



Wireless Substitution: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, July-December 2020

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Overview

Since 2007, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Early Release Program has regularly released preliminary estimates of the percentages of adults and children living in homes with only wireless telephones (also known as cellular telephones, cell phones, or mobile phones). These estimates are the most up-to-date estimates available from the federal government concerning the size and characteristics of this population.

Estimates in this report are based on the second six months of 2020. During this time period, 65.8% of adults and 75.5% of children lived in wireless-only households.

NHIS data can also be used to estimate the percentage of adults who live in wireless-only households and have their own wireless telephone (wireless-only adults). For July-December 2020, 65.3% of adults were wireless-only adults. Demographic subgroups with the highest percentages of wireless-only adults include adults aged 25–29 (82.3%) and 30–34 (85.0%) (**Figure**), as well as adults renting their homes (80.8%).

NHIS Early Release Program

This report is published as part of the NHIS Early Release Program. Twice each year, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) releases selected estimates of telephone coverage for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population based on data from NHIS. The estimates are based on in-person interviews that are conducted throughout the year to collect information on health status, health-related behaviors, and health care access and utilization. The

survey also includes information about household telephones and whether anyone in the household has a wireless telephone.

To provide access to the most recent information from NHIS, estimates using the July–December 2020 data are being released prior to final data editing and final weighting. These estimates should be considered preliminary. Estimates produced using the final data files may differ slightly from those presented here.

NHIS redesigned its questionnaire in 2019 to better meet the needs of data users. The approach to weighting survey responses was also modified to incorporate more robust response propensity models. These changes have the potential to impact comparisons between recent estimates and those from earlier years. An evaluation of these changes on key estimates from the NHIS

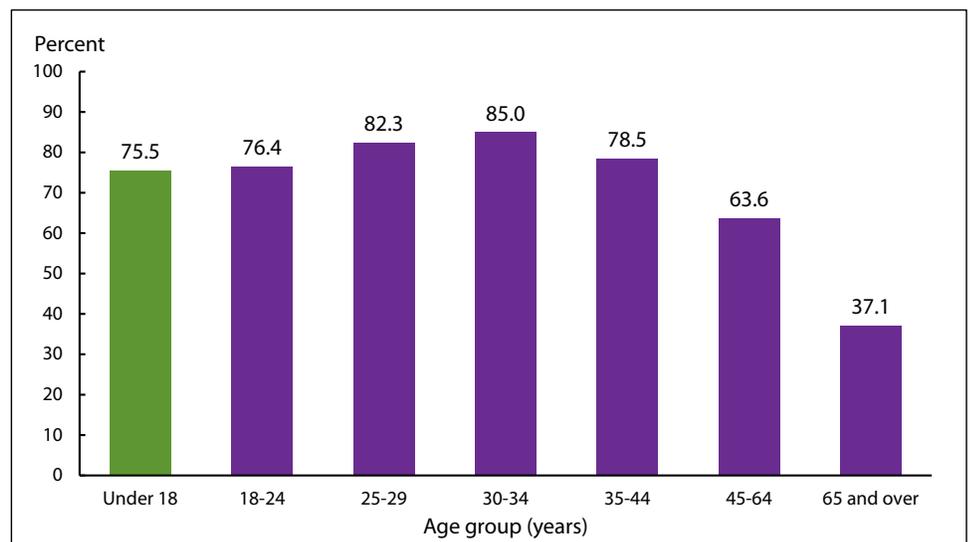
is available from the [Early Release Program homepage](#).

For some key estimates, observed changes from 2018 to 2019 were likely to be artifacts of the questionnaire redesign and not true changes over time. Therefore, this Early Release Program report only includes comparable estimates since 2019. Estimates from prior years are available from previous [Early Release Program reports](#).

