0.98)	*0.1 (0.05)	*0.4 (0.16)	*0.4 (0.15)
Poverty status⁷							
Poor	100.0 (0.00)	88.8 (0.82)	39.0 (1.52)	55.3 (1.63)	1.8 (0.43)	3.3 (0.59)	*0.7 (0.21)
Near poor	100.0 (0.00)	90.9 (0.60)	27.2 (1.35)	68.5 (1.36)	1.1 (0.27)	2.4 (0.37)	0.8 (0.21)
Not poor	100.0 (0.00)	96.7 (0.25)	14.3 (0.64)	84.0 (0.64)	0.3 (0.08)	0.9 (0.13)	0.5 (0.09)
Health insurance coverage⁸							
Private	100.0 (0.00)	96.9 (0.22)	14.5 (0.65)	84.5 (0.65)	0.2 (0.06)	0.5 (0.08)	0.3 (0.06)
Medicaid/other public	100.0 (0.00)	95.5 (0.48)	37.2 (1.40)	58.1 (1.47)	0.7 (0.21)	3.6 (0.58)	*0.4 (0.14)
Other	100.0 (0.00)	95.7 (1.27)	38.5 (4.16)	35.7 (3.29)	*2.3 (1.00)	15.6 (2.97)	8.0 (2.05)
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	75.0 (1.23)	34.8 (1.67)	57.7 (1.76)	3.5 (0.67)	3.0 (0.50)	*1.0 (0.36)
Place of residence							
Large MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	94.5 (0.31)	18.1 (0.67)	78.8 (0.75)	0.8 (0.16)	1.9 (0.25)	0.5 (0.10)
Small MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	93.1 (0.43)	22.3 (1.23)	74.5 (1.19)	0.8 (0.16)	1.7 (0.34)	0.8 (0.14)
Not in MSA ⁹	100.0 (0.00)	93.1 (0.56)	26.8 (1.68)	71.1 (1.67)	*0.5 (0.16)	1.1 (0.22)	*0.5 (0.20)
Region							
Northeast	100.0 (0.00)	96.9 (0.41)	13.9 (0.95)	84.0 (1.14)	0.5 (0.15)	1.4 (0.36)	*0.1 (0.06)
Midwest	100.0 (0.00)	95.0 (0.45)	27.5 (1.64)	70.3 (1.59)	*0.4 (0.14)	1.1 (0.25)	0.6 (0.15)
South	100.0 (0.00)	92.8 (0.40)	19.4 (0.96)	76.5 (0.96)	0.9 (0.18)	2.5 (0.37)	0.6 (0.15)
West	100.0 (0.00)	90.9 (0.62)	23.7 (1.00)	73.5 (0.98)	*0.8 (0.29)	1.2 (0.24)	0.8 (0.21)

Table 12. Percents (with standard errors) having a usual source of medical care, and percent distributions (with standard errors) of place of usual source of medical care for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Has usual source of medical care	Place of care ¹				
			Clinic	Doctor's office	Emergency room	Hospital outpatient	Some other place
Current health status			Percent distribution ² (standard error)				
Excellent/very good/good	100.0 (0.00)	93.8 (0.24)	21.0 (0.61)	76.1 (0.61)	0.7 (0.10)	1.6 (0.16)	0.6 (0.08)
Fair/poor	100.0 (0.00)	92.9 (1.56)	31.5 (3.26)	60.3 (3.50)	*1.3 (0.62)	*6.2 (1.99)	*0.6 (0.43)
Sex and age							
Male:							
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	96.3 (0.57)	23.5 (1.31)	74.1 (1.35)	0.5 (0.15)	1.5 (0.34)	*0.4 (0.15)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	92.6 (0.43)	20.3 (0.81)	76.5 (0.82)	0.8 (0.18)	1.8 (0.23)	0.6 (0.13)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	94.3 (0.52)	20.7 (1.08)	76.2 (1.12)	*0.8 (0.30)	1.8 (0.31)	*0.6 (0.19)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	90.7 (0.69)	19.9 (1.12)	76.9 (1.14)	0.8 (0.21)	1.8 (0.31)	0.6 (0.17)
Female:							
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	96.1 (0.48)	24.0 (1.26)	73.6 (1.31)	*0.4 (0.14)	1.4 (0.22)	*0.6 (0.23)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	92.9 (0.42)	20.1 (0.86)	76.8 (0.88)	0.9 (0.16)	1.7 (0.31)	0.6 (0.14)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	94.5 (0.54)	19.0 (1.04)	78.0 (1.12)	*0.7 (0.21)	1.8 (0.45)	*0.5 (0.17)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	91.0 (0.68)	21.4 (1.23)	75.1 (1.31)	1.1 (0.25)	1.7 (0.40)	*0.7 (0.24)

* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) questions: "Is there a place that [S.C.name] USUALLY goes when [he/she] is sick or you need advice about [his/her] health?" "What kind of place is it—a Clinic or health center, Doctor's office or HMO, Hospital emergency room, Hospital outpatient department or Some other place?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100.0% because of rounding.

³"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁵Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁶"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁷Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁸Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other Coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

⁹MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 13. Frequency distributions of length of time since last contact with a health care professional for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Time since last contact with a health care professional ¹			
		6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years ²
			Number in thousands ³		
Total	71,359	50,284	12,807	6,364	1,320
Sex					
Male	36,534	25,679	6,779	3,091	647
Female	34,825	24,605	6,028	3,273	673
Age					
0–4 years	19,724	17,023	1,910	566	88
5–17 years	51,635	33,261	10,897	5,798	1,232
5–11 years	28,272	19,061	5,594	2,939	433
12–17 years	23,364	14,200	5,303	2,859	799
Race/ethnicity ⁴					
White, non-Hispanic	46,509	33,743	8,153	3,752	591
Black, non-Hispanic	10,824	7,413	2,037	1,006	198
Other, non-Hispanic	3,369	2,168	642	401	112
Hispanic	10,657	6,960	1,976	1,206	420
Mexican American	5,914	3,620	1,146	768	299
Family structure ⁵					
Mother and father	51,645	36,695	9,282	4,384	947
Mother, no father	15,979	11,281	2,756	1,483	258
Father, no mother	1,674	947	381	278	57
Neither mother nor father	2,048	1,351	389	218	58
Parent's education ⁶					
Less than 12 years	9,599	6,172	1,654	1,254	421
12 years	17,514	11,735	3,432	1,868	353
More than 12 years	41,744	30,868	7,245	3,006	463
Family income ⁷					
Less than \$20,000	16,561	11,583	2,630	1,686	500
\$20,000 or more	52,144	36,971	9,732	4,465	781
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,656	7,791	2,166	1,293	363
\$35,000–\$54,999	14,009	9,625	2,776	1,341	227
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,880	7,181	1,908	710	56
\$75,000 or more	10,992	8,421	1,839	645	83
Poverty status ⁸					
Poor	12,021	8,153	2,077	1,256	430
Near poor	13,252	8,950	2,355	1,512	375
Not poor	35,437	25,743	6,567	2,704	344
Health insurance ⁹					
Private	47,358	34,128	8,781	3,652	520
Medicaid/other public	12,276	9,711	1,559	730	152
Other	1,735	1,264	335	116	10
Uninsured	9,386	4,828	2,024	1,786	617
Place of residence					
Large MSA ¹⁰	33,535	24,283	5,778	2,536	547
Small MSA ¹⁰	23,258	16,400	4,050	2,244	444
Not in MSA ¹⁰	14,566	9,601	2,979	1,584	329
Region					
Northeast	13,860	10,837	2,137	646	113
Midwest	17,815	12,744	3,140	1,596	208
South	24,899	16,668	4,844	2,665	531
West	14,785	10,035	2,686	1,457	468

