

**Table 73. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among children under age 18, 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#073>.

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

| Characteristic   | Under 18 years  |      |      | Under 6 years |       |      | 6–17 years |      |      |
|--|---|------|------|---------------|-------|------|------------|------|------|
|  | 1997  | 2010 | 2016 | 1997          | 2010  | 2016 | 1997       | 2010 | 2016 |
|  | Percent of children with one or more emergency department visits <sup>1</sup> |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| All children <sup>2</sup>  | 19.9  | 22.1 | 17.5 | 24.3          | 27.8  | 22.0 | 17.7       | 19.1 | 15.3 |
| Sex  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Male   | 21.5  | 23.3 | 18.7 | 25.2          | 29.3  | 24.4 | 19.6       | 20.1 | 15.9 |
| Female   | 18.3  | 20.9 | 16.2 | 23.3          | 26.3  | 19.4 | 15.7       | 18.2 | 14.6 |
| Race <sup>3</sup>  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| White only   | 19.4  | 21.2 | 16.6 | 22.6          | 26.6  | 21.4 | 17.8       | 18.4 | 14.3 |
| Black or African American only                                       | 24.0  | 27.6 | 21.8 | 33.1          | 34.0  | 25.4 | 19.4       | 24.2 | 19.9 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native only                                | *24.1   | 20.9 | 34.4 | *24.3         | *35.4 | *    | *24.0      | *    | 30.9 |
| Asian only   | 12.6  | 15.0 | 8.4  | 20.8          | 18.4  | 11.1 | 8.6        | 13.3 | 7.1  |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only                       | ---   | *    | *    | ---           | *     | *    | ---        | *    | *    |
| 2 or more races  | ---   | 27.2 | 24.3 | ---           | 34.9  | 26.8 | ---        | 21.6 | 22.8 |
| Hispanic origin and race <sup>3</sup>                                |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Hispanic or Latino   | 21.1  | 23.6 | 17.8 | 25.7          | 30.2  | 22.6 | 18.1       | 19.4 | 15.4 |
| Not Hispanic or Latino   | 19.7  | 21.7 | 17.4 | 24.0          | 27.0  | 21.8 | 17.6       | 19.0 | 15.2 |
| White only   | 19.2  | 20.4 | 16.5 | 22.2          | 25.1  | 21.0 | 17.7       | 18.2 | 14.3 |
| Black or African American only                                       | 23.6  | 27.2 | 21.9 | 32.7          | 34.4  | 26.3 | 19.2       | 23.3 | 19.6 |
| Percent of poverty level <sup>4</sup>                                |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Below 100%   | 25.1  | 30.6 | 25.1 | 29.5          | 35.4  | 32.8 | 22.2       | 27.6 | 21.0 |
| 100%–199%  | 22.0  | 25.7 | 20.3 | 28.0          | 31.6  | 23.1 | 19.0       | 22.3 | 18.8 |
| 200%–399%  | 18.0  | 18.4 | 15.2 | 21.4          | 22.7  | 19.5 | 16.4       | 16.4 | 13.0 |
| 400% or more   | 16.3  | 15.9 | 12.5 | 19.1          | 21.7  | 15.3 | 15.1       | 13.3 | 11.2 |
| Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level <sup>3,4</sup> |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Hispanic or Latino:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Percent of poverty level:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Below 100%   | 21.9  | 27.0 | 21.4 | 25.0          | 32.0  | 31.3 | 19.6       | 23.4 | 16.7 |
| 100%–199%  | 20.8  | 23.3 | 17.6 | 28.8          | 31.6  | 18.8 | 15.6       | 18.0 | 17.0 |
| 200%–399%  | 21.4  | 19.5 | 16.7 | 24.6          | 25.2  | 22.5 | 19.6       | 16.1 | 13.7 |
| 400% or more   | 17.7  | 21.4 | 11.6 | *20.2         | 28.6  | 12.5 | 16.4       | 18.0 | 11.1 |
| Not Hispanic or Latino:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| White only:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Percent of poverty level:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Below 100%   | 25.5  | 33.7 | 26.2 | 27.2          | 37.4  | 30.7 | 24.4       | 31.6 | 23.6 |
| 100%–199%  | 22.3  | 26.3 | 22.6 | 25.8          | 29.2  | 26.7 | 20.7       | 24.7 | 20.2 |
| 200%–399%  | 17.8  | 17.6 | 14.9 | 20.9          | 21.2  | 19.3 | 16.3       | 15.9 | 12.7 |
| 400% or more   | 16.5  | 15.5 | 12.6 | 19.0          | 21.0  | 16.1 | 15.4       | 13.2 | 11.1 |
| Black or African American only:                                      |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Percent of poverty level:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Below 100%   | 29.3  | 32.4 | 29.9 | 39.5          | 41.6  | 38.3 | 23.0       | 26.6 | 25.0 |
| 100%–199%  | 22.5  | 27.5 | 19.1 | 31.7          | 34.5  | 17.7 | 18.5       | 23.7 | 19.9 |
| 200%–399%  | 18.5  | 22.3 | 16.5 | 23.9          | 24.6  | 20.2 | 16.3       | 21.4 | 15.1 |
| 400% or more   | 16.1  | 18.9 | 15.8 | *18.8         | *24.1 | *    | 15.2       | 16.1 | 14.8 |
| Health insurance status at the time of interview <sup>5</sup>        |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Insured  | 19.8  | 22.3 | 17.5 | 24.4          | 28.1  | 22.1 | 17.5       | 19.2 | 15.3 |
| Private  | 17.5  | 17.1 | 13.2 | 20.9          | 21.8  | 15.5 | 15.9       | 14.9 | 12.1 |
| Medicaid   | 28.2  | 30.0 | 23.4 | 33.0          | 35.5  | 29.7 | 24.1       | 26.4 | 19.8 |
| Uninsured  | 20.2  | 19.4 | 16.6 | 23.0          | 24.0  | 20.3 | 18.9       | 17.6 | 15.2 |