Background

Many health surveys, political polls, and other types of research are conducted using random-digit-dial (RDD) telephone surveys. Most survey research organizations include wireless telephone numbers when conducting RDD surveys. If they did not, the exclusion of households with only wireless telephones

Figure. Percentages of wireless-only adults and of children living in households with only wireless telephone service, by age group: United States, July–December 2020



NOTES: Wireless-only adults are adults who live in households with only wireless telephone service and have their own wireless telephone. In 2020, data collection procedures for the National Health Interview Survey were modified because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Estimates from 2020 are likely to have been impacted by changes in the sample and data collection mode. See text in this report for more details. SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

(along with the small proportion of households that have no telephone service) could bias results. This bias—known as coverage bias—could exist if there are differences between persons with and without landline telephones for the substantive variables of interest.

Since 2003, NHIS has asked respondents about landlines and wireless telephones in their homes. Previous [Early Release Program reports](#) revealed that there are health-related differences between persons with and without landline telephones. For example, compared with adults living in landline households, adults living in wireless-only households were more likely to be current smokers and to have had at least one heavy drinking day in the past year. Adults living in wireless-only households were also less likely to have health insurance coverage, less likely to have a usual place to go for medical care, less likely to have received an influenza vaccination in the past year, and more likely to have experienced financial barriers to care.

The potential for coverage bias remains a real threat to health surveys that do not include sufficient representation of households with only wireless telephones. NCHS continues to publish estimates of the size and characteristics of this population so that survey research organizations can evaluate whether they have appropriately included this population in their health-related telephone surveys.

Methods

NHIS randomly selects one “sample adult” aged 18 years or older and one “sample child” aged 17 years or younger (if any children live in the household) from each household following a brief initial interview that identifies everyone who usually lives or stays in the household. Information about the sample adult is collected from the sample adults themselves unless they are physically or mentally unable to do so, in which case a knowledgeable proxy can answer for the sample adult. Information about the sample child is collected from a parent or adult who is knowledgeable about and responsible for the health care of the

sample child. This respondent may or may not also be the sample adult.

To determine whether the sampled persons lived in a household with a landline telephone, the respondent was asked if there was “at least one phone inside your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone.” To avoid possible confusion with cordless landline telephones, the word “wireless” was not used in the survey. This question was asked only once, in whichever interview (sample adult or sample child) came first.

Sample adults are also asked whether they “have a working cell phone,” and if not, whether they “live with anyone who has a working cell phone.” This approach permits the identification of adults living in wireless-only households (that is, households without landlines within which at least one household member has a working cell phone) and of wireless-only adults (that is, adults who live in a wireless-only household and have their own cell phone). Respondents for sample children are only asked if the child lives “with anyone who has a working cell phone,” and only if the wireless status of the household is not yet known from the sample adult interview.

An additional question is included for sample adults who have a cell phone and live in households with landline telephones. The sample adult is asked to consider “all the telephone calls that you answer” and to report whether “all or almost all [are] on your cell phones, some [are] on your cell phone and some on your home phone, or very few or none [are] on your cell phones.” This question permits the identification of “wireless-mostly” adults—defined as adults with both landline and cellular telephones who answer all or almost all calls on cell phones. Landline-mostly adults and dual-users can be similarly identified.

NHIS uses sampling weights to produce representative national estimates. The base weight is equal to the inverse of the probability of selection of the sample address. These weights are adjusted for household and person-level nonresponse using multilevel models predictive of response propensity. Nonresponse-adjusted weights are further calibrated to U.S. Census Bureau population projections and American Community Survey (ACS) one-year

estimates for age, sex, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, Census division, and Metropolitan Statistical Area status.

Point estimates and 95% confidence intervals were calculated using SUDAAN software (RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC) to account for the complex sample design of NHIS.

Differences between percentages were evaluated using two-sided significance tests at the 0.05 level. All differences discussed are statistically significant unless otherwise noted. Lack of comment regarding the difference between any two estimates does not necessarily mean that the difference was tested and found to be not significant. Because of small sample sizes, estimates based on less than 1 year of data may have large confidence intervals, and caution should be used in interpreting such estimates.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Additional caution is warranted when interpreting telephone status estimates from 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection switched to a telephone-only mode beginning March 19, 2020. This change had little impact on Quarter 1 of 2020 (January–March), but there were lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics for Quarters 2, 3, and 4 of 2020 (April–December). A preliminary evaluation of the potential for nonresponse bias is at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/nonresponse202102-508>. It revealed that telephone-only data collection led to an over-representation of more affluent households, including a greater proportion of homeowners, among the participating sample in Quarter 2.