Table 13. Frequency distributions of length of time since last contact with a health care professional for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Time since last contact with a health care professional ¹			
		6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years ²
Current health status		Number in thousands ³			
Excellent/very good/good	69,883	49,045	12,681	6,312	1,304
Fair/poor	1,441	1,228	126	49	16
Sex and age					
Male:					
0–4 years	10,092	8,714	1,002	243	51
5–17 years	26,442	16,965	5,777	2,847	596
5–11 years	14,390	9,708	2,880	1,482	190
12–17 years	12,052	7,257	2,898	1,366	406
Female:					
0–4 years	9,632	8,309	908	322	37
5–17 years	25,193	16,296	5,120	2,951	636
5–11 years	13,881	9,353	2,714	1,457	243
12–17 years	11,312	6,942	2,406	1,493	393

¹The data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) question: "About how long has it been since anyone in the family last saw or talked to a doctor or other health care professional about [S.C.name]'s health? Include doctors seen while [he/she] was a patient in a hospital." See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²This category includes a small number of children who have never seen a doctor.

³Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

⁴"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁵Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁶Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁷"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁸Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁹Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

¹⁰MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 14. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last contact with a health care professional for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Time since last contact with a health care professional ¹			
		6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years ²
Total	100.0 (0.00)	71.0 (0.47)	18.1 (0.41)	9.0 (0.28)	1.9 (0.14)
Percent distribution ³ (standard error)					
Sex					
Male	100.0 (0.00)	70.9 (0.61)	18.7 (0.57)	8.5 (0.38)	1.8 (0.18)
Female	100.0 (0.00)	71.2 (0.69)	17.4 (0.55)	9.5 (0.42)	1.9 (0.21)
Age					
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	86.9 (0.63)	9.8 (0.58)	2.9 (0.31)	0.4 (0.11)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	65.0 (0.57)	21.3 (0.49)	11.3 (0.36)	2.4 (0.18)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	68.0 (0.81)	20.0 (0.66)	10.5 (0.54)	1.5 (0.21)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	61.3 (0.84)	22.9 (0.72)	12.3 (0.58)	3.4 (0.32)
Race/ethnicity ⁴					
White, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	73.0 (0.59)	17.6 (0.50)	8.1 (0.36)	1.3 (0.14)
Black, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	69.6 (1.16)	19.1 (0.96)	9.4 (0.78)	1.9 (0.43)
Other, non-Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	65.3 (2.47)	19.3 (1.92)	12.1 (1.76)	3.4 (0.79)
Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	65.9 (1.05)	18.7 (0.91)	11.4 (0.69)	4.0 (0.47)
Mexican American	100.0 (0.00)	62.1 (1.44)	19.6 (1.23)	13.2 (0.97)	5.1 (0.80)
Family structure ⁵					
Mother and father	100.0 (0.00)	71.5 (0.54)	18.1 (0.46)	8.5 (0.33)	1.8 (0.16)
Mother, no father	100.0 (0.00)	71.5 (1.00)	17.5 (0.84)	9.4 (0.64)	1.6 (0.24)
Father, no mother	100.0 (0.00)	56.9 (2.86)	22.9 (2.51)	16.7 (2.13)	*3.4 (1.26)
Neither mother nor father	100.0 (0.00)	67.0 (2.69)	19.3 (2.36)	10.8 (1.72)	2.9 (0.74)
Parent's education ⁶					
Less than 12 years	100.0 (0.00)	65.0 (1.35)	17.4 (1.07)	13.2 (0.98)	4.4 (0.60)
12 years	100.0 (0.00)	67.5 (0.95)	19.7 (0.81)	10.7 (0.62)	2.0 (0.28)
More than 12 years	100.0 (0.00)	74.2 (0.60)	17.4 (0.52)	7.2 (0.34)	1.1 (0.14)
Family income ⁷					
Less than \$20,000	100.0 (0.00)	70.6 (0.99)	16.0 (0.84)	10.3 (0.62)	3.0 (0.38)
\$20,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	71.2 (0.53)	18.7 (0.47)	8.6 (0.31)	1.5 (0.14)
\$20,000–\$34,999	100.0 (0.00)	67.1 (1.22)	18.6 (1.01)	11.1 (0.81)	3.1 (0.43)
\$35,000–\$54,999	100.0 (0.00)	68.9 (1.02)	19.9 (0.88)	9.6 (0.67)	1.6 (0.27)
\$55,000–\$74,999	100.0 (0.00)	72.9 (1.35)	19.4 (1.17)	7.2 (0.76)	*0.6 (0.19)
\$75,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	76.6 (1.10)	16.7 (1.04)	5.9 (0.62)	0.8 (0.23)
Poverty status ⁸					
Poor	100.0 (0.00)	68.4 (1.30)	17.4 (1.08)	10.5 (0.75)	3.6 (0.52)
Near poor	100.0 (0.00)	67.8 (1.22)	17.9 (0.86)	11.5 (0.86)	2.8 (0.38)
Not poor	100.0 (0.00)	72.8 (0.66)	18.6 (0.61)	7.6 (0.35)	1.0 (0.12)
Health insurance ⁹					
Private	100.0 (0.00)	72.5 (0.54)	18.7 (0.49)	7.8 (0.31)	1.1 (0.12)
Medicaid/other public	100.0 (0.00)	79.9 (1.03)	12.8 (0.82)	6.0 (0.62)	1.3 (0.30)
Other	100.0 (0.00)	73.3 (2.88)	19.4 (2.52)	6.7 (1.59)	*0.6 (0.31)
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	52.2 (1.33)	21.9 (1.11)	19.3 (1.11)	6.7 (0.72)
Place of residence					
Large MSA ¹⁰	100.0 (0.00)	73.3 (0.64)	17.4 (0.62)	7.7 (0.34)	1.6 (0.19)
Small MSA ¹⁰	100.0 (0.00)	70.9 (0.87)	17.5 (0.70)	9.7 (0.55)	1.9 (0.24)
Not in MSA ¹⁰	100.0 (0.00)	66.2 (1.16)	20.6 (0.95)	10.9 (0.72)	2.3 (0.33)
Region					
Northeast	100.0 (0.00)	78.9 (0.91)	15.6 (0.83)	4.7 (0.44)	0.8 (0.21)
Midwest	100.0 (0.00)	72.0 (0.92)	17.8 (0.79)	9.0 (0.55)	1.2 (0.22)
South	100.0 (0.00)	67.5 (0.85)	19.6 (0.76)	10.8 (0.51)	2.1 (0.24)
West	100.0 (0.00)	68.5 (1.00)	18.3 (0.89)	10.0 (0.67)	3.2 (0.40)

