

Table EDCh. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among children under age 18, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2019

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2020-2021.htm#Table-EDCh>

[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	2009	2019	1997	2009	2019	1997	2009	2019
Percent of children with one or more emergency department visits									
All children ¹	19.9	20.8	18.0	24.3	25.9	22.7	17.7	18.2	15.8
Sex									
Male	21.5	22.2	17.9	25.2	25.6	22.8	19.6	20.3	15.5
Female	18.3	19.4	18.2	23.3	26.2	22.6	15.7	15.9	16.1
Race ²									
White only	19.4	19.8	17.0	22.6	24.6	20.6	17.8	17.3	15.3
Black or African American only	24.0	26.9	22.9	33.1	34.2	30.4	19.4	23.2	19.4
American Indian or Alaska Native only	*24.1	*23.1	16.8	*24.3	*	*	*24.0	*20.7	16.0
Asian only .....	...	11.4	10.2	...	14.0	16.1	...	10.0	7.5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only .....	...	*	*	...	*	*	...	*	*
2 or more races .....	...	25.2	21.1	...	28.6	21.1	...	22.9	21.1
Hispanic origin and race ²									
Hispanic or Latino	21.1	20.2	20.5	25.7	27.5	26.7	18.1	15.7	17.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	19.7	21.0	17.2	24.0	25.3	21.3	17.6	18.8	15.3
White only	19.2	19.8	16.1	22.2	23.7	19.4	17.7	18.0	14.5
Black or African American only	23.6	26.5	22.6	32.7	33.1	30.1	19.2	23.2	19.1
Percent of poverty level ³									
Below 100%	25.1	26.6	25.3	29.5	33.9	31.5	22.2	21.9	21.9
100%–199%	22.0	23.3	22.9	28.0	28.9	29.3	19.0	20.4	19.6
200%–399%	18.0	18.9	15.1	21.4	23.3	17.9	16.4	16.8	13.7
400% or more	16.3	16.0	12.9	19.1	17.9	15.9	15.1	15.1	11.7
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level ^{2,3}									
Hispanic or Latino:									
Below 100%	21.9	24.6	24.1	25.0	29.9	29.9	19.6	20.9	20.8
100%–199%	20.8	18.7	22.6	28.8	27.3	32.4	15.6	13.6	18.1
200%–399%	21.4	16.9	15.5	24.6	26.1	16.2	19.6	12.2	15.2
400% or more	17.7	16.5	17.0	*20.2	*22.7	25.0	16.4	*12.2	12.7
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White only:									
Below 100%	25.5	27.8	25.9	27.2	36.1	32.4	24.4	22.6	22.7
100%–199%	22.3	24.7	22.4	25.8	29.0	25.0	20.7	22.5	20.9
200%–399%	17.8	18.3	15.2	20.9	21.8	19.0	16.3	16.6	13.5
400% or more	16.5	16.2	11.9	19.0	17.4	13.4	15.4	15.7	11.3
Black or African American only:									
Below 100%	29.3	28.4	25.8	39.5	39.4	31.2	23.0	21.1	22.8
100%–199%	22.5	26.8	25.8	31.7	27.6	*	18.5	26.4	21.3
200%–399%	18.5	27.9	18.1	23.9	32.1	24.8	16.3	26.1	14.9
400% or more	16.1	16.9	16.4	*18.8	*19.6	*	15.2	15.7	14.4
Health insurance status at time of interview ⁴									
Insured	19.8	21.1	18.2	24.4	25.7	23.0	17.5	18.7	15.9
Private	17.5	16.6	13.5	20.9	18.7	17.1	15.9	15.6	12.0
Medicaid	28.2	27.8	25.0	33.0	32.7	30.0	24.1	24.4	22.3
Uninsured	20.2	16.8	15.4	23.0	27.4	16.8	18.9	13.0	14.9
Geographic region									
Northeast	18.5	21.9	20.2	20.7	25.9	23.4	17.4	19.9	18.7
Midwest	19.5	22.0	17.3	26.0	27.1	22.0	16.4	19.3	14.9
South	21.8	22.3	19.0	25.6	28.6	24.4	19.9	19.0	16.5
West	18.5	16.6	15.7	23.5	20.9	20.3	15.9	14.4	13.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table EDCh. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among children under age 18, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2019—Con.