Personal visits to households resumed in selected areas in July 2020 and in all areas of the country in September 2020. However, cases were still attempted by telephone first and a majority were completed by telephone. Additionally, starting in August and continuing through the end of December, a subsample of adult respondents who completed the NHIS in 2019 were recontacted by telephone and asked to

participate again, completing the 2020 NHIS questionnaire. Estimates in this report are based on data from both samples.

Survey weights were adjusted to account for changes in respondent characteristics due to overall changes in the 2020 data collection. However, phoneless households (i.e., those with neither wireless nor landline telephones) generally could not be interviewed in Quarter 2 or as part of the reinterviewed sample. Caution should be used in interpreting differences observed in estimates between 2020 and earlier time periods, particularly for estimates of persons living in phoneless households. The estimates of persons living in phoneless households in July–December 2020 are substantially lower than would be expected given historical patterns.

Household Telephone Status

From July through December 2020, information on household telephone status was obtained for 17,028 civilian adults aged 18 and over and 1,984 children under age 18. The sample size for children in 2020 was lower than in previous years because the reinterviewed sample did not include a sample child interview.

In the second six months of 2020, 65.8% of adults (about 166 million) and 75.5% of children (nearly 55 million) lived in households that did not have a landline telephone but did have at least one wireless telephone (**Table 1**).

The percentages of adults and children living in wireless-only households have been generally increasing since 2003. Consistent with that trend, there was a statistically significant increase (4.5 percentage points) from the second 6 months of 2019 to the second 6 months of 2020 in the percentage of adults living in wireless-only households. Across that same time period, a statistically significant increase (5.2 percentage points) was also observed for children.

Wireless-only Adults

Nearly two-thirds of adults were wireless-only (65.3%, 165 million); that is, they personally had a wireless telephone and lived in a household that did not have a landline. The percentage of adults who were wireless-only is shown, by selected demographic characteristics, in **Table 2**. Confidence intervals for these percentages are shown in **Table 3**. For July–December 2020:

- Four in five adults aged 18–24 (76.4%), aged 25–29 (82.3%), and aged 30–34 (85.0%) were wireless-only (**Figure**). The percentage of adults who were wireless-only decreased as age increased beyond 35 years: 78.5% for those 35–44; 63.6% for those 45–64; and 37.1% for those 65 and over.
- Hispanic adults (75.6%) were more likely than non-Hispanic white (62.7%), non-Hispanic black (64.6%), or non-Hispanic Asian (61.2%) adults to be wireless-only.
- Adults with family incomes below the federal poverty threshold (74.4%) were more likely than adults with family incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the federal poverty threshold (67.7%) and adults with higher family incomes (64.3%) to be wireless-only.
- Adults living in the Midwest (69.3%), South (68.5%), and West (68.1%) were more likely than those living in the Northeast (49.4%) to be wireless-only.
- Four in five adults living in rented homes (80.8%) were wireless-only. This percentage is higher than the percentage for adults living in homes owned by a household member (58.6%).

Table 2 also includes estimates of the percentage of adults who were wireless-mostly, landline-mostly, dual users, landline-only, and phoneless, by selected demographic characteristics. Confidence intervals for these percentages are shown in **Table 3**.

Other NHIS Early Release Program Products

This report is published as part of the NHIS Early Release Program. Earlier reports on wireless substitution are at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/erwirelesssubs.htm>. Reports based on data from 2003–2018 include details about the aforementioned health-related differences between persons with and without landline telephones.

The prevalence of adults and children living in wireless-only households varies across states. For more information about prevalence estimates at the state level, see

- NCHS. Modeled estimates (with standard errors) of the percent distributions of personal telephone status for adults aged 18 and over and household telephone status for children under 18, by state: United States, 2019. August 2021. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/Wireless_state_202108-508.pdf.