Table 14. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last contact with a health care professional for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Time since last contact with a health care professional ¹			
		6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years ²
Current health status		Percent distribution ³ (standard error)			
Excellent/very good/good	100.0 (0.00)	70.7 (0.48)	18.3 (0.42)	9.1 (0.29)	1.9 (0.14)
Fair/poor	100.0 (0.00)	86.5 (2.11)	8.9 (1.86)	3.4 (1.00)	*1.1 (0.63)
Sex and age					
Male:					
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	87.1 (0.91)	10.0 (0.83)	2.4 (0.43)	*0.5 (0.17)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	64.8 (0.75)	22.1 (0.70)	10.9 (0.50)	2.3 (0.23)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	68.1 (1.05)	20.2 (0.91)	10.4 (0.72)	1.3 (0.26)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	60.8 (1.13)	24.3 (1.07)	11.5 (0.72)	3.4 (0.42)
Female:					
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	86.8 (0.91)	9.5 (0.80)	3.4 (0.46)	*0.4 (0.14)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	65.2 (0.83)	20.5 (0.69)	11.8 (0.53)	2.5 (0.28)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	67.9 (1.13)	19.7 (0.98)	10.6 (0.71)	1.8 (0.32)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	61.8 (1.24)	21.4 (1.06)	13.3 (0.84)	3.5 (0.47)

* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) question: "About how long has it been since anyone in the family last saw or talked to a doctor or other health care professional about [S.C.name]'s health? Include doctors seen while [he/she] was a patient in a hospital." See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²This category includes a small number of children who have never seen a doctor.

³Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100.0% because of rounding.

⁴"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁵Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁶Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁷"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁸Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁹Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

¹⁰MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 15. Frequencies of selected health care risk factors for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	Selected health care risk factor ¹					
	All children 0–17 years	Uninsured for health care	Unmet medical need	Delayed care due to cost	No usual source of care	2 or more visits to ER ² in past 12 months
			Number in thousands ³			
Total	71,359	9,386	1,541	2,724	4,459	5,050
Sex						
Male	36,534	4,742	707	1,275	2,312	2,651
Female	34,825	4,644	834	1,449	2,147	2,399
Age						
0–4 years	19,724	2,268	311	602	745	1,941
5–17 years	51,635	7,118	1,229	2,122	3,714	3,109
5–11 years	28,272	3,771	670	1,168	1,585	1,761
12–17 years	23,364	3,347	559	954	2,129	1,348
Race/ethnicity ⁴						
White, non-Hispanic	46,509	4,643	860	1,808	2,182	2,887
Black, non-Hispanic	10,824	1,444	289	325	736	995
Other, non-Hispanic	3,369	558	34	77	299	226
Hispanic	10,657	2,741	358	515	1,243	941
Mexican American	5,914	1,797	204	305	804	457
Family structure ⁵						
Mother and father	51,645	6,322	882	1,800	2,818	3,048
Mother, no father	15,979	2,241	618	831	1,109	1,720
Father, no mother	1,674	378	21	62	261	122
Neither mother nor father	2,048	445	18	31	272	160
Parent's education ⁶						
Less than 12 years	9,599	2,730	317	364	1,281	1,049
12 years	17,514	2,970	564	852	1,291	1,392
More than 12 years	41,744	3,136	640	1,471	1,599	2,426
Family income ⁷						
Less than \$20,000	16,561	3,636	803	1,005	1,791	1,927
\$20,000 or more	52,144	5,246	707	1,653	2,519	2,944
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,656	2,601	314	733	1,046	852
\$35,000–\$54,999	14,009	1,357	247	510	636	889
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,880	349	86	195	289	479
\$75,000 or more	10,992	271	43	102	221	430
Poverty status ⁸						
Poor	12,021	2,555	611	713	1,340	1,373
Near poor	13,252	2,990	406	900	1,209	1,132
Not poor	35,437	2,094	411	837	1,172	1,856
Health insurance coverage ⁹						
Private	47,358	...	442	1,103	1,482	2,452
Medicaid/other public	12,276	...	244	337	554	1,590
Other	1,735	...	15	49	74	238
Uninsured	9,386	9,386	830	1,215	2,337	719
Place of residence						
Large MSA ¹⁰	33,535	4,030	637	1,083	1,853	2,371
Small MSA ¹⁰	23,258	2,930	474	938	1,606	1,695
Not in MSA ¹⁰	14,566	2,426	430	704	1,000	984
Region						
Northeast	13,860	1,160	167	355	433	853
Midwest	17,815	1,656	376	815	891	1,179
South	24,899	4,246	640	989	1,791	1,968
West	14,785	2,324	358	565	1,345	1,050

Table 15. Frequencies of selected health care risk factors for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	Selected health care risk factor ¹					2 or more visits to ER ² in past 12 months
	All children 0–17 years	Uninsured for health care	Unmet medical need	Delayed care due to cost	No usual source of care	
Current health status		Number in thousands ³				
Excellent/very good/good	69,883	9,129	1,400	2,553	4,355	4,644
Fair/poor	1,441	247	141	171	101	403
Sex and age						
Male:						
0–4 years	10,092	1,139	121	261	373	1,017
5–17 years	26,442	3,604	585	1,014	1,939	1,634
5–11 years	14,390	1,898	273	531	826	920
12–17 years	12,052	1,706	312	483	1,113	714
Female:						
0–4 years	9,632	1,129	190	341	372	924
5–17 years	25,193	3,515	644	1,108	1,775	1,475
5–11 years	13,881	1,873	397	637	759	841
12–17 years	11,312	1,641	247	471	1,016	634

. . . Category not applicable.

¹The data in this table are based on the following questions: “[Are you/Is anyone] covered by health insurance or some other kind of health care plan?” “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, was there any time when [you/someone in the family] needed medical care but did not get it because [you/the family] couldn’t afford it?” “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, [have/has] [you/anyone in the family] delayed seeking medical care because of worry about the cost?” “Is there a place that [subject’s name] USUALLY goes when [he/she] is sick or you need advice about [his/her] health?” “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how many times has [subject’s name] gone to a hospital emergency room about [his/her] health? (This includes emergency room visits that resulted in a hospital admission.)” See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²ER is emergency room.

³Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown among the frequencies. They are, however, included in the “All children” column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

⁴“Other, non-Hispanic” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁵Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

⁶Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁷“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁸Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁹Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

