



Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data From the January–June 2019 National Health Interview Survey

Tainya C. Clarke, Ph.D. and Jeannine S. Schiller, M.P.H.
 Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics

About This Early Release

In this release, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Early Release (ER) Program provides estimates for 18 key health indicators based on data from the January–June 2019 NHIS. These estimates are being published prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from NHIS. In January 2019, the NHIS launched a redesigned questionnaire, and also revised the approach to sample weighting. Following this redesign, the original key health indicators published in reports based on the 1997–2018 NHIS were reevaluated, and the new key health indicators are shown in Table 1 below. Estimates for these indicators will be updated as each new quarter of NHIS data becomes available. Details about the NHIS and indicators can be found in the [Technical Notes](#). Due to the changes in weighting and design methodology, direct comparisons between estimates for 2019 and earlier years should be made with caution as the impact of these changes has not been fully evaluated at this time. A working paper entitled “Preliminary Evaluation of the Impact of the 2019 National Health Interview Survey Questionnaire Redesign and Weighting Adjustments on Early Release Program Estimates,” available from the [Early Release Program homepage](#), discusses these issues in greater detail for several of the key health indicators. Based on preliminary analysis, the paper suggests that there was minimal or no evidence of either an effect of the questionnaire redesign or the updated weighting approach for several of the indicators. These indicators are noted below. This evaluation of the impact of these changes is ongoing and will be made available to data users.

Table 1. Percentages (and 95% confidence intervals) of selected key health indicators for adults aged 18 and over, by quarter: United States, January–June 2019

Selected key health indicator ¹	Quarter 1, 2019 (Jan–Mar)	Quarter 2, 2019 (Apr–Jun)	Quarter 1–2, 2019 (Jan–Jun)
Health status			
Disability status ^{2,3}	9.5 (8.7-10.4)	9.0 (8.3-9.7)	9.2 (8.7-9.8)
Six or more workdays missed due to illness, injury, or disability in the past 12 months ⁴	11.6 (10.8-12.5)	12.0 (10.9-13.1)	11.8 (11.1-12.6)
Asthma episode in the past 12 months ⁵	3.4 (3.0-3.8)	3.5 (3.1-4.0)	3.4 (3.1-3.8)
Diagnosed hypertension in the past 12 months ^{5,5}	27.2 (26.1-28.3)	26.4 (25.3-27.5)	26.8 (26.0-27.6)
Regularly experienced chronic pain ⁶	20.6 (19.6-21.7)	20.6 (19.6-21.7)	20.6 (19.9-21.4)
Regularly had feelings of worry, nervousness, or anxiety ⁷	11.0 (10.0-12.0)	11.1 (10.3-12.0)	11.0 (10.4-11.7)
Regularly had feelings of depression ^{2,8}	4.8 (4.2-5.3)	4.6 (4.2-5.1)	4.7 (4.3-5.1)
Health care service use			
Doctor visit in the past 12 months ²	85.3 (84.2-86.4)	84.7 (83.7-85.6)	85.0 (84.3-85.7)
Hospital emergency department visit in the past 12 months ²	22.2 (20.9-23.5)	21.9 (20.9-22.9)	22.0 (21.2-22.9)
Counseled by a mental health professional in the past 12 months	9.7 (9.0-10.4)	9.6 (8.9-10.4)	9.7 (9.2-10.2)
Dental exam or cleaning in the past 12 months	65.6 (64.0-67.1)	64.7 (63.1-66.2)	65.1 (63.9-66.3)
Blood pressure check in the past 12 months ²	88.6 (87.6-89.6)	87.5 (86.5-88.5)	88.1 (87.4-88.7)
Receipt of influenza vaccination in the past 12 months ⁹	48.3 (47.2-49.3)	46.2 (44.9-7.6) *	47.2 (46.4-48.0)
Health care access			
Did not get needed medical care due to cost in the past 12 months	7.3 (6.6-8.1)	7.9 (7.2-8.7)	7.6 (7.1-8.2)
Did not get needed mental health care due to cost in the past 12 months	4.0 (3.5-4.6)	4.4 (3.9-5.0)	4.2 (3.8-4.6)
Did not take medication as prescribed to reduce costs in the past 12 months ^{2,10}	10.0 (9.0-11.0)	9.1 (8.2-10.1)	9.5 (8.8-10.2)
Health behaviors			
Current cigarette smoking ¹¹	14.0 (13.2-14.9)	14.7 (13.8-15.6)	14.4 (13.7-15.0)
Current electronic cigarette use ¹²	3.9 (3.4-4.4)	5.0 (4.4-5.6) *	4.4 (4.0-4.8)

* Significantly different from quarter 1 2019 estimate, $p < 0.05$.

¹ The questions used to define each indicator are listed in the Appendix and detailed information about indicators based on multiple questions may be found in the [Technical Notes](#).

² Preliminary analyses suggest that the indicator was not affected by either the questionnaire redesign or the updated weighting approach. More information may be found in "Preliminary Evaluation of the Impact of the 2019 National Health Interview Survey Questionnaire Redesign and Weighting Adjustments on Early Release Program Estimates," available from the [Early Release Program homepage](#).

³ Disability is defined by the reported level of difficulty (no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or cannot do at all) 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). Sample adults who responded "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one question were considered to have a disability.

⁴ Number of workdays missed due to illness, injury, or disability was asked of sample adults who a) worked for pay in the week prior to the interview, b) had a job or business in the week prior to the interview, but were temporarily absent, c) had seasonal or contract work for at least a few days in the past 12 months, or d) worked at a job or business but not for pay for at least a few days in the past 12 months.

⁵ Estimates include sample adults who had hypertension or high blood pressure in the past 12 months or were taking any medication prescribed by a doctor for high blood pressure.

⁶ Estimates include sample adults who had pain on most days or every day during the past 3 months.

⁷ Estimates include sample adults who a) felt worried, nervous, or anxious daily and described the level of those feelings as "somewhere in between a little and a lot" or "a lot" or b) felt worried, nervous, or anxious weekly and described the level of those feelings as "a lot."

⁸ Estimates include sample adults who felt depressed daily and described the level of depression as "somewhere in between a little and a lot" or "a lot" or b) felt depressed weekly and described the level of depression as "a lot."

⁹ Sample adults were asked if they received a flu vaccination during the past 12 months. Prevalence of influenza vaccination during the past 12 months is different from season-specific coverage (see <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluview>).

¹⁰ Estimates include sample adults who skipped medication doses to save money, took less medication to save money, or delayed filling a prescription to save money.

¹¹ Estimates include sample adults who smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and now smoke every day or some days.

¹² Estimates include sample adults who used an electronic cigarette or other electronic vaping product (even just one time in their life) and now use them every day or some days.

NOTE: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2019.