In addition to these products, preliminary microdata files containing selected NHIS variables are produced as part of the Early Release Program. The telephone service use variables presented in this report have been included in those microdata files. NHIS data users can analyze these files through the NCHS Research Data Centers (<https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/>) without having to wait for the final annual NHIS microdata files to be released.

For more information about NHIS and the NHIS Early Release Program, or to find other Early Release Program products, see

- NHIS home page at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>.
- Early Release Program home page at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/releases.htm>.

Suggested Citation

Blumberg SJ, Luke JV. Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, July-December 2020. National Center for Health Statistics. August 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15620/cdc:108678>.

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Table 1. Percent distribution of household telephone status for adults and children: United States, 2019-2020

Date of interview	Number of persons (unweighted)	Wireless-only household	Landline with wireless	Landline-only household ¹	Phoneless	Landline with unknown wireless	Wireless with unknown landline	Total
Adults								
January–June 2019 ²	16,577	59.2	37.2	2.5	1.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	57.97-60.37	35.99-38.43	2.30-2.79	0.78-1.18	0.02-0.09	0.03-0.12	...
July–December 2019 ²	14,725	61.3	35.2	2.4	1.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	59.66-62.85	33.71-36.62	2.05-2.69	0.86-1.28	0.01-0.10	0.06-0.31	...
January–June 2020 ³	13,602	62.5	34.3	2.3	0.7	0.1	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	61.21-63.78	33.03-35.54	2.01-2.62	0.54-0.96	0.03-0.28	0.04-0.25	...
July–December 2020 ³	17,028	65.8	31.9	1.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	64.69-66.81	30.88-32.95	1.60-2.08	0.28-0.52	0.03-0.12	0.04-0.14	...
Children								
January–June 2019 ²	4,800	70.5	28.0	0.6	1.0	–	–	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	68.67-72.19	26.33-29.68	0.34-1.04	0.68-1.39	–	–	...
July–December 2019 ²	4,375	70.3	27.7	0.6	1.3	–	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	68.10-72.37	25.76-29.64	0.31-1.29	0.95-1.82	–	0.02-0.38	...
January–June 2020 ³	3,808	73.6	25.1	0.3	0.9	–	0.0	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	71.43-75.73	23.12-27.29	0.15-0.54	0.58-1.38	–	0.00-0.23	...
July–December 2020 ³	1,984	75.5	23.1	0.6	0.6	–	–	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	72.90-77.91	20.84-25.55	0.29-1.37	0.23-1.80	–	–	...

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

... Category not applicable.

– Quantity zero.

¹Landline-only refers to households with a landline telephone in which no residents have a working cell phone. In reports based on 2003-2018 data, this category was labeled as "landline without wireless."

²To produce estimates for 2019, the NHIS sampling weights were further adjusted to account for telephone-question nonresponse. These data were missing for 2.9% of sample adults and 0.7% of sample children in the first six months of 2019, and for 3.9% of sample adults and 1.8% of sample children in the second six months of 2019. Although telephone-question nonresponse remains at similar levels, this adjustment was dropped for 2020 because sensitivity analyses indicated that the adjustment changed very few resulting estimates, and for those that did change, the impact was no more than two-tenths of one percent. Persons with both unknown landline and unknown wireless status are not included in the denominators when calculating percentages.

³Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection switched to a telephone-only mode beginning March 19, 2020. Personal visits to households resumed in all areas of the country in September 2020. However, cases were still attempted by telephone first and a majority were completed by telephone. Additionally, starting in August 2020 and continuing through the end of December 2020, a subsample of adult respondents who completed the NHIS in 2019 were recontacted by telephone and asked to participate again. These changes resulted in lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics for April–December 2020. Differences observed in estimates between 2020 and earlier time periods—particularly estimates of persons living in phoneless households—may be partially or fully attributable to these changes.