¹⁰MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 16. Percents (with standard errors) of selected health care risk factors for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	Selected health care risk factor ¹				
	Uninsured for health care	Unmet medical need	Delayed care due to cost	No usual source of care	2 or more visits to ER ² in past 12 months
	Percent ³ (standard error)				
Total	13.2 (0.38)	2.2 (0.13)	3.8 (0.19)	6.2 (0.23)	7.1 (0.26)
Sex					
Male	13.0 (0.47)	1.9 (0.18)	3.5 (0.26)	6.3 (0.35)	7.3 (0.36)
Female	13.3 (0.53)	2.4 (0.18)	4.2 (0.28)	6.2 (0.32)	6.9 (0.38)
Age					
0–4 years	11.5 (0.62)	1.6 (0.21)	3.1 (0.33)	3.8 (0.37)	9.8 (0.55)
5–17 years	13.8 (0.43)	2.4 (0.15)	4.1 (0.23)	7.2 (0.30)	6.0 (0.28)
5–11 years	13.3 (0.57)	2.4 (0.22)	4.1 (0.31)	5.6 (0.38)	6.2 (0.37)
12–17 years	14.3 (0.60)	2.4 (0.21)	4.1 (0.33)	9.1 (0.48)	5.8 (0.41)
Race/ethnicity ⁴					
White, non-Hispanic	10.0 (0.45)	1.8 (0.16)	3.9 (0.26)	4.7 (0.26)	6.2 (0.31)
Black, non-Hispanic	13.3 (0.92)	2.7 (0.35)	3.0 (0.38)	6.8 (0.61)	9.2 (0.74)
Other, non-Hispanic	16.6 (1.90)	*1.0 (0.37)	2.3 (0.65)	8.9 (1.45)	6.7 (1.46)
Hispanic	25.7 (0.91)	3.4 (0.32)	4.8 (0.40)	11.7 (0.71)	8.8 (0.53)
Mexican American	30.4 (1.27)	3.5 (0.44)	5.2 (0.60)	13.6 (1.04)	7.7 (0.66)
Family structure ⁵					
Mother and father	12.2 (0.43)	1.7 (0.14)	3.5 (0.23)	5.5 (0.25)	5.9 (0.28)
Mother, no father	14.0 (0.73)	3.9 (0.36)	5.2 (0.44)	6.9 (0.54)	10.8 (0.63)
Father, no mother	22.6 (2.37)	*1.2 (0.47)	3.7 (1.10)	15.6 (2.32)	7.3 (1.43)
Neither mother nor father	21.7 (2.30)	*0.9 (0.38)	*1.5 (0.49)	13.3 (1.87)	7.8 (1.35)
Parent's education ⁶					
Less than 12 years	28.4 (1.28)	3.3 (0.43)	3.8 (0.41)	13.3 (0.93)	10.9 (0.93)
12 years	17.0 (0.77)	3.2 (0.32)	4.9 (0.43)	7.4 (0.54)	8.0 (0.52)
More than 12 years	7.5 (0.34)	1.5 (0.15)	3.5 (0.25)	3.8 (0.25)	5.8 (0.32)
Family income ⁷					
Less than \$20,000	22.0 (0.91)	4.8 (0.40)	6.1 (0.47)	10.8 (0.65)	11.6 (0.66)
\$20,000 or more	10.1 (0.39)	1.4 (0.13)	3.2 (0.22)	4.8 (0.24)	5.6 (0.28)
\$20,000–\$34,999	22.3 (1.05)	2.7 (0.38)	6.3 (0.58)	9.0 (0.63)	7.3 (0.64)
\$35,000–\$54,999	9.7 (0.71)	1.8 (0.30)	3.6 (0.46)	4.5 (0.46)	6.3 (0.52)
\$55,000–\$74,999	3.5 (0.55)	0.9 (0.27)	2.0 (0.40)	2.9 (0.51)	4.8 (0.56)
\$75,000 or more	2.5 (0.43)	*0.4 (0.13)	0.9 (0.24)	2.0 (0.41)	3.9 (0.47)
Poverty status ⁸					
Poor	21.3 (1.08)	5.1 (0.50)	5.9 (0.56)	11.1 (0.82)	11.4 (0.84)
Near poor	22.6 (1.03)	3.1 (0.36)	6.8 (0.55)	9.1 (0.60)	8.5 (0.67)
Not poor	5.9 (0.36)	1.2 (0.14)	2.4 (0.22)	3.3 (0.25)	5.2 (0.31)
Health insurance coverage ⁹					
Private . . . . .	...	0.9 (0.11)	2.3 (0.20)	3.1 (0.22)	5.2 (0.27)
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	...	2.0 (0.32)	2.7 (0.39)	4.5 (0.48)	13.0 (0.75)
Other . . . . .	...	*0.8 (0.49)	*2.8 (1.07)	4.3 (1.27)	13.7 (2.19)
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	8.8 (0.70)	12.9 (0.89)	24.9 (1.22)	7.7 (0.72)
Place of residence					
Large MSA ¹⁰	12.0 (0.47)	1.9 (0.16)	3.2 (0.26)	5.5 (0.31)	7.1 (0.35)
Small MSA ¹⁰	12.6 (0.68)	2.0 (0.22)	4.0 (0.30)	6.9 (0.43)	7.3 (0.47)
Not in MSA ¹⁰	16.7 (1.03)	3.0 (0.37)	4.8 (0.53)	6.9 (0.56)	6.8 (0.62)
Region					
Northeast	8.4 (0.73)	1.2 (0.23)	2.6 (0.35)	3.1 (0.41)	6.2 (0.46)
Midwest	9.3 (0.68)	2.1 (0.27)	4.6 (0.49)	5.0 (0.45)	6.6 (0.53)
South	17.1 (0.71)	2.6 (0.22)	4.0 (0.32)	7.2 (0.40)	7.9 (0.49)
West	15.7 (0.84)	2.4 (0.29)	3.8 (0.38)	9.1 (0.62)	7.1 (0.54)

Table 16. Percents (with standard errors) of selected health care risk factors for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	Selected health care risk factor ¹				
	Uninsured for health care	Unmet medical need	Delayed care due to cost	No usual source of care	2 or more visits to ER ² in past 12 months
Current health status			Percent ³ (standard error)		
Excellent/very good/good	13.1 (0.38)	2.0 (0.13)	3.7 (0.19)	6.2 (0.24)	6.6 (0.26)
Fair /poor	17.2 (2.52)	9.8 (1.90)	11.9 (2.09)	7.0 (1.55)	27.9 (3.20)
Sex and age					
Male:					
0–4 years	11.3 (0.80)	1.2 (0.28)	2.6 (0.40)	3.7 (0.57)	10.1 (0.78)
5–17 years	13.6 (0.55)	2.2 (0.24)	3.8 (0.32)	7.3 (0.43)	6.2 (0.37)
5–11 years	13.2 (0.73)	1.9 (0.31)	3.7 (0.41)	5.7 (0.52)	6.4 (0.52)
12–17 years	14.2 (0.79)	2.6 (0.35)	4.0 (0.45)	9.2 (0.69)	5.9 (0.56)
Female:					
0–4 years	11.7 (0.87)	2.0 (0.33)	3.5 (0.47)	3.9 (0.48)	9.6 (0.81)
5–17 years	14.0 (0.61)	2.6 (0.22)	4.4 (0.35)	7.0 (0.42)	5.9 (0.42)
5–11 years	13.5 (0.83)	2.9 (0.34)	4.6 (0.48)	5.5 (0.53)	6.1 (0.54)
12–17 years	14.5 (0.93)	2.2 (0.27)	4.2 (0.48)	9.0 (0.68)	5.6 (0.60)

* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

. . . Category not applicable.

¹Data in this table are based on the following questions: “[Are you/ls anyone] covered by health insurance or some other kind of health care plan?” “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, was there any time when [you/someone in the family] needed medical care but did not get it because [you/the family] couldn't afford it?” “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, [have/has] [you/anyone in the family] delayed seeking medical care because of worry about the cost?” “Is there a place that [subject's name] USUALLY goes when [he/she] is sick or you need advice about [his/her] health?” “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how many times has [subject's name] gone to a hospital emergency room about [his/her] health? (This includes emergency room visits that resulted in a hospital admission.)” See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²ER is emergency room.

³Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100.0% because of rounding.

