

Table 12. Health conditions among children under age 18, by selected characteristics: United States, average annual, selected years 1997–1999 through 2015–2017

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table_012.

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

Characteristic	Current asthma ¹				Asthma attack in the past 12 months ²			
	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017
	Percent of children							
Under 18 years ³	---	---	8.7	8.4	5.4	5.7	4.9	4.5
Age								
0–4 years	---	---	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.7	3.0	2.8
5–17 years	---	---	10.3	9.9	5.7	6.1	5.6	5.1
5–9 years	---	---	9.9	8.9	5.6	6.3	6.2	5.1
10–17 years	---	---	10.5	10.6	5.8	5.9	5.3	5.1
Sex								
Male	---	---	9.8	9.6	6.2	6.6	5.7	5.0
Female	---	---	7.6	7.2	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.0
Race ⁴								
White only	---	---	7.7	7.3	5.0	5.2	4.4	3.9
Black or African American only	---	---	14.2	13.8	7.0	8.0	7.8	6.8
American Indian or Alaska Native only	---	---	10.2	11.9	6.4	*8.7	*5.9	7.2
Asian only	---	---	5.1	4.3	4.3	4.7	2.9	2.4
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	---	---	*	*	---	*	*	*
2 or more races	---	---	11.5	12.3	---	7.3	6.3	7.6
Hispanic origin and race ⁴								
Hispanic or Latino	---	---	8.2	7.5	4.8	4.2	4.4	3.9
Not Hispanic or Latino	---	---	8.9	8.7	5.5	6.0	5.1	4.7
White only	---	---	7.7	7.4	5.1	5.5	4.4	4.0
Black or African American only	---	---	14.3	13.9	7.0	7.9	7.9	7.0
Percent of poverty level ⁵								
Below 100%	---	---	11.7	10.7	6.1	7.1	6.6	6.0
100%–199%	---	---	8.5	9.5	5.3	5.4	4.6	4.9
200%–399%	---	---	8.3	7.6	5.0	5.3	4.4	3.9
400% or more	---	---	6.9	6.8	5.2	5.5	4.2	3.8
Health insurance status at the time of interview ⁶								
Insured	---	---	8.9	8.5	5.6	5.9	5.0	4.6
Private	---	---	7.7	7.3	5.0	5.3	4.4	3.9
Medicaid	---	---	10.6	10.4	7.7	7.7	5.9	5.6
Uninsured	---	---	6.9	6.9	3.9	4.3	3.8	3.5

Characteristic	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder ⁷				Serious emotional or behavioral difficulties ⁸			
	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017
	Percent of children							
Age								
5–17 years ³	6.5	7.5	10.2	10.8	---	---	5.4	5.7
5–9 years	4.8	5.2	7.7	7.4	---	---	5.1	5.3
10–17 years	7.6	9.0	11.8	12.9	---	---	5.6	5.9
Sex								
Male	9.6	10.8	14.1	14.8	---	---	6.9	7.2
Female	3.2	4.2	6.2	6.7	---	---	3.9	4.2

