

Table 47 (page 1 of 3). Severe headache or migraine, low back pain, and neck pain among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2012

Updated data when available, Excel, PDF, more data years, and standard errors: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2012.htm#047>.

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Severe headache or migraine ¹			Low back pain ¹			Neck pain ¹		
	1997	2010	2012	1997	2010	2012	1997	2010	2012
Percent of adults with pain during the past 3 months									
18 years and over, age-adjusted ^{2,3}	15.8	16.6	14.2	28.2	28.4	27.5	14.7	15.4	13.9
18 years and over, crude ³	16.0	16.4	13.8	28.1	28.8	28.0	14.6	15.8	14.3
Age									
18–44 years	18.7	20.4	17.1	26.1	25.2	24.0	13.3	13.1	11.3
18–24 years	18.7	19.6	15.7	21.9	19.4	19.1	9.8	8.3	6.5
25–44 years	18.7	20.7	17.6	27.3	27.2	25.8	14.3	14.8	13.1
45–64 years	15.8	15.6	13.6	31.3	32.4	32.3	17.0	20.0	18.4
45–54 years	17.8	16.7	16.0	31.3	31.3	31.6	17.3	19.1	19.1
55–64 years	12.7	14.1	10.7	31.2	33.8	33.1	16.6	21.0	17.4
65 years and over	7.0	6.4	5.7	29.5	31.8	30.4	15.0	14.8	14.2
65–74 years	8.2	7.4	6.5	30.2	32.5	29.9	15.0	15.5	14.5
75 years and over	5.4	5.1	4.7	28.6	30.9	31.1	15.0	14.0	13.7
Sex ²									
Male	9.9	11.0	9.0	26.5	26.3	25.4	12.6	13.1	11.3
Female	21.4	22.1	19.1	29.6	30.3	29.6	16.6	17.6	16.4
Sex and age									
Male:									
18–44 years	11.9	13.5	10.5	24.8	23.2	21.9	11.6	11.0	9.1
45–54 years	10.3	10.4	11.0	29.4	29.6	30.4	13.9	16.3	16.1
55–64 years	8.8	9.6	7.7	30.7	32.8	31.3	14.6	17.6	14.4
65–74 years	5.0	5.5	3.8	29.0	28.4	25.5	13.6	12.8	10.8
75 years and over	*2.4	4.0	2.9	22.5	27.4	27.9	12.6	13.0	11.5
Female:									
18–44 years	25.4	27.3	23.5	27.3	27.1	26.0	14.9	15.2	13.5
45–54 years	24.9	22.9	20.9	33.1	33.0	32.8	20.6	21.8	22.0
55–64 years	16.3	18.2	13.5	31.7	34.7	34.7	18.4	24.1	20.3
65–74 years	10.7	9.1	8.9	31.1	36.1	33.8	16.1	17.8	17.8
75 years and over	7.4	5.8	5.9	32.4	33.2	33.2	16.5	14.6	15.2
Race ^{2,4}									
White only	15.9	16.7	14.4	28.7	29.1	28.3	15.1	16.0	14.5
Black or African American only	16.7	18.2	14.1	26.9	27.2	24.7	13.3	13.3	10.7
American Indian or Alaska Native only	18.9	18.8	17.8	33.3	33.6	29.2	16.2	16.9	18.0
Asian only	11.7	10.1	9.2	21.0	19.1	19.7	9.2	9.6	11.4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	---	*	*	---	*	*	---	*	*
2 or more races	---	21.5	21.2	---	35.6	41.2	---	22.0	20.9
Hispanic origin and race ^{2,4}									
Hispanic or Latino	15.5	16.2	12.9	26.4	27.4	26.5	13.9	15.1	13.9
Mexican	14.6	15.7	11.9	25.2	26.5	24.7	12.9	14.7	13.1
Not Hispanic or Latino	15.9	16.8	14.6	28.4	28.7	27.8	14.9	15.5	14.1
White only	16.1	17.0	15.1	29.1	29.7	28.8	15.4	16.3	14.8
Black or African American only	16.8	18.4	14.0	26.9	27.1	24.8	13.3	13.3	10.6
Education ^{5,6}									
25 years and over:									
No high school diploma or GED	19.2	18.2	16.7	33.6	34.5	33.2	16.5	18.9	16.6
High school diploma or GED	16.0	17.4	13.0	30.2	31.9	31.0	15.5	16.8	15.2
Some college or more	13.8	15.1	13.8	26.9	28.0	27.3	14.6	15.8	14.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 47 (page 2 of 3). Severe headache or migraine, low back pain, and neck pain among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2012