⁴“Other, non-Hispanic” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁵Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

⁶Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁷“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁸Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁹Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

¹⁰MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 17. Frequencies of unmet dental need in the past 12 months and frequency distributions of length of time since last dental contact for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	All children 2–17 years	Unmet dental need	Time since last dental contact ¹			
			6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years ²
			Number in thousands ³			
Total	63,759	3,830	33,602	12,175	6,947	10,269
Sex						
Male	32,655	1,963	16,772	6,531	3,611	5,301
Female	31,104	1,867	16,829	5,644	3,336	4,968
Age						
2–4 years	12,124	384	4,002	1,343	397	6,208
5–17 years	51,635	3,446	29,600	10,832	6,550	4,061
5–11 years	28,272	1,747	16,504	6,054	3,042	2,352
12–17 years	23,364	1,698	13,096	4,778	3,508	1,710
Race/ethnicity ⁴						
White, non-Hispanic	41,680	2,319	24,184	7,362	3,833	5,897
Black, non-Hispanic	9,753	661	4,232	2,323	1,459	1,508
Other, non-Hispanic	3,048	106	1,498	580	379	559
Hispanic	9,278	745	3,688	1,911	1,276	2,305
Mexican American	5,132	412	1,821	1,002	759	1,495
Family structure ⁵						
Mother and father	45,674	2,446	25,340	8,388	4,321	7,237
Mother, no father	14,487	1,181	6,672	2,997	2,066	2,528
Father, no mother	1,637	115	750	346	272	225
Neither mother nor father	1,959	88	840	444	288	278
Parent's education ⁶						
Less than 12 years	8,448	648	3,069	1,771	1,314	2,216
12 years	15,646	1,370	7,217	3,333	2,199	2,735
More than 12 years	37,286	1,703	22,359	6,548	3,132	4,996
Family income ⁷						
Less than \$20,000	14,421	1,398	5,700	3,122	2,144	3,240
\$20,000 or more	46,903	2,348	26,724	8,678	4,578	6,600
\$20,000–\$34,999	10,416	1,154	4,216	2,226	1,715	2,191
\$35,000–\$54,999	12,628	670	6,884	2,358	1,309	1,997
\$55,000–\$74,999	8,836	249	5,559	1,624	624	1,023
\$75,000 or more	9,951	114	7,183	1,378	500	853
Poverty status ⁸						
Poor	10,582	953	4,185	2,329	1,602	2,325
Near poor	11,740	1,391	4,626	2,563	1,943	2,532
Not poor	31,901	1,090	19,894	5,433	2,463	3,993
Health insurance coverage ⁹						
Private	42,846	1,641	25,383	7,950	3,637	5,500
Medicaid/other public	10,213	561	4,743	2,259	1,206	1,857
Other	1,523	58	800	306	159	246
Uninsured	8,653	1,569	2,424	1,534	1,917	2,596
Place of residence						
Large MSA ¹⁰	29,679	1,555	16,233	5,565	2,957	4,465
Small MSA ¹⁰	20,760	1,218	10,879	3,939	2,323	3,420
Not in MSA ¹⁰	13,321	1,057	6,490	2,671	1,667	2,384
Region						
Northeast	12,307	527	7,164	2,251	1,026	1,714
Midwest	15,953	880	8,946	3,156	1,502	2,228
South	22,398	1,571	10,663	4,338	2,966	4,096
West	13,102	851	6,828	2,430	1,452	2,232

Table 17. Frequencies of unmet dental need in the past 12 months and frequency distributions of length of time since last dental contact for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	All children 2–17 years	Unmet dental need	Time since last dental contact ¹			
			6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years ²
Current health status			Number in thousands ³			
Excellent/very good/good	62,398	3,627	33,045	11,929	6,717	9,983
Fair/poor	1,330	199	550	246	230	278
Dental care affordability						
Can't afford dental care	3,830	3,830	954	651	1,170	1,022
Afford dental care	59,729	*–	32,639	11,524	5,777	9,239
Sex and age						
Male:						
2–4 years	6,213	173	2,044	717	206	3,174
5–17 years	26,442	1,790	14,729	5,813	3,405	2,127
5–11 years	14,390	937	8,270	3,194	1,580	1,161
12–17 years	12,052	853	6,459	2,619	1,825	966
Female:						
2–4 years	5,911	211	1,958	626	191	3,034
5–17 years	25,193	1,656	14,871	5,019	3,145	1,934
5–11 years	13,881	810	8,234	2,859	1,462	1,191
12–17 years	11,312	846	6,637	2,160	1,683	744

* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) questions: "About how long has it been since [S.C.name] last saw or talked to a dentist? Include all type of dentists, such as orthodontists, oral surgeons, and all other dental specialists, as well as dental hygienists." "During the past 12 months, was there any time when [S.C.name] needed any of the following but didn't get it because you couldn't afford it: Dental care (including check-ups)?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²This category includes a small number of children who have never seen a dentist.

³Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown among the frequencies. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

⁴"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁵Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁶Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁷"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁸Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁹Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

¹⁰MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Table 18. Percents (with standard errors) of unmet dental need in the past 12 months and percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last dental contact for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997