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

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

Table 2. Percent distribution of personal telephone status for adults, by selected demographic characteristics: United States, July-December 2020

Demographic characteristic	Wireless-only adults	Wireless-mostly adults	Dual-users	Landline-mostly adults	Landline-only adults	Phoneless adults	Unknown ¹	Total
Total	65.3	16.5	8.9	5.3	2.9	0.7	0.4	100.0
Age (years)								
18–24	76.4	16.4	3.8	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.0	100.0
25–29	82.3	12.8	2.2	1.1	0.5	0.1	1.0	100.0
30–34	85.0	10.4	2.3	0.2	1.3	0.6	0.1	100.0
35–44	78.5	15.5	3.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	100.0
45–64	63.6	19.7	10.2	3.6	1.9	0.6	0.3	100.0
65 and over	37.1	16.5	18.9	17.5	8.8	0.9	0.3	100.0
Race/ethnicity								
Hispanic or Latino, any race(s)	75.6	14.0	4.5	2.0	1.9	1.6	0.4	100.0
Non-Hispanic white, single race	62.7	16.8	10.1	6.5	3.1	0.4	0.4	100.0
Non-Hispanic black, single race	64.6	17.3	9.0	4.8	3.0	0.8	0.6	100.0
Non-Hispanic Asian, single race	61.2	19.6	9.4	4.8	3.7	1.1	0.2	100.0
Non-Hispanic other races and multiple races	74.0	15.8	5.3	1.8	2.4	0.7	0.0	100.0
Sex								
Male	66.4	17.0	8.3	4.4	2.7	0.8	0.4	100.0
Female	64.3	16.0	9.4	6.2	3.2	0.6	0.4	100.0
Education								
Some high school or less	63.9	12.4	6.8	6.9	6.9	2.0	1.1	100.0
High school graduate or GED ²	65.3	14.8	8.4	6.6	3.8	0.8	0.2	100.0
Some post-high school, no degree	66.3	17.2	9.0	4.9	1.9	0.4	0.3	100.0
4-year college degree or higher	64.9	18.8	10.0	4.1	1.6	0.4	0.3	100.0
Family income relative to federal poverty threshold ³								
Less than 100%	74.4	10.6	4.1	3.2	5.3	2.3	0.1	100.0
100% to less than 200%	67.7	11.7	6.4	7.5	4.7	1.1	0.9	100.0
200% or greater	64.3	18.7	9.8	4.8	1.9	0.3	0.2	100.0
Geographic region ⁴								
Northeast	49.4	22.5	14.2	7.9	4.9	0.5	0.5	100.0
Midwest	69.3	14.2	8.1	5.2	2.4	0.5	0.3	100.0
South	68.5	15.5	7.4	4.7	2.7	0.8	0.5	100.0
West	68.1	15.9	8.1	4.5	2.3	0.8	0.3	100.0
Metropolitan statistical area status								
Metropolitan	66.2	16.7	8.7	4.8	2.5	0.7	0.4	100.0
Not metropolitan	59.9	15.3	10.0	8.5	5.2	0.7	0.5	100.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Percent distribution of personal telephone status for adults, by selected demographic characteristics: United States, July-December 2020—Continued

Demographic characteristic	Wireless-only adults	Wireless-mostly adults	Dual-users	Landline-mostly adults	Landline-only adults	Phoneless adults	Unknown ¹	Total
Home ownership status ⁵								
Owned or being bought	58.6	19.4	11.4	6.7	3.1	0.5	0.4	100.0
Renting	80.8	9.8	3.3	2.1	2.6	1.0	0.3	100.0
Other arrangement	64.9	16.5	7.5	**	3.5	2.5	0.0	100.0
Number of adults in survey sample (unweighted)	10,497	2,708	1,778	1,252	647	99	47	17,028

** Estimate does not meet NCHS standards of reliability as specified in *National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions* (available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf).

¹Unknown includes adults with either unknown landline, unknown wireless, or unknown frequency-of-use status (for adults with both landline and wireless telephones). Adults with both unknown landline and unknown wireless status are excluded from the analysis.

²GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

³Based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. Early Release estimates stratified by poverty status are based on reported income only and may differ from similar estimates produced later that are based on both reported and imputed income. Household poverty status was unknown for 12.0% of adults in these analyses. NCHS imputes income when income is unknown, but the imputed income file is not available until the annual National Health Interview Survey microdata are released.

⁴In the geographic classification of the U.S. population, states are grouped into the following four regions used by the U.S. Census Bureau: *Northeast* includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; *Midwest* includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; *South* includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; and *West* includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTES: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Korn and Graubard 95% confidence intervals for these estimates are presented in Table 3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection relied primarily on telephone data collection in July-December 2020. Personal visits were used only to follow-up on nonresponse, to deliver recruitment materials, and to conduct interviews when telephone numbers were unknown. Additionally, starting in August 2020 and continuing through the end of December 2020, a subsample of adult respondents who completed the NHIS in 2019 were recontacted by telephone and asked to participate again. These changes resulted in lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics. Estimates from 2020—particularly estimates of persons living in phoneless households—are likely to have been impacted by these changes in the sample and data collection mode.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

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Table 3. Korn and Graubard 95% confidence intervals for percent distributions in Table 2

Demographic characteristic	Wireless-only adults	Wireless-mostly adults	Dual-users	Landline-mostly adults	Landline-only adults	Phoneless adults	Unknown ¹	Total
Total	64.2-66.3	15.7-17.3	8.3- 9.5	4.9- 5.8	2.6- 3.3	0.5- 0.9	0.3- 0.6	...
Age (years)								
18-24	72.6-80.0	13.5-19.6	2.1- 6.2	0.3- 2.5	0.5- 2.5	0.4- 2.2
25-29	78.5-85.7	9.9-16.1	1.0- 4.2	0.3- 2.7	0.0- 1.9	0.0- 0.6	0.3-2.3	...
30-34	82.0-87.6	8.3-12.9	1.2- 4.0	0.0- 0.6	0.5- 2.8	0.2- 1.3	0.0-0.5	...
35-44	76.3-80.5	13.7-17.5	2.7- 4.6	0.3- 1.0	0.2- 1.1	0.3- 1.1	0.3-1.2	...
45-64	61.9-65.3	18.4-21.1	9.2-11.3	3.0- 4.3	1.5- 2.4	0.4- 0.9	0.1-0.7	...
65 and over	35.4-38.8	15.3-17.8	17.7-20.2	16.1-18.9	7.8-10.0	0.5- 1.3	0.2-0.5	...
Race/ethnicity								
Hispanic or Latino, any race(s)	73.0-78.1	12.1-16.1	3.3- 5.9	1.2- 3.2	1.2- 2.8	1.0-2.5	0.1-0.9	...
Non-Hispanic white, single race	61.4-64.0	15.8-17.7	9.4-10.9	6.0- 7.1	2.7- 3.6	0.3-0.6	0.2-0.6	...
Non-Hispanic black, single race	61.5-67.7	14.7-20.1	7.3-10.9	3.6- 6.2	2.1- 4.0	0.2-1.9	0.2-1.6	...
Non-Hispanic Asian, single race	56.5-65.9	16.0-23.6	7.0-12.3	2.9- 7.3	2.2- 5.9	0.4-2.2	0.0-0.8	...
Non-Hispanic other races and multiple races	67.9-79.6	11.1-21.4	3.2-8.2	0.7-3.6	1.1-4.6	0.1-2.7
Sex								
Male	64.9-67.8	15.9-18.2	7.5-9.1	3.8-5.0	2.2-3.2	0.6-1.2	0.2-0.7	...
Female	62.8-65.7	15.0-17.1	8.7-10.2	5.6-6.8	2.7-3.7	0.4-0.8	0.2-0.6	...
Education								
Some high school or less	60.1-67.5	9.9-15.3	5.1-8.9	5.2-9.0	5.2-8.8	1.2-3.2	0.5-2.1	...
High school graduate or GED ²	63.3-67.3	13.2-16.4	7.4-9.5	5.8-7.6	3.2-4.6	0.5-1.3	0.1-0.5	...
Some post-high school, no degree	64.4-68.1	15.8-18.7	8.0-10.2	4.2-5.6	1.5-2.4	0.2-0.7	0.1-0.7	...
4-year college degree or higher	63.3-66.4	17.6-20.1	9.1-10.8	3.6-4.6	1.3-2.0	0.2-0.7	0.1-0.5	...
Family income relative to federal poverty threshold ³								
Less than 100%	71.0-77.6	8.4-13.2	2.9-5.7	2.2-4.6	4.0-6.8	1.4-3.6	0.0-0.4	...
100% to less than 200%	65.1-70.3	9.9-13.7	5.3-7.7	6.2-8.9	3.7-5.8	0.6-1.9	0.4-1.8	...
200% or greater	63.1-65.6	17.7-19.7	9.1-10.5	4.3-5.3	1.6-2.2	0.2-0.5	0.1-0.3	...
Geographic region ⁴								
Northeast	46.8-52.1	20.3-24.8	12.4-16.2	6.8-9.1	4.0-6.0	0.2-1.0	0.2-1.0	...
Midwest	67.1-71.5	12.7-15.7	7.1-9.2	4.4-6.0	1.9-3.1	0.3-1.0	0.1-0.6	...
South	66.8-70.2	14.2-16.8	6.5-8.3	4.1-5.4	2.1-3.3	0.5-1.2	0.2-0.9	...
West	65.9-70.2	14.4-17.5	7.0-9.3	3.5-5.7	1.7-3.1	0.5-1.3	0.1-0.6	...
Metropolitan statistical area status								
Metropolitan	65.0-67.3	15.8-17.6	8.1-9.3	4.4-5.3	2.2-2.9	0.5-0.9	0.3-0.6	...
Not metropolitan	56.4-63.4	13.2-17.6	8.3-11.9	6.9-10.3	3.9-6.7	0.3-1.3	0.1-1.3	...

