

Table 53. Severe headache or migraine, low back pain, and neck pain among adults 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997, 2008, and 2009

(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	2008	2009	1997	2008	2009	1997	2008	2009
	Percent of adults with pain during past 3 months								
18 years and over, age-adjusted ^{2,3}	15.8	13.6	16.1	28.2	27.2	28.1	14.7	13.8	15.1
18 years and over, crude ³	16.0	13.4	15.8	28.1	27.4	28.5	14.6	14.0	15.4
Age									
18-44 years.....	18.7	16.6	19.7	26.1	24.5	24.5	13.3	12.7	13.0
18-24 years.....	18.7	16.3	17.0	21.9	20.7	18.1	9.8	8.8	8.4
25-44 years.....	18.7	16.7	20.6	27.3	25.9	26.7	14.3	14.1	14.6
45-64 years.....	15.8	13.3	15.0	31.3	29.5	32.6	17.0	16.5	19.1
45-54 years.....	17.8	15.4	17.2	31.3	29.3	31.9	17.3	16.7	19.6
55-64 years.....	12.7	10.5	12.2	31.2	29.7	33.4	16.6	16.3	18.6
65 years and over.....	7.0	4.4	6.3	29.5	31.7	31.8	15.0	12.6	14.6
65-74 years.....	8.2	5.7	6.9	30.2	32.1	30.1	15.0	13.2	15.2
75 years and over.....	5.4	3.0	5.6	28.6	31.3	33.9	15.0	11.9	13.7
Sex ²									
Male.....	9.9	8.1	10.1	26.5	25.0	26.0	12.6	11.2	12.6
Female.....	21.4	18.9	21.9	29.6	29.3	30.1	16.6	16.2	17.5
Sex and age									
Male:									
18-44 years.....	11.9	9.5	11.8	24.8	22.3	22.2	11.6	10.0	10.5
45-54 years.....	10.3	9.7	11.5	29.4	28.8	31.8	13.9	13.9	17.1
55-64 years.....	8.8	6.9	8.4	30.7	27.5	30.9	14.6	13.5	15.5
65-74 years.....	5.0	3.4	4.8	29.0	28.3	26.3	13.6	11.2	11.8
75 years and over.....	*2.4	*2.0	3.4	22.5	27.4	30.6	12.6	9.8	13.6
Female:									
18-44 years.....	25.4	23.6	27.5	27.3	26.8	26.7	14.9	15.3	15.5
45-54 years.....	24.9	20.8	22.8	33.1	29.8	32.1	20.6	19.3	22.0
55-64 years.....	16.3	14.0	15.7	31.7	31.8	35.8	18.4	18.9	21.4
65-74 years.....	10.7	7.6	8.6	31.1	35.3	33.3	16.1	14.9	18.2
75 years and over.....	7.4	3.7	7.0	32.4	33.8	36.2	16.5	13.3	13.9
Race ^{2,4}									
White only.....	15.9	14.0	16.3	28.7	28.1	28.8	15.1	14.5	15.7
Black or African American only.....	16.7	12.7	17.0	26.9	23.6	26.6	13.3	10.4	12.9
American Indian or Alaska Native only.....	18.9	16.0	21.8	33.3	31.5	30.5	16.2	16.8	19.0
Asian only.....	11.7	7.7	8.4	21.0	17.7	17.8	9.2	9.0	8.5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only.....	---	*	*	---	*	*	---	*	*
2 or more races.....	---	20.3	21.0	---	39.4	36.2	---	23.5	19.7

Hispanic origin and race^{2,4}

Hispanic or Latino.....	15.5	12.5	16.4	26.4	25.3	26.3	13.9	14.4	15.1
Mexican.....	14.6	12.6	15.9	25.2	22.8	22.9	12.9	13.0	14.1
Not Hispanic or Latino.....	15.9	13.9	16.2	28.4	27.6	28.5	14.9	13.9	15.3
White only.....	16.1	14.5	16.6	29.1	28.9	29.4	15.4	14.8	16.1
Black or African American only.....	16.8	12.3	16.9	26.9	23.3	26.6	13.3	10.2	12.9