Selected characteristic	Unmet dental need	All children 2–17 years	Time since last dental contact ¹			
			6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years ²
Percent distribution ³ (standard error)						
Total	6.0 (0.26)	100.0 (0.00)	53.3 (0.59)	19.3 (0.46)	11.0 (0.32)	16.3 (0.41)
Sex						
Male	6.0 (0.35)	100.0 (0.00)	52.1 (0.80)	20.3 (0.66)	11.2 (0.46)	16.5 (0.56)
Female	6.0 (0.39)	100.0 (0.00)	54.7 (0.80)	18.3 (0.63)	10.8 (0.46)	16.1 (0.57)
Age						
2–4 years	3.2 (0.41)	100.0 (0.00)	33.5 (1.16)	11.2 (0.75)	3.3 (0.44)	52.0 (1.23)
5–17 years	6.7 (0.30)	100.0 (0.00)	58.0 (0.66)	21.2 (0.54)	12.8 (0.38)	8.0 (0.34)
5–11 years	6.2 (0.43)	100.0 (0.00)	59.0 (0.89)	21.7 (0.77)	10.9 (0.51)	8.4 (0.47)
12–17 years	7.3 (0.45)	100.0 (0.00)	56.7 (0.88)	20.7 (0.70)	15.2 (0.60)	7.4 (0.44)
Race/ethnicity ⁴						
White, non-Hispanic	5.6 (0.35)	100.0 (0.00)	58.6 (0.75)	17.8 (0.55)	9.3 (0.39)	14.3 (0.48)
Black, non-Hispanic	6.8 (0.61)	100.0 (0.00)	44.5 (1.36)	24.4 (1.15)	15.3 (0.88)	15.8 (1.01)
Other, non-Hispanic	3.5 (0.85)	100.0 (0.00)	49.7 (2.56)	19.2 (2.01)	12.6 (1.80)	18.5 (1.92)
Hispanic	8.0 (0.63)	100.0 (0.00)	40.2 (1.15)	20.8 (0.87)	13.9 (0.72)	25.1 (1.02)
Mexican American	8.0 (0.84)	100.0 (0.00)	35.9 (1.62)	19.7 (1.07)	14.9 (0.93)	29.4 (1.48)
Family structure ⁵						
Mother and father	5.4 (0.31)	100.0 (0.00)	56.0 (0.71)	18.5 (0.56)	9.5 (0.36)	16.0 (0.48)
Mother, no father	8.2 (0.59)	100.0 (0.00)	46.8 (1.05)	21.0 (0.88)	14.5 (0.73)	17.7 (0.85)
Father, no mother	7.1 (1.61)	100.0 (0.00)	47.1 (3.10)	21.7 (2.22)	17.1 (2.22)	14.1 (2.15)
Neither mother nor father	4.5 (1.02)	100.0 (0.00)	45.4 (2.61)	24.0 (2.44)	15.6 (2.15)	15.0 (1.92)
Parent's education ⁶						
Less than 12 years	7.7 (0.72)	100.0 (0.00)	36.7 (1.38)	21.2 (1.18)	15.7 (1.08)	26.5 (1.32)
12 years	8.8 (0.63)	100.0 (0.00)	46.6 (1.18)	21.5 (0.92)	14.2 (0.74)	17.7 (0.87)
More than 12 years	4.6 (0.32)	100.0 (0.00)	60.4 (0.77)	17.7 (0.61)	8.5 (0.40)	13.5 (0.45)
Family income ⁷						
Less than \$20,000	9.7 (0.64)	100.0 (0.00)	40.1 (1.12)	22.0 (0.92)	15.1 (0.73)	22.8 (0.94)
\$20,000 or more	5.0 (0.30)	100.0 (0.00)	57.4 (0.67)	18.6 (0.54)	9.8 (0.38)	14.2 (0.42)
\$20,000–\$34,999	11.1 (0.91)	100.0 (0.00)	40.7 (1.36)	21.5 (1.16)	16.6 (0.95)	21.2 (1.12)
\$35,000–\$54,999	5.3 (0.54)	100.0 (0.00)	54.9 (1.24)	18.8 (1.00)	10.4 (0.72)	15.9 (0.81)
\$55,000–\$74,999	2.8 (0.45)	100.0 (0.00)	63.0 (1.47)	18.4 (1.13)	7.1 (0.81)	11.6 (0.95)
\$75,000 or more	1.1 (0.29)	100.0 (0.00)	72.5 (1.20)	13.9 (0.97)	5.0 (0.59)	8.6 (0.75)
Poverty status ⁸						
Poor	9.0 (0.74)	100.0 (0.00)	40.1 (1.36)	22.3 (1.20)	15.3 (0.96)	22.3 (1.12)
Near poor	11.9 (0.85)	100.0 (0.00)	39.7 (1.35)	22.0 (1.13)	16.7 (0.90)	21.7 (0.99)
Not poor	3.4 (0.27)	100.0 (0.00)	62.6 (0.72)	17.1 (0.57)	7.8 (0.39)	12.6 (0.44)
Health insurance coverage ⁹						
Private	3.8 (0.27)	100.0 (0.00)	59.8 (0.68)	18.7 (0.55)	8.6 (0.36)	13.0 (0.44)
Medicaid/other public	5.5 (0.63)	100.0 (0.00)	47.1 (1.41)	22.4 (1.19)	12.0 (0.92)	18.4 (1.04)
Other	*3.8 (1.16)	100.0 (0.00)	53.0 (4.04)	20.3 (3.02)	10.5 (2.08)	16.3 (2.35)
Uninsured	18.2 (1.14)	100.0 (0.00)	28.6 (1.30)	18.1 (1.02)	22.6 (1.14)	30.6 (1.38)
Place of residence						
Large MSA ¹⁰	5.3 (0.34)	100.0 (0.00)	55.6 (0.80)	19.0 (0.62)	10.1 (0.43)	15.3 (0.57)
Small MSA ¹⁰	5.9 (0.42)	100.0 (0.00)	52.9 (1.03)	19.2 (0.83)	11.3 (0.56)	16.6 (0.72)
Not in MSA ¹⁰	7.9 (0.72)	100.0 (0.00)	49.1 (1.35)	20.2 (1.05)	12.6 (0.82)	18.0 (0.96)
Region						
Northeast	4.3 (0.50)	100.0 (0.00)	58.9 (1.17)	18.5 (0.99)	8.4 (0.56)	14.1 (0.87)
Midwest	5.5 (0.55)	100.0 (0.00)	56.5 (1.36)	19.9 (0.97)	9.5 (0.64)	14.1 (0.76)
South	7.0 (0.47)	100.0 (0.00)	48.3 (1.00)	19.7 (0.75)	13.4 (0.59)	18.6 (0.76)
West	6.5 (0.50)	100.0 (0.00)	52.8 (1.23)	18.8 (1.04)	11.2 (0.70)	17.2 (0.90)

Table 18. Percents (with standard errors) of unmet dental need in the past 12 months and percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last dental contact for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1997—Con.

Selected characteristic	Unmet dental need	All children 2–17 years	Time since last dental contact ¹			
			6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years ²
Current health status			Percent distribution ³ (standard error)			
Excellent/very good/good	5.8 (0.26)	100.0 (0.00)	53.6 (0.60)	19.3 (0.46)	10.9 (0.33)	16.2 (0.41)
Fair/poor	15.2 (2.48)	100.0 (0.00)	42.2 (3.33)	18.8 (2.47)	17.6 (2.70)	21.3 (3.04)
Dental care affordability						
Can't afford dental care	100.0 (0.00)	100.0 (0.00)	25.1 (2.00)	17.2 (1.55)	30.8 (2.10)	26.9 (1.88)
Afford dental care	*–	100.0 (0.00)	55.2 (0.62)	19.5 (0.47)	9.8 (0.31)	15.6 (0.43)
Sex and age						
Male:						
2–4 years	2.8 (0.50)	100.0 (0.00)	33.3 (1.71)	11.7 (1.10)	3.4 (0.65)	51.7 (1.76)
5–17 years	6.8 (0.43)	100.0 (0.00)	56.5 (0.90)	22.3 (0.77)	13.1 (0.56)	8.2 (0.48)
5–11 years	6.5 (0.62)	100.0 (0.00)	58.2 (1.18)	22.5 (1.02)	11.1 (0.72)	8.2 (0.67)
12–17 years	7.1 (0.61)	100.0 (0.00)	54.4 (1.17)	22.1 (1.01)	15.4 (0.88)	8.1 (0.62)
Female:						
2–4 years	3.6 (0.65)	100.0 (0.00)	33.7 (1.50)	10.8 (1.07)	3.3 (0.60)	52.2 (1.67)
5–17 years	6.6 (0.43)	100.0 (0.00)	59.6 (0.86)	20.1 (0.71)	12.6 (0.55)	7.7 (0.48)
5–11 years	5.8 (0.56)	100.0 (0.00)	59.9 (1.21)	20.8 (1.05)	10.6 (0.72)	8.7 (0.66)
12–17 years	7.5 (0.66)	100.0 (0.00)	59.1 (1.27)	19.2 (1.00)	15.0 (0.86)	6.6 (0.63)

* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

¹Data in this table are based on the following Sample Child (S.C.) questions: "About how long has it been since [S.C.name] last saw or talked to a dentist? Include all type of dentists, such as orthodontists, oral surgeons, and all other dental specialists, as well as dental hygienists." "During the past 12 months, was there any time when [S.C.name] needed any of the following but didn't get it because you couldn't afford it: Dental care (including check-ups)?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

²This category includes a small number of children who have never seen a dentist.

³Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100.0% because of rounding.

