

**National Center for Health Statistics
Division of Health Interview Statistics
State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey**

**National Survey of Early Childhood Health, 2000
Executive Summary**

The SLAITS module was designed to assess parents' perceptions of their children's pediatric care. In addition, the National Survey of Early Childhood Health collected data that can be used to examine both causative and correlative relationships between the promotion of health in the pediatric office and promotion of health in the home. Major funding for the NSECH was provided by a grant to the American Academy of Pediatrics from the Gerber Foundation. Additional support was provided by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the AAP Friends of Children Fund