**Table 73. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among children under age 18, 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#073>.

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

| Characteristic   | Under 18 years  |       |      | Under 6 years |       |      | 6–17 years |       |      |
|--|---|-------|------|---------------|-------|------|------------|-------|------|
|  | 1997  | 2010  | 2016 | 1997          | 2010  | 2016 | 1997       | 2010  | 2016 |
| Health insurance status prior to interview <sup>5</sup>                                | Percent of children with one or more emergency department visits <sup>1</sup> |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Insured continuously all 12 months   | 19.6  | 22.2  | 17.4 | 24.1          | 28.1  | 21.9 | 17.3       | 19.1  | 15.1 |
| Uninsured for any period up to 12 months   | 24.0  | 23.7  | 22.4 | 27.1          | 28.0  | 32.8 | 21.9       | 21.3  | 18.2 |
| Uninsured more than 12 months  | 18.4  | 17.6  | 10.4 | 19.3          | *21.3 | *    | 18.1       | 16.7  | 11.9 |
| Percent of poverty level and health insurance status prior to interview <sup>4,5</sup> |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Below 100%:  |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Insured continuously all 12 months   | 26.3  | 31.7  | 25.5 | 30.9          | 36.3  | 33.1 | 22.8       | 28.7  | 21.3 |
| Uninsured for any period up to 12 months   | 26.5  | 30.3  | 32.0 | 29.7          | 34.7  | *    | 24.4       | 27.5  | 27.0 |
| Uninsured more than 12 months  | 17.5  | *19.6 | *    | *16.0         | *     | *    | 18.0       | *16.0 | *    |
| 100%–199%:   |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Insured continuously all 12 months   | 21.8  | 26.2  | 20.0 | 28.0          | 32.4  | 22.9 | 18.6       | 22.4  | 18.5 |
| Uninsured for any period up to 12 months   | 24.5  | 28.4  | 23.6 | 29.7          | 30.9  | *    | 21.0       | 27.0  | 18.1 |
| Uninsured more than 12 months  | 19.5  | 17.6  | *    | *22.5         | *     | *    | 18.6       | *17.2 | *    |
| 200%–399%:   |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Insured continuously all 12 months   | 17.7  | 18.4  | 15.4 | 21.2          | 22.8  | 19.6 | 16.1       | 16.3  | 13.3 |
| Uninsured for any period up to 12 months   | 21.1  | 16.2  | 14.0 | *19.5         | *22.7 | *    | 22.1       | *12.6 | 9.5  |
| Uninsured more than 12 months  | 19.2  | *17.4 | *    | *22.7         | *     | *    | 17.6       | *18.7 | *    |
| 400% or more:  |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Insured continuously all 12 months   | 16.2  | 16.1  | 12.2 | 18.9          | 22.0  | 15.3 | 15.1       | 13.5  | 10.9 |
| Uninsured for any period up to 12 months   | *19.2   | *     | 21.3 | *             | *     | *    | *          | *     | 21.3 |
| Uninsured more than 12 months  | *   | *     | *    | *             | *     | *    | *          | *     | *    |
| Geographic region  |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Northeast  | 18.5  | 22.3  | 17.5 | 20.7          | 27.8  | 17.8 | 17.4       | 19.6  | 17.3 |
| Midwest  | 19.5  | 23.3  | 20.2 | 26.0          | 28.8  | 27.1 | 16.4       | 20.7  | 17.0 |
| South  | 21.8  | 23.4  | 16.4 | 25.6          | 30.4  | 21.7 | 19.9       | 19.5  | 13.6 |
| West   | 18.5  | 19.1  | 16.7 | 23.5          | 23.3  | 21.0 | 15.9       | 16.8  | 14.6 |
| Location of residence <sup>6</sup>   |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Within MSA   | 19.7  | 21.8  | 16.7 | 23.9          | 27.7  | 20.8 | 17.4       | 18.6  | 14.7 |
| Outside MSA  | 20.8  | 24.2  | 22.2 | 26.2          | 28.6  | 29.3 | 18.6       | 22.1  | 18.6 |
|  | Percent of children with two or more emergency department visits <sup>1</sup> |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| All children <sup>2</sup>  | 7.1   | 8.4   | 5.5  | 9.6           | 10.8  | 8.2  | 5.8        | 7.2   | 4.2  |
| Sex  |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Male   | 7.3   | 8.5   | 5.8  | 9.9           | 11.3  | 9.5  | 6.0        | 7.0   | 4.0  |
| Female   | 6.9   | 8.3   | 5.2  | 9.4           | 10.3  | 6.9  | 5.7        | 7.3   | 4.3  |
| Race <sup>3</sup>  |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| White only   | 6.6   | 7.6   | 4.9  | 8.4           | 10.1  | 7.6  | 5.7        | 6.3   | 3.6  |
| Black or African American only   | 9.6   | 12.6  | 8.4  | 14.9          | 15.7  | 12.4 | 6.9        | 11.0  | 6.3  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native only  | *   | *     | *    | *             | *     | *    | *          | *     | *    |
| Asian only   | *5.7  | 7.3   | 1.2  | *12.9         | *     | 1.1  | *          | *7.1  | 1.3  |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only   | ---   | *     | *    | ---           | *     | *    | ---        | *     | *    |
| 2 or more races  | ---   | 10.3  | 9.8  | ---           | *11.7 | 12.1 | ---        | *9.2  | 8.4  |
| Hispanic origin and race <sup>3</sup>  |   |       |      |               |       |      |            |       |      |
| Hispanic or Latino   | 8.9   | 8.6   | 5.8  | 11.8          | 11.7  | 9.6  | 7.0        | 6.6   | 3.9  |
| Not Hispanic or Latino   | 6.8   | 8.4   | 5.4  | 9.2           | 10.5  | 7.8  | 5.7        | 7.3   | 4.3  |
| White only   | 6.2   | 7.4   | 4.6  | 7.8           | 9.3   | 6.6  | 5.5        | 6.4   | 3.6  |
| Black or African American only   | 9.3   | 12.3  | 8.7  | 14.6          | 15.8  | 12.8 | 6.8        | 10.4  | 6.6  |