⁴"Other, non-Hispanic" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁵Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

⁶Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education.

⁷The categories "Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

⁸Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

⁹Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured in this table.

¹⁰MSA is Metropolitan Statistical Area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Appendix I

Technical Notes on Methods

This report is one of a set of statistical reports published by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). It is based on data contained in the 1997 public use Sample Child, Person, and Health Insurance files. All analyses were appropriately weighted and produced using the SUDAAN statistical package. Standard errors are shown for all percents in the tables. Percents with relative standard errors greater than 30% are considered unreliable and are indicated with an asterisk. The relative standard errors are calculated as follows:

$$\text{Relative standard error} = (\text{SE}/\text{EST})100,$$

where SE is the standard error of the estimate and EST is the estimated percent.

Treatment of Unknown Values

In the tables, all unknown values (respondents coded as “refused,” “don’t know,” or “not ascertained”) for the variables of interest were removed from the denominators when calculating row percents. In most instances, the overall

number of unknowns is quite small and would not have supported breakdowns by the demographic characteristics included in each table. Because these unknowns are not shown separately, users calculating their own percents based on the frequencies and population counts presented in the tables may obtain slightly different results. To aid users’ understanding of the data, weighted counts and percents of unknowns (with respect to the variables of interest in each table) are shown in [table I](#).

Unknowns with respect to the demographic characteristics used in each table are not shown due to small cell counts. However, unknowns with respect to both family income and poverty status typically include a sizable number of persons regardless of the health outcome shown in the table. Because it is difficult to interpret the relationship between “unknown” income (or poverty status) and the health outcomes displayed in the tables, counts of persons in these unknown categories are not shown in the tables. [Table II](#) shows weighted counts of children in the U.S. population with unknown values with respect to poverty status and family income, family structure, parent’s education, health insurance coverage, and current health status.

The topic of income is a sensitive area for some NHIS respondents. Therefore, the “Income and Assets” section of the Family Core of the redesigned NHIS instrument allows respondents to report their family income in several ways. Respondents are first asked to provide their family’s total combined income in a dollar amount (from \$0 up to \$999,995) before taxes from all sources for the previous calendar year. Respondents who did not know or refused to state an amount are then asked if their family’s combined income in the previous calendar year was \$20,000 or more or less than \$20,000. If they again refused to answer or said that they did not know, they were not asked any more questions about their family income. Respondents who replied to this above-below \$20,000 question were handed a card with 43 fairly detailed income categories (top-coded at \$75,000) and asked to pick the interval containing their best estimate of their family’s combined income. NHIS respondents thus fall in 1 of 4 categories with respect to income information: those willing to supply a dollar amount (75% of the 1997 sample), those willing to indicate their income from a fairly detailed set of intervals (4.2% of the sample), those who would only say that their family’s income was either \$20,000 or more

Table I. Weighted counts and percents of children with “unknown” information: National Health Interview Survey, 1997

Variable of interest	Weighted count (in thousands)	Percent of children
Ever had asthma (children aged 0–17 years) (table 1)	226	0.32
Had asthma in past 12 months (children aged 0–17 years) (table 1)	13	0.17
Hay fever (children aged 0–17 years) (table 2)	343	0.48
Respiratory allergies (children aged 0–17 years) (table 2)	312	0.44
Other allergies (children aged 0–17 years) (table 2)	159	0.22
Learning disability (children aged 3–17 years) (table 3)	192	0.32
Attention Deficit Disorder (children aged 3–17 years) (table 3)	209	0.35
Taken prescription medicine for at least 3 months (children aged 0–17 years) (table 4)	143	0.20
Current health status (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 5,6)	35	0.05
Current health status (children ages 1–17 years) (tables 7,8)	35	0.05
Health status compared to a year ago (children aged 1–17 years) (tables 7,8)	356	0.50
School days missed in the past 12 months (children aged 5–17 years) (tables 9,10)	859	1.66
Has usual source of care (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 11,12,15,16)	166	0.23
Location of usual source of care (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 11,12)	28	0.04
Interval since last contact with health professional (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 13,14)	584	0.82
Health insurance coverage (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 15,16)	604	0.85
Unmet medical need (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 15,16)	72	0.10
Delayed medical care due to cost (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 15,16)	60	0.08
Emergency room visits (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 15,16)	375	0.53
Unmet dental need (children aged 2–17 years) (tables 17,18)	56	0.09
Time since last dental contact (children aged 2–17 years) (tables 17,18)	210	0.32

Table II. Weighted counts and percents of children with “unknown” information on selected sociodemographic characteristics: National Health Interview Survey, 1997

Variable of interest	Weighted count (in thousands)	Percent of children
Family structure	14	0.02
Parent’s education ¹	2,502	3.51
Family income	2,655	3.72
Poverty status	10,649	14.92
Health insurance coverage	604	0.85
Current health status	35	0.05

¹All parents not in the household were counted in the unknown category for parent’s education; this was in addition to parents in the household with unknown education level.

or less than \$20,000 (14.2% of the sample), and those unwilling to provide any information whatsoever (6.6% of the sample). Respondents who would only state that their family income was below \$20,000 are included in the “Less than \$20,000” category under “Family income” in the tables in this report (along with those respondents who gave a dollar amount or an interval estimate that was less than \$20,000). Likewise, respondents who would only state that their family income was at or above \$20,000 are included in the “\$20,000 or more” category under “Family income” (again, this category includes respondents who also supplied a dollar amount or an interval estimate that was \$20,000 or more). For this reason, the counts for the detailed amounts do not sum to the count shown for \$20,000 or more.

A poverty status recode variable is formed for respondents who supplied either a dollar amount or an interval estimate for their family’s income. This variable is the ratio of the family’s income in the previous calendar year to the appropriate poverty threshold (given the family’s size and number of children) in 1996 as calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau (25). Children who are categorized as “Poor” had a ratio less than 1.0, that is, their family income was strictly below the poverty threshold. The “Near poor” category includes children with family incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. Lastly, “Not poor” children have family incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater. By necessity, the remaining groups of respondents—those who

would only indicate that they were at/above \$20,000 versus below \$20,000, as well as those who refused to provide any income information whatsoever—are coded as “unknown” with respect to poverty status. Once the sample weight is applied, 3.72% of the U.S. child population is missing information on income, and 14.92% is missing information on poverty status.

Table II shows weighted counts (in thousands) and percents for portions of children in the U.S. population missing information with respect to poverty status and family income, family structure, parent’s education, health insurance coverage, and current health status, across all health outcomes included in this report.

Hypothesis Tests

Two-tailed tests of significance were performed on all the comparisons mentioned in the “Selected Highlights” section of this report (no adjustments were made for multiple comparisons). The test statistic used to determine statistical significance of the difference between two percents was:

$$Z = | X_a - X_b | / \sqrt{S_a^2 + S_b^2}$$

where X_a and X_b are the two percents being compared, and S_a and S_b are the SUDAAN-calculated standard errors of those percents. The critical value used for two-sided tests at the 0.05 level of significance was 1.96.

Appendix II

Definition of Selected Terms

Demographic Terms

Age—The age recorded for each child is the age at the last birthday. Age is recorded in single years and grouped using a variety of age categories depending on the purpose of the table.

Family structure—Family structure describes the parent (s) present in the household with the sample child. Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster parents. Legal guardians are not classified as parents.