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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	2009	2019	1997	2009	2019	1997	2009	2019
Location of residence⁵									
Percent of children with one or more emergency department visits									
Within MSA	19.7	20.2	17.8	23.9	25.2	22.7	17.4	17.5	15.5
Outside MSA	20.8	24.2	19.4	26.2	29.7	22.9	18.6	21.6	17.8
Percent of children with two or more emergency department visits									
All children ¹	7.1	6.7	6.7	9.6	8.9	8.7	5.8	5.6	5.8
Sex									
Male	7.3	7.0	6.7	9.9	9.7	9.0	6.0	5.5	5.6
Female	6.9	6.5	6.7	9.4	8.0	8.2	5.7	5.7	5.9
Race²									
White only	6.6	5.9	6.2	8.4	7.9	7.4	5.7	4.9	5.7
Black or African American only	9.6	10.6	9.2	14.9	14.1	12.9	6.9	8.8	7.4
American Indian or Alaska Native only	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian only .....	...	*3.4	3.4	...	*	*	...	*	3.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only .....	...	*	*	...	*	*	...	*	*
2 or more races .....	...	11.0	6.6	...	*13.3	8.3	...	*9.5	5.6
Hispanic origin and race²									
Hispanic or Latino	8.9	6.7	9.1	11.8	9.7	12.3	7.0	4.8	7.5
Not Hispanic or Latino	6.8	6.7	5.9	9.2	8.6	7.3	5.7	5.8	5.2
White only	6.2	5.7	5.1	7.8	7.5	5.7	5.5	4.9	4.8
Black or African American only	9.3	10.5	9.6	14.6	13.4	13.6	6.8	9.0	7.8
Percent of poverty level³									
Below 100%	11.1	11.4	11.3	14.5	15.3	15.3	8.9	8.8	9.1
100%–199%	8.3	7.4	8.7	12.2	9.6	11.2	6.3	6.3	7.4
200%–399%	6.2	5.2	5.2	7.4	6.1	5.7	5.6	4.8	4.9
400% or more	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	3.6	3.6	3.5
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level^{2,3}									
Hispanic or Latino:									
Below 100%	10.4	8.6	13.2	13.9	12.2	16.6	8.0	6.1	11.2
100%–199%	8.2	6.3	9.6	12.0	9.3	14.2	5.7	*4.5	7.5
200%–399%	8.5	5.2	5.9	10.0	*	*	*7.6	*4.2	5.9
400% or more	*5.0	*4.5	5.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White only:									
Below 100%	10.7	13.3	9.0	12.2	18.8	11.7	9.8	*9.8	7.6
100%–199%	8.0	7.0	7.6	11.2	*7.6	6.8	6.4	6.7	8.0
200%–399%	6.0	4.6	4.7	6.7	5.8	5.2	5.6	4.1	4.4
400% or more	3.7	3.8	3.5	4.6	*4.4	4.1	3.3	3.5	3.3
Black or African American only:									
Below 100%	12.7	12.7	11.3	19.1	17.1	15.3	8.8	9.7	9.0
100%–199%	9.2	11.5	10.3	*13.5	*16.1	*	*7.2	*9.5	7.4
200%–399%	5.8	*7.8	8.1	*8.9	*	*	*4.5	*8.4	*
400% or more	*	*6.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health insurance status at time of interview⁴									
Insured	7.0	6.8	6.9	9.6	8.9	8.8	5.7	5.6	5.9
Private	5.2	4.2	4.5	6.8	4.7	5.4	4.5	4.0	4.1
Medicaid	13.1	10.6	10.4	16.2	13.7	13.0	10.4	8.5	9.0
Uninsured	7.7	5.7	4.3	9.8	*7.4	*	6.8	5.0	3.8

See footnotes at end of table.

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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	2009	2019	1997	2009	2019	1997	2009	2019
Geographic region									
Percent of children with two or more emergency department visits									
Northeast	6.2	6.4	7.7	7.6	*7.1	8.5	5.4	6.0	7.4
Midwest	6.6	7.2	5.3	10.4	8.1	7.5	4.8	6.7	4.2
South	8.0	7.7	7.0	10.1	11.7	9.6	6.9	5.6	5.8
West	7.1	5.0	6.7	10.0	6.7	8.3	5.6	4.1	6.0
Location of residence ⁵									
Within MSA	7.2	6.4	6.6	9.6	9.0	8.4	5.9	5.1	5.7
Outside MSA	6.8	8.2	7.3	9.7	8.4	10.0	5.6	8.0	6.1

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

... Category not applicable.

¹Includes all other races not shown separately and those with unknown health insurance status.

²The race groups White, Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. People 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- and multiple-race categories shown follow the 1997 standards. The race-specific estimates are for people who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes people who reported more than one racial group. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race are treated as missing, and then race is imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all people with a race response of other race are of Hispanic origin. See Sources and Definitions, Hispanic origin; Race.

³Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Missing family income data are imputed for 1997 and beyond. See Sources and Definitions, Family income; Poverty.

⁴Health insurance categories are mutually exclusive. People 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 includes military plans, other government-sponsored health plans, and Medicare. People 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. People with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered to have no health insurance coverage. See Sources and Definitions, Health insurance coverage.

⁵MSA 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 applied before 2016, see Sources and Definitions, Metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

NOTES: Respondents were asked, "During the past 12 months, how many times has [child] gone to a hospital emergency room about [his/her] own health? (This includes emergency room visits that resulted in a hospital admission.)" See Sources and Definitions, Emergency department or emergency room visit. In 2019, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) questionnaire was redesigned and other changes were made to weighting and design methodology. Data for 2019 have not been fully evaluated for comparability with earlier years. For more information on the 2019 NHIS redesign and evaluation of the redesign on selected indicators, see: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/2019_quest_redesign.htm. Standard errors and data for additional years are available in the Excel spreadsheet version of this table on the *Health, United States* website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/index.htm>.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey. See Sources and Definitions, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).