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Korn and Graubard 95% confidence intervals for percent distributions in Table 2—Continued

Demographic characteristic	Wireless-only adults	Wireless-mostly adults	Dual-users	Landline-mostly adults	Landline-only adults	Phoneless adults	Unknown ¹	Total
Home ownership status								
Owned or being bought	57.3-59.9	18.4-20.4	10.6-12.2	6.2-7.3	2.7-3.5	0.3-0.7	0.2-0.6	...
Renting	79.2-82.4	8.6-11.1	2.6-4.1	1.7-2.6	2.0-3.2	0.7-1.5	0.1-0.6	...
Other arrangement	57.7-71.6	11.9-22.0	3.6-13.7	...	1.6-6.4	0.9-5.4

... Category not applicable.

¹Unknown includes adults with either unknown landline, unknown wireless, or unknown frequency-of-use status (for adults with both landline and wireless telephones). Adults with both unknown landline and unknown wireless status are excluded from the analysis.

²GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

³Based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. Early Release estimates stratified by poverty status are based on reported income only and may differ from similar estimates produced later that are based on both reported and imputed income. Household poverty status was unknown for 12.0% of adults in these analyses. NCHS imputes income when income is unknown, but the imputed income file is not available until the annual National Health Interview Survey microdata are released.

⁴In the geographic classification of the U.S. population, states are grouped into the following four regions used by the U.S. Census Bureau: *Northeast* includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; *Midwest* includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; *South* includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; and *West* includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTES: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Korn and Graubard 95% confidence intervals for these estimates are presented in Table 3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection relied primarily on telephone data collection in July-December 2020. Personal visits were used only to follow-up on nonresponse, to deliver recruitment materials, and to conduct interviews when telephone numbers were unknown. Additionally, starting in August 2020 and continuing through the end of December 2020, a subsample of adult respondents who completed the NHIS in 2019 were recontacted by telephone and asked to participate again. These changes resulted in lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics. Estimates from 2020—particularly estimates of persons living in phoneless households—are likely to have been impacted by these changes in the sample and data collection mode.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.