Geographic region of residence—To classify the U.S. population by geographic area, the States are grouped into four regions. These regions, which correspond to those used by the U.S. Census Bureau are as follows:

<i>Region</i>	<i>States included</i>
Northeast	Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania
Midwest	Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, and Nebraska
South	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas
West	Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, and Hawaii

Place of residence—An individual's place of residence is classified as inside a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or outside an MSA. Generally, an MSA consists of a county or group of counties containing at least one city (or twin cities) having a population of 50,000 or more plus adjacent counties that are metropolitan in character and economically and socially integrated with the central city. In New England, towns and cities rather than counties are the units used in defining MSAs. There is neither a limit to the number of adjacent counties included in the MSA if they are integrated with the central city nor is an MSA limited to a single State; boundaries may cross State lines. The metropolitan populations in this report are based on MSAs as defined in the 1990 Census. In the tables for this report, place of residence is based on a variable in the 1997 Person data file indicating MSA size. This variable is collapsed into three categories: MSAs with a population of 1,000,000 or more; MSAs with a population of less than 1,000,000; and non-MSA areas.

Race/ethnicity—Race characterization is based on the respondent's description of his or her racial background as well as the racial background of each family member. Respondents are also asked whether they are of Hispanic origin. Information from these two sources is used to create a four-category race/ethnicity indicator, which distinguishes between non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic other, and Hispanic persons. Non-Hispanic other includes persons who identified their race as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Hispanic persons may be of any race. Some tables also show Mexican Americans as a subset of Hispanics.

Socioeconomic Terms

Family income—Each member of a family is classified according to the total income of the family of which he or she is a member. Within the household, all persons related to each other by blood, marriage or cohabitation, or adoption constitute a family. Unrelated

individuals living in the same household (e.g., roommates) are considered to be separate families and are classified according to their own incomes. The income recorded is the total of all income received by members of the family (or by an unrelated individual) in the previous calendar year. Income from all sources—wages, salaries, pensions, government payments, child support/alimony, dividends, help from relatives, etc.—is included.

Health insurance coverage—NHIS respondents were asked about their health insurance coverage at the time of the interview. Respondents could also state whether they were covered by private insurance obtained from their employer or workplace, private insurance that they had purchased directly, Medicare, Medi-Gap (supplemental Medicare coverage), Medicaid, military or VA health care (as well as CHAMPUS/TRICARE/CHAMP-VA), a state-sponsored health plan, or a government program (other than those already mentioned). This information is used to form a health insurance hierarchy of four mutually exclusive categories for persons under age 65 years (private, Medicaid/other public, other coverage, or uninsured), and five mutually exclusive categories for persons aged 65 years and over (private, Medicaid and Medicare, Medicare only, other coverage, and uninsured). Private coverage includes persons who have any comprehensive private health insurance plan (including health maintenance organizations and preferred provider organizations) and persons who have a hospitalization plan only; these may be either obtained from one's employer or workplace or purchased directly. Among persons younger than age 65 years, those with Medicaid and/or another form of public insurance coverage (e.g., most state-sponsored coverage) are distinguished from those with "other coverage," which includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Among persons aged 65 years and over, those with Medicaid plus Medicare coverage are distinguished from those with Medicare-only coverage. "Other

coverage" includes those with Medicaid only, other forms of public health insurance coverage (e.g., State-sponsored coverage), military coverage, and other forms of government-sponsored health coverage (in all cases, without Medicare). Given this hierarchy, an individual with more than one type of health insurance, such as private and military coverage, would be assigned to the first appropriate category in the hierarchy (i.e., private).

If respondents do not report coverage under one of the above types of plans, they are considered to have "unknown" coverage. Weighted frequencies indicate that 1.3% of the population under age 65 years were in this "unknown" category as opposed to 0.8% of the population aged 65 years and over. All remaining respondents are considered uninsured. Uninsured persons are those who do not have coverage under private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, public assistance, a State-sponsored health plan, other government-sponsored programs, or a military health plan. In addition, persons with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured. Weighted frequencies indicate that 17.3% of the population under age 65 years was uninsured as opposed to 1.1% of persons aged 65 years and over.

Parent's education—Parent's education reflects the highest grade in school completed by the sample child's mother or father. The categories of education are based on the years of school completed or highest degree obtained for persons aged 25 years and over. Only years completed in regular school, where persons are given a formal education, are included. A "regular" school is one that advances a person toward an elementary or high school diploma or a college, university, or professional degree. Thus, education in vocational, trade, or business school outside the regular school system is not counted in determining the highest grade of school completed. Likewise, participation in adult education classes not taken for credit in a regular school system is not included. For example, a person who took conversational Spanish through an adult education program at a

local university would not be counted as having “some college.” Schooling in other than regular schools (e.g., home schooling) is counted only if the credits obtained are acceptable in a regular school system.

Poverty status—Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Poor persons are defined as those below the poverty threshold. Near poor persons have incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. Not poor persons have incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater. [Appendix I](#) has more information on the measurement of family income and poverty status.

Health Terms

Asthma—Asthma includes smoker’s asthma, bronchial asthma, and allergic asthma. Asthma is indicated when a doctor or other health professional reported to the family that the sample child has asthma.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)—ADD is indicated when a doctor or other health professional reported to the family that the sample child has Attention Deficit Disorder or ADD.

Contacts with health professionals—Contact with a health professional is defined as a visit to or conversation with a doctor or other health professional by anyone in the family about the health of the sample child. Contacts may include visits by a health professional to the patient’s home; a telephone call to the office of a health professional for medical advice, prescriptions, or test results, but not to make an appointment; or an appointment with a health professional in a doctor’s office, clinic, emergency room, or some other place, excluding overnight hospital stays. Health professionals are defined as all types of medical doctors, including dermatologists, psychiatrists, ophthalmologists, and general practitioners, as well as nurses, physical therapists, and chiropractors.

Delays in receiving needed medical care—Data pertaining to delays in

receiving needed medical care due to cost are derived from a question in the 1997 NHIS that asked respondents whether anyone in the family had delayed seeking medical care in the past 12 months because of worry about the cost.

Doctor or other health professional—This group includes medical doctors (M.D.s) and osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) (both general practitioners and specialists), psychologists, nurses, physical therapists, and chiropractors.

Health Status—Respondent-assessed health status is obtained from a question in the survey that asked respondents, “Would you say your health in general was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?” Information was obtained from all respondents with proxy responses allowed for adults not taking part in the interview and all children under 18 years of age. A small number of respondents either refused to answer or could not provide an answer to the question; these persons are not shown in the frequency distributions, nor are they included in the denominators when calculating the percent distributions.

Hospital emergency room or ER visits—This includes visits to a hospital emergency room only. Visits for emergency care received at an HMO, outpatient clinic, or urgent care center are not included.

Prescription medicine—Medication that can only be obtained with the approval of a licensed health care provider.

Unmet medical need—Unmet medical need was based on a question that asked respondents whether someone in the family had needed medical care during the past 12 months but did not get it because the family could not afford it.

Usual place of care—A usual place of care includes a walk-in clinic, doctor’s office, clinic, health center, Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), hospital emergency room or outpatient clinic, or a military or Veterans Administration (VA) health care facility.

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For answers to questions about this report or for a list of reports published in these series, contact:

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