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

Characteristic	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder ⁷				Serious emotional or behavioral difficulties ⁸			
	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017
	Percent of children							
Race ⁴								
White only	7.1	8.1	10.7	10.9	---	---	5.5	5.6
Black or African American only	5.0	7.0	9.5	12.5	---	---	5.4	6.1
American Indian or Alaska Native only	*8.5	*	*9.1	8.4	---	---	*	5.6
Asian only	*1.7	*	2.1	2.7	---	---	*1.8	1.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	---	*	*	*	---	---	*	*
2 or more races	---	7.4	13.8	14.9	---	---	8.7	10.2
Hispanic origin and race ⁴								
Hispanic or Latino	3.6	4.2	6.4	7.0	---	---	4.2	4.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	7.0	8.2	11.4	12.1	---	---	5.8	6.2
White only	7.7	9.0	12.5	12.6	---	---	6.1	6.3
Black or African American only	5.0	6.8	9.6	12.7	---	---	5.3	6.3
Percent of poverty level ⁵								
Below 100%	7.2	8.2	12.8	13.3	---	---	8.1	7.8
100%–199%	6.7	7.5	10.6	11.5	---	---	5.8	6.9
200%–399%	6.2	7.7	8.9	10.1	---	---	4.5	5.0
400% or more	6.1	7.1	9.3	9.3	---	---	4.0	4.1
Health insurance status at the time of interview ⁶								
Insured	6.7	7.8	10.6	11.1	---	---	5.6	5.9
Private	5.9	7.0	8.7	9.5	---	---	4.0	4.2
Medicaid	10.5	10.7	13.3	13.3	---	---	8.0	8.4
Uninsured	4.8	5.4	5.9	6.2	---	---	3.6	2.9
	Food allergy ⁹				Skin allergy ¹⁰			
Characteristic	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017
	Percent of children							
Under 18 years ³	3.4	3.6	5.6	6.1	7.4	8.1	11.8	12.5
Age								
0–4 years	3.8	4.0	5.6	6.3	8.1	8.7	13.4	14.1
5–17 years	3.3	3.4	5.5	6.1	7.2	7.9	11.2	11.9
5–9 years	3.1	3.6	6.2	6.1	7.5	8.6	12.7	13.5
10–17 years	3.4	3.3	5.1	6.1	7.1	7.5	10.3	11.0
Sex								
Male	3.4	3.7	5.6	6.2	7.3	7.9	11.9	12.3
Female	3.5	3.4	5.5	6.0	7.6	8.4	11.7	12.8
Race ⁴								
White only	3.5	3.6	5.3	5.9	7.1	7.6	10.5	11.4
Black or African American only	3.1	3.0	6.4	6.0	9.0	10.4	17.3	17.4
American Indian or Alaska Native only	*	*4.8	*4.5	6.8	*4.1	*9.1	11.8	9.6
Asian only	3.9	4.4	5.4	6.5	8.0	8.4	11.1	11.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	---	*	*	*	---	*	*	*
2 or more races	---	5.2	7.6	8.8	---	10.9	17.1	16.3

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

Characteristic	Food allergy ⁹				Skin allergy ¹⁰			
	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017
Percent of children								
Hispanic origin and race ⁴								
Hispanic or Latino	2.1	2.5	4.5	4.8	5.5	5.6	9.2	11.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	3.7	3.8	5.9	6.5	7.8	8.7	12.7	13.0
White only	3.8	3.9	5.7	6.5	7.5	8.2	11.2	11.8
Black or African American only	3.1	3.1	6.3	6.1	9.0	10.4	17.5	17.5
Percent of poverty level ⁵								
Below 100%	3.3	3.2	5.6	5.3	7.3	7.1	12.1	13.0
100%–199%	3.0	3.4	5.2	5.7	7.2	7.6	11.8	11.8
200%–399%	3.2	3.4	5.3	5.7	7.3	8.5	11.6	12.7
400% or more	4.2	4.0	6.1	7.3	7.9	8.8	11.8	12.7
Health insurance status at the time of interview ⁶								
Insured	3.5	3.7	5.6	6.2	7.7	8.5	12.0	12.6
Private	3.5	3.7	5.8	6.6	7.4	8.5	11.7	12.4
Medicaid	3.6	3.7	5.3	5.5	8.4	8.4	12.3	13.0
Uninsured	2.6	2.4	4.4	4.8	5.9	5.3	9.6	10.5
Characteristic	Hay fever or respiratory allergy ¹¹				Three or more ear infections ¹²			
	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017
Percent of children								
Under 18 years ³	17.5	17.7	16.0	15.2	7.1	6.7	5.2	4.4
Age								
0–4 years	10.7	10.4	9.6	8.6	13.7	12.8	9.7	8.5
5–17 years	19.9	20.3	18.4	17.6	4.8	4.5	3.6	2.9
5–9 years	17.3	18.1	16.7	15.5	7.1	6.9	5.7	4.1
10–17 years	21.6	21.7	19.4	18.9	3.2	2.9	2.3	2.1
Sex								
Male	18.6	18.8	17.7	16.9	7.3	6.9	5.7	4.4
Female	16.3	16.5	14.2	13.4	6.9	6.5	4.7	4.4
Race ⁴								
White only	17.9	18.5	16.2	15.3	7.4	7.2	5.6	4.7
Black or African American only	16.2	15.6	14.8	14.5	5.9	5.0	3.7	3.8
American Indian or Alaska Native only	15.2	16.4	16.1	12.1	*10.8	*6.3	*8.4	5.1
Asian only	15.3	12.6	13.4	10.6	3.7	2.6	2.9	2.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	---	*	*	*	---	*	*	*
2 or more races	---	20.9	19.0	20.7	---	7.4	5.6	5.1
Hispanic origin and race ⁴								
Hispanic or Latino	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.1	6.1	6.7	5.5	4.4
Not Hispanic or Latino	18.4	18.8	17.1	16.2	7.3	6.7	5.1	4.4
White only	19.1	19.9	17.7	16.9	7.7	7.3	5.7	4.8
Black or African American only	16.3	15.5	15.1	14.6	5.9	4.9	3.6	3.6
Percent of poverty level ⁵								
Below 100%	14.3	14.0	13.2	14.0	8.3	7.9	6.8	6.0
100%–199%	15.4	15.6	14.2	13.0	7.1	6.8	5.6	3.9
200%–399%	18.5	18.1	17.0	15.5	6.8	6.5	4.6	3.9
400% or more	20.3	21.1	18.9	17.4	6.6	6.1	4.2	4.3

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

Characteristic	Hay fever or respiratory allergy ¹¹				Three or more ear infections ¹²			
	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017	1997–1999	2000–2002	2012–2014	2015–2017
	Percent of children							
Health insurance status at the time of interview ⁶								
Insured	18.0	18.3	16.1	15.4	7.3	6.9	5.3	4.5
Private	18.8	19.2	17.7	16.3	6.6	6.4	4.4	4.0
Medicaid	15.0	16.0	13.8	14.0	10.2	8.7	6.5	5.2
Uninsured	14.3	12.6	14.8	11.0	5.9	4.9	4.4	3.2

--- Data not available.

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Starting with 2014–2016 data (shown in spreadsheet version), the reliability of survey percentage estimates was assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Prior to 2014–2016 data (shown in spreadsheet version), 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).

¹Based on parent or knowledgeable adult responding to both questions, "Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that [child] had asthma?" and "Does [child] still have asthma?"

²Based on parent or knowledgeable adult responding to both questions, "Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that [child] had asthma?" and "During the past 12 months, has [child] had an episode of asthma or an asthma attack?"

³Includes all other races not shown separately and unknown health insurance 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.

⁵Percent 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.

⁶Health 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 as Medicaid coverage. In addition to private and Medicaid, the insured category also includes military plans, other government-sponsored health plans, and Medicare. 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.

⁷Based on parent or knowledgeable adult responding to the question, "Has a doctor or health professional ever told you that [child] had attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or attention deficit disorder (ADD)?"

⁸Based on parent or knowledgeable adult responding to the question, "Overall, do you think that [child] has difficulties in any of the following areas: emotions, concentration, behavior, or being able to get along with other people?"

⁹Based on parent or knowledgeable adult responding to the question, "During the past 12 months, has [child] had any kind of food or digestive allergy?"

¹⁰Based on parent or knowledgeable adult responding to the question, "During the past 12 months, has [child] had eczema or any kind of skin allergy?"

¹¹Based on parent or knowledgeable adult responding to the question, "During the past 12 months, has [child] had hay fever?" or to the question, "During the past 12 months, has [child] had any kind of respiratory allergy?"

¹²Based on parent or knowledgeable adult responding to the question, "During the past 12 months, has [child] had three or more ear infections?"

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).