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

| Characteristic   | Under 18 years  |      |      | Under 6 years |       |      | 6–17 years |      |      |
|--|---|------|------|---------------|-------|------|------------|------|------|
|  | 1997  | 2010 | 2016 | 1997          | 2010  | 2016 | 1997       | 2010 | 2016 |
| Percent of poverty level <sup>4</sup>                                | Percent of children with two or more emergency department visits <sup>1</sup> |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Below 100%   | 11.1  | 13.4 | 10.4 | 14.5          | 15.3  | 15.6 | 8.9        | 12.1 | 7.6  |
| 100%–199%  | 8.3   | 10.3 | 7.2  | 12.2          | 13.4  | 9.1  | 6.3        | 8.4  | 6.3  |
| 200%–399%  | 6.2   | 6.3  | 3.8  | 7.4           | 7.3   | 6.2  | 5.6        | 5.9  | 2.6  |
| 400% or more   | 4.0   | 5.0  | 2.6  | 5.0           | 7.3   | 4.0  | 3.6        | 3.9  | 2.0  |
| Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level <sup>3,4</sup> |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Hispanic or Latino:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Percent of poverty level:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Below 100%   | 10.4  | 9.9  | 8.3  | 13.9          | 10.9  | 14.7 | 8.0        | 9.2  | 5.2  |
| 100%–199%  | 8.2   | 9.4  | 6.5  | 12.0          | 15.4  | *    | 5.7        | 5.5  | 4.8  |
| 200%–399%  | 8.5   | 5.9  | 3.2  | 10.0          | *8.0  | 6.4  | *7.6       | *4.6 | 1.6  |
| 400% or more   | *5.0  | *6.5 | 2.6  | *             | *     | *    | *          | *5.2 | 2.4  |
| Not Hispanic or Latino:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| White only:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Percent of poverty level:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Below 100%   | 10.7  | 14.0 | 10.5 | 12.2          | 15.5  | 12.2 | 9.8        | 13.1 | 9.6  |
| 100%–199%  | 8.0   | 10.4 | 7.3  | 11.2          | 12.3  | 7.8  | 6.4        | 9.4  | 7.0  |
| 200%–399%  | 6.0   | 5.7  | 3.8  | 6.7           | *6.5  | 6.1  | 5.6        | 5.4  | 2.6  |
| 400% or more   | 3.7   | 5.0  | 2.5  | 4.6           | 7.6   | 4.6  | 3.3        | 3.9  | 1.6  |
| Black or African American only:                                      |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Percent of poverty level:  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Below 100%   | 12.7  | 16.1 | 13.3 | 19.1          | 22.1  | 20.7 | 8.8        | 12.4 | 8.9  |
| 100%–199%  | 9.2   | 12.4 | 7.2  | *13.5         | *14.6 | *    | *7.2       | 11.1 | *    |
| 200%–399%  | 5.8   | 9.9  | *    | *8.9          | *10.2 | *    | *4.5       | *9.8 | *    |
| 400% or more   | *   | *3.7 | *    | *             | *     | *    | *          | *    | *    |
| Health insurance status at the time of interview <sup>5</sup>        |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Insured  | 7.0   | 8.5  | 5.5  | 9.6           | 11.0  | 8.1  | 5.7        | 7.1  | 4.2  |
| Private  | 5.2   | 5.5  | 2.8  | 6.8           | 7.4   | 3.6  | 4.5        | 4.6  | 2.4  |
| Medicaid   | 13.1  | 12.8 | 9.0  | 16.2          | 15.3  | 13.4 | 10.4       | 11.2 | 6.6  |