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[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Severe headache or migraine ¹			Low back pain ¹			Neck pain ¹		
	1997	2010	2012	1997	2010	2012	1997	2010	2012
Percent of poverty level ^{2,7}									
Percent of adults with pain during the past 3 months									
Below 100%	23.3	22.7	20.4	35.4	34.9	35.4	18.6	20.2	18.2
100%–199%	18.9	19.5	16.4	30.8	32.5	31.4	16.1	17.7	16.4
200%–399%	15.5	16.6	13.2	27.9	28.5	28.0	14.8	15.2	13.5
400% or more	12.4	13.3	11.7	24.8	24.7	22.9	12.8	13.1	11.8
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level ^{2,4,7}									
Hispanic or Latino:									
Below 100%	18.9	19.6	16.5	29.5	29.0	29.8	16.4	17.4	17.1
100%–199%	15.7	15.1	14.4	26.8	27.2	27.4	12.9	15.7	14.0
200%–399%	14.0	16.5	10.2	25.0	27.5	25.7	13.8	12.9	12.1
400% or more	13.0	14.0	10.5	21.6	25.6	22.9	12.1	15.3	13.7
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White only:									
Below 100%	26.1	24.8	23.3	38.9	40.5	39.5	20.5	23.7	20.3
100%–199%	20.4	22.0	18.2	33.3	35.9	35.1	18.0	19.9	19.0
200%–399%	16.3	16.9	14.6	29.1	30.5	29.8	15.9	16.8	14.6
400% or more	12.5	13.8	12.3	25.4	25.2	23.8	13.1	13.6	12.2
Black or African American only:									
Below 100%	22.7	24.0	20.5	34.5	32.5	34.2	17.9	18.6	15.1
100%–199%	17.6	19.6	15.8	27.7	31.2	26.4	14.0	14.4	10.5
200%–399%	14.0	17.6	10.9	24.3	23.7	22.8	10.2	11.7	10.6
400% or more	12.9	12.2	9.9	21.5	21.0	16.9	11.9	8.5	6.7
Disability measure ^{2,8}									
Any basic actions difficulty or complex activity limitation									
Any basic actions difficulty	29.3	30.1	27.9	48.0	49.5	48.6	27.2	28.1	27.0
Any complex activity limitation	30.0	30.9	28.8	49.3	51.1	50.5	27.9	29.0	28.1
Any complex activity limitation	34.6	36.0	31.9	55.1	54.5	53.9	33.1	34.3	31.8
No disability	11.0	11.7	9.6	19.4	19.0	18.6	9.1	9.7	8.4
Geographic region ²									
Northeast	14.5	15.4	12.4	27.1	28.0	25.6	14.0	14.9	11.9
Midwest	15.6	16.8	15.9	28.7	28.1	28.0	15.3	16.0	15.0
South	17.1	18.2	14.1	27.5	28.3	27.7	13.9	14.6	13.1
West	15.3	15.1	14.1	30.0	29.3	28.2	16.1	16.5	15.8
Location of residence ²									
Within MSA ⁹	15.2	16.3	13.8	27.0	27.5	27.0	14.2	14.9	13.7
Outside MSA ⁹	18.1	18.6	16.1	32.5	33.8	30.6	16.4	18.1	15.1

See footnotes at end of table.

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[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

--- Data not available.

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error (RSE) of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%.

¹In three separate questions, respondents were asked, “During the past 3 months, did you have a severe headache or migraine? ...low back pain? ...neck pain?” Respondents were instructed to report pain that had lasted a whole day or more, and not to report fleeting or minor aches or pains. Persons may be represented in more than one column.

²Estimates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five age groups: 18–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. Age-adjusted estimates in this table may differ from other age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See [Appendix II, Age adjustment](#).

³Includes all other races not shown separately, unknown education level, and unknown disability status.

⁴The race groups, white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The five single-race categories plus multiple-race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes persons who reported more than one racial group. Prior to 1999, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards with four racial groups, and the Asian only category included Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race were treated as missing, and then race was imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all persons with a race response of other race were of Hispanic origin. See [Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race](#).

⁵Estimates are for persons aged 25 and over and are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five age groups: 25–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. See [Appendix II, Age adjustment](#).

⁶GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma. See [Appendix II, Education](#).

⁷Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Missing family income data were imputed for 1997 and beyond. See [Appendix II, Family income; Poverty; Table VI](#).

⁸Any basic actions difficulty or complex activity limitation is defined as having one or more of the following limitations or difficulties: movement difficulty, emotional difficulty, sensory (seeing or hearing) difficulty, cognitive difficulty, self-care (activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living) limitation, social limitation, or work limitation. For more information, see [Appendix II, Basic actions difficulty; Complex activity limitation](#). Starting with 2007 data, the hearing question, a component of the basic actions difficulty measure, was revised. Consequently, data prior to 2007 are not comparable with data for 2007 and beyond. For more information on the impact of the revised hearing question, see [Appendix II, Hearing trouble](#).

⁹MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2006 data, MSA status is determined using 2000 census data and the 2000 standards for defining MSAs. For data prior to 2006, see [Appendix II, Metropolitan statistical area \(MSA\)](#) for the applicable standards.

NOTES: Standard errors are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>. Data for additional years are available. See the Excel spreadsheet on the *Health, United States* website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, sample adult questionnaire. See [Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey \(NHIS\)](#).