

Table 41. Severe headache or migraine, low back pain, and neck pain among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2016

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2017.htm#041> .

[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	2016	1997	2010	2016	1997	2010	2016
Percent of adults with pain during the past 3 months									
18 years and over, age-adjusted ^{2,3}	15.8	16.6	15.5	28.2	28.4	28.4	14.7	15.4	15.0
18 years and over, crude ³	16.0	16.4	15.0	28.1	28.8	29.0	14.6	15.8	15.4
Age									
18–44 years	18.7	20.4	17.9	26.1	25.2	24.4	13.3	13.1	12.1
18–24 years	18.7	19.6	15.1	21.9	19.4	18.3	9.8	8.3	9.1
25–44 years	18.7	20.7	18.9	27.3	27.2	26.6	14.3	14.8	13.1
45–64 years	15.8	15.6	15.6	31.3	32.4	33.2	17.0	20.0	19.6
45–54 years	17.8	16.7	17.8	31.3	31.3	32.1	17.3	19.1	19.9
55–64 years	12.7	14.1	13.3	31.2	33.8	34.3	16.6	21.0	19.3
65 years and over	7.0	6.4	7.0	29.5	31.8	32.5	15.0	14.8	15.8
65–74 years	8.2	7.4	8.0	30.2	32.5	32.8	15.0	15.5	16.2
75 years and over	5.4	5.1	5.4	28.6	30.9	32.2	15.0	14.0	15.2
Sex ²									
Male	9.9	11.0	10.3	26.5	26.3	26.7	12.6	13.1	13.0
Female	21.4	22.1	20.5	29.6	30.3	29.9	16.6	17.6	16.8
Sex and age									
Male:									
18–44 years	11.9	13.5	12.2	24.8	23.2	22.6	11.6	11.0	10.7
45–54 years	10.3	10.4	11.0	29.4	29.6	30.5	13.9	16.3	16.1
55–64 years	8.8	9.6	9.0	30.7	32.8	35.5	14.6	17.6	17.3
65–74 years	5.0	5.5	4.6	29.0	28.4	30.6	13.6	12.8	13.7
75 years and over	*2.4	4.0	4.0	22.5	27.4	27.8	12.6	13.0	14.0
Female:									
18–44 years	25.4	27.3	23.5	27.3	27.1	26.3	14.9	15.2	13.4
45–54 years	24.9	22.9	24.4	33.1	33.0	33.7	20.6	21.8	23.7
55–64 years	16.3	18.2	17.3	31.7	34.7	33.2	18.4	24.1	21.1
65–74 years	10.7	9.1	11.0	31.1	36.1	34.7	16.1	17.8	18.4
75 years and over	7.4	5.8	6.5	32.4	33.2	35.3	16.5	14.6	16.0
Race ^{2,4}									
White only	15.9	16.7	16.0	28.7	29.1	29.0	15.1	16.0	15.9
Black or African American only	16.7	18.2	14.6	26.9	27.2	27.8	13.3	13.3	12.5
American Indian or Alaska Native only	18.9	18.8	16.4	33.3	33.6	34.7	16.2	16.9	15.1
Asian only	11.7	10.1	9.9	21.0	19.1	18.8	9.2	9.6	8.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	---	*	*	---	*	25.0	---	*	11.8
2 or more races	---	21.5	22.5	---	35.6	34.8	---	22.0	21.9
Hispanic origin and race ^{2,4}									
Hispanic or Latino	15.5	16.2	15.3	26.4	27.4	27.4	13.9	15.1	15.8
Mexican	14.6	15.7	14.3	25.2	26.5	25.2	12.9	14.7	13.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	15.9	16.8	15.6	28.4	28.7	28.5	14.9	15.5	14.9
White only	16.1	17.0	16.4	29.1	29.7	29.6	15.4	16.3	16.1
Black or African American only	16.8	18.4	14.4	26.9	27.1	27.4	13.3	13.3	12.0