| Uninsured  | 7.7   | 8.0  | 5.5  | 9.8           | *8.5  | *    | 6.8        | 7.8  | 3.4  |
| Health insurance status prior to interview <sup>5</sup>              |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Insured continuously all 12 months                                   | 6.9   | 8.4  | 5.5  | 9.4           | 10.8  | 8.1  | 5.7        | 7.1  | 4.2  |
| Uninsured for any period up to 12 months                             | 8.5   | 10.1 | 8.5  | 11.5          | 13.3  | *    | 6.6        | 8.4  | 5.8  |
| Uninsured more than 12 months  | 6.8   | 7.8  | 1.6  | *8.6          | *     | *    | 6.2        | *7.9 | 1.4  |
| Geographic region  |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Northeast  | 6.2   | 7.8  | 5.2  | 7.6           | 10.3  | 5.7  | 5.4        | 6.6  | 5.0  |
| Midwest  | 6.6   | 9.1  | 6.7  | 10.4          | 11.4  | 10.7 | 4.8        | 8.0  | 4.8  |
| South  | 8.0   | 9.1  | 5.6  | 10.1          | 12.9  | 9.1  | 6.9        | 7.1  | 3.8  |
| West   | 7.1   | 7.2  | 4.5  | 10.0          | 7.6   | 6.5  | 5.6        | 7.0  | 3.6  |
| Location of residence <sup>6</sup>                                   |   |      |      |               |       |      |            |      |      |
| Within MSA   | 7.2   | 8.3  | 5.2  | 9.6           | 10.6  | 7.8  | 5.9        | 7.0  | 4.0  |
| Outside MSA  | 6.8   | 9.3  | 7.4  | 9.7           | 12.2  | 10.7 | 5.6        | 7.9  | 5.6  |

## Table 73. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among children under age 18, 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#073>.

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

\* 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.

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix II, Emergency department or emergency room visit.

<sup>2</sup>Includes all other races not shown separately and unknown health insurance status.

<sup>3</sup>The 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.

<sup>4</sup>Percent 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.

<sup>5</sup>Health insurance categories are mutually exclusive. Persons who reported both Medicaid and private coverage are classified as having private coverage. Starting with 1997 data, state-sponsored health plan coverage is included as Medicaid coverage. Starting with 1999 data, coverage by the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is included with Medicaid coverage. In addition to private and Medicaid, the insured category also includes military, other government, and Medicare coverage. Persons not covered by private insurance, Medicaid, CHIP, state-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plans (starting in 1997), Medicare, or military plans are considered to have no health insurance coverage. Persons with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered to have no health insurance coverage. See Appendix II, Health insurance coverage.

<sup>6</sup>MSA 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, family core and sample child questionnaires. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).