Education^{5,6}

25 years and over:

No high school diploma or GED.....	19.2	16.5	19.9	33.6	32.0	35.0	16.5	16.4	18.4
High school diploma or GED.....	16.0	13.5	16.2	30.2	30.5	32.2	15.5	14.9	16.9
Some college or more.....	13.8	12.4	14.9	26.9	26.4	27.4	14.6	14.0	15.3

Severe headache or migraine¹

Low back pain¹

Neck pain¹

Characteristic

1997

2008

2009

1997

2008

2009

1997

2008

2009

Percent of poverty level^{2,7}

Percent of adults with pain during past 3 months

Below 100%.....	23.3	19.5	22.0	35.4	32.4	35.4	18.6	17.6	20.8
100%-199%.....	18.9	16.5	19.5	30.8	32.1	32.7	16.1	15.8	17.0
200%-399%.....	15.5	12.7	16.3	27.9	26.4	28.4	14.8	13.7	14.7
400% or more.....	12.4	11.4	12.5	24.8	24.8	23.9	12.8	12.3	13.1

Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level^{2,4,7}

Hispanic or Latino:

Below 100%.....	18.9	16.9	19.4	29.5	32.9	31.3	16.4	18.3	19.4
100%-199%.....	15.7	13.3	17.6	26.8	26.3	25.3	12.9	15.1	15.0
200%-399%.....	14.0	11.4	16.1	25.0	21.1	26.1	13.8	13.5	14.3
400% or more.....	13.0	9.8	11.0	21.6	24.6	23.9	12.1	12.6	11.2

Not Hispanic or Latino:

White only:

Below 100%.....	26.1	23.3	23.2	38.9	36.3	39.1	20.5	20.2	23.4
100%-199%.....	20.4	19.0	21.9	33.3	36.9	36.3	18.0	18.2	19.0
200%-399%.....	16.3	13.6	17.4	29.1	29.0	30.4	15.9	15.1	16.4
400% or more.....	12.5	12.1	13.0	25.4	25.5	24.9	13.1	12.9	13.7

Black or African American only:

Below 100%.....	22.7	16.7	23.0	34.5	26.2	33.3	17.9	13.0	17.7
100%-199%.....	17.6	15.4	18.8	27.7	26.8	32.4	14.0	11.2	14.7
200%-399%.....	14.0	11.0	13.9	24.3	21.4	22.6	10.2	8.4	9.8
400% or more.....	12.9	7.5	13.1	21.5	20.9	19.9	11.9	9.8	10.7

Disability measure^{2,8}

Any basic actions difficulty or complex activity limitation.....

activity limitation.....	29.3	26.5	30.0	48.0	46.3	50.1	27.2	25.0	29.4
Any basic actions difficulty.....	30.0	27.6	31.0	49.3	47.6	51.6	27.9	25.8	30.2
Any complex activity limitation.....	34.6	30.6	33.5	55.1	52.9	55.0	33.1	29.5	34.4
No disability.....	11.0	9.2	11.3	19.4	19.1	18.6	9.1	9.2	9.2

Geographic region²

Northeast.....	14.5	13.4	14.7	27.1	27.4	27.7	14.0	13.8	14.6
Midwest.....	15.6	14.1	16.3	28.7	27.4	29.2	15.3	12.9	15.5
South.....	17.1	14.0	17.0	27.5	26.8	28.1	13.9	13.5	14.2
West.....	15.3	12.6	15.4	30.0	27.5	27.4	16.1	15.3	16.5

Location of residence²

Within MSA ⁹	15.2	13.1	15.5	27.0	26.8	27.1	14.2	13.6	14.6
Outside MSA ⁹	18.1	16.3	19.3	32.5	29.6	33.3	16.4	14.9	17.7

*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%.

---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 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 25 years of age 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.

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 (ADL or IADL) 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 Appendix III.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS,
National Health Interview Survey, sample adult questionnaire.

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