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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	2016	1997	2010	2016	1997	2010	2016
Education ^{5,6}									
Percent of adults with pain during the past 3 months									
25 years and over:									
No high school diploma or GED	19.2	18.2	19.4	33.6	34.5	35.4	16.5	18.9	20.6
High school diploma or GED	16.0	17.4	17.0	30.2	31.9	32.9	15.5	16.8	16.4
Some college or more	13.8	15.1	14.4	26.9	28.0	27.9	14.6	15.8	14.8
Percent of poverty level ^{2,7}									
Below 100%	23.3	22.7	21.6	35.4	34.9	36.4	18.6	20.2	20.7
100%–199%	18.9	19.5	20.0	30.8	32.5	34.4	16.1	17.7	19.2
200%–399%	15.5	16.6	14.9	27.9	28.5	27.2	14.8	15.2	14.4
400% or more	12.4	13.3	12.4	24.8	24.7	24.6	12.8	13.1	12.4
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level ^{2,4,7}									
Hispanic or Latino:									
Below 100%	18.9	19.6	20.2	29.5	29.0	34.2	16.4	17.4	21.8
100%–199%	15.7	15.1	15.5	26.8	27.2	31.1	12.9	15.7	18.2
200%–399%	14.0	16.5	14.8	25.0	27.5	23.9	13.8	12.9	13.3
400% or more	13.0	14.0	12.1	21.6	25.6	22.7	12.1	15.3	12.0
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White only:									
Below 100%	26.1	24.8	24.2	38.9	40.5	40.8	20.5	23.7	23.9
100%–199%	20.4	22.0	24.2	33.3	35.9	37.8	18.0	19.9	22.5
200%–399%	16.3	16.9	15.8	29.1	30.5	29.5	15.9	16.8	16.3
400% or more	12.5	13.8	13.4	25.4	25.2	25.7	13.1	13.6	13.4
Black or African American only:									
Below 100%	22.7	24.0	18.7	34.5	32.5	32.0	17.9	18.6	15.6
100%–199%	17.6	19.6	17.1	27.7	31.2	32.9	14.0	14.4	14.5
200%–399%	14.0	17.6	13.8	24.3	23.7	24.8	10.2	11.7	10.5
400% or more	12.9	12.2	9.2	21.5	21.0	22.0	11.9	8.5	8.7
Level of difficulty ^{2,8}									
A lot of difficulty or cannot do at all	---	37.6	38.3	---	55.1	58.7	---	36.7	35.4
Some difficulty	---	27.7	22.3	---	38.9	39.3	---	20.9	22.3
No difficulty	---	13.0	10.9	---	20.6	20.6	---	11.5	10.4
Geographic region ²									
Northeast	14.5	15.4	13.9	27.1	28.0	26.8	14.0	14.9	13.7
Midwest	15.6	16.8	16.4	28.7	28.1	29.2	15.3	16.0	14.9
South	17.1	18.2	16.0	27.5	28.3	28.3	13.9	14.6	14.9
West	15.3	15.1	15.1	30.0	29.3	29.0	16.1	16.5	16.1
Location of residence ^{2,9}									
Within MSA	15.2	16.3	14.9	27.0	27.5	27.7	14.2	14.9	14.6
Outside MSA	18.1	18.6	19.2	32.5	33.8	32.9	16.4	18.1	17.2

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* Estimates are considered unreliable. Starting with 2016 data, the reliability of survey percentage estimates was assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Prior to 2016 data, the reliability of estimates for earlier years was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSE). Data preceded by an asterisk have an RSE of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%. For more information, see Appendix II, Data presentation standards for proportions; Relative standard error (RSE).
- - - Data not available.

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 and 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 VII.

⁸Functional limitation is defined by the reported level of difficulty in six functioning domains: seeing (even if wearing glasses), hearing (even if wearing hearing aids), mobility (walking or climbing stairs), communication (understanding or being understood by others), cognition (remembering or concentrating), and self-care (such as washing all over or dressing). Respondents with answers to one or more of the six questions were included in one of three mutually exclusive categories. Those responding "A lot of difficulty" or "Cannot do at all/unable to do" to at least one question were classified in the "A lot of difficulty/cannot do" category. Of the remaining, those responding "Some difficulty" to at least one question were classified in the "Some difficulty" category, and those responding "No difficulty" to at least one question were classified in the "No difficulty" category. Those responding "Don't know" or "Refused" to all six questions were excluded. During 2010–2016, 1%–8% of respondents were missing data and excluded. See Appendix II, Functional limitation. Different questions about vision and hearing limitations were used in separate tables on trends in vision limitations (Table 43) and hearing limitations (Table 44), respectively.

⁹MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2016 data, MSA status is determined using 2010 Census data and the 2010 standards for defining MSAs. For more information, including the definition prior to 2016, see Appendix II, Metropolitan statistical area (MSA) for the applicable standards.

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

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, sample adult questionnaire. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).