

Health Statistics

The right decisions are critical to protect the public's health and can affect millions of people. So it is vital that decision makers have accurate, relevant health information. CDC takes the health pulse of the American people. We track threats, the leading causes of death, health inequalities, and access to care according to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, region, and other population characteristics. CDC provides the essential information for policy making, biomedical and health services research, and other public health applications. Information can change the world, and CDC is dedicated to providing the highest quality health information to the U.S. and our public health partners around the world.

Key Accomplishments 2015

- Provided online access to important health indicators to public health practitioners, researchers, and health policy makers through the new Vital Statistics Rapid Release program with quarterly estimates and provisional data.
- Published information on obesity trends among young people in the U.S. and Canada through collaborative efforts of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and the Canadian Health Measures Survey.
- Released data showing that about 13% of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder grow out of the diagnosis, documenting the challenges facing clinicians who deal with this difficult condition.
- Released new data on prescription opioid painkiller use among adults and opioid poisoning deaths (including deaths from heroin)—two key measures in America's growing struggle against opioid painkiller addiction.
- Published new 2014 data showing the first increase in the U.S. fertility rate since 2007. Rates rose for non-Hispanic white and Asian or Pacific Islander women, but were historically low for Hispanic women and American Indian or Alaska Native women.



Hispanics are the largest racial and ethnic minority group in the United States.

CDC Releases Data from First Ever Study on Hispanic Health Risks

The first national study on Hispanic health risks and leading causes of death in America through CDC Vital Signs shows that similar to non-Hispanic whites, the two leading causes of death among Hispanics are heart disease and cancer. Fewer Hispanics than whites die from the 10 leading causes of death, but Hispanics had higher death rates than whites from diabetes and chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. They have similar death rates from kidney diseases.

The CDC data are helping inform policies that could improve the health of Hispanics in the U.S. Recommendations include engaging interpreters to eliminate language barriers; providing weight control consultation for patients at risk of high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer; asking patients if they smoke and recommending cessation; and engaging "promotores de salud" (community health workers) to educate and link patients to low-cost health services.

The CDC data draw from recent national census and health surveillance data to determine differences between Hispanics, whites, and among Hispanic subgroups. Hispanics are the largest ethnic minority group in the U.S. Currently, nearly one in six people living in the U.S. (almost 57 million) is Hispanic, and this is projected to increase to nearly one in four (more than 85 million) by 2035.



9%
Birth rates for teenagers fell 9% from 2013 to 2014, to 24 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years—another record low for the U.S.



13%
About 13% of adults tried an e-cigarette even one time in 2014, with use differing by sex, age, and race-ethnicity.



37%
The percentage of opioid painkiller users who used an opioid painkiller stronger than morphine grew from 17% to 37% (1999–2002 to 2011–2012).



27
Deaths from influenza and pneumonia in first quarter of 2015 were 27 deaths per 100,000 people, higher than first quarter of 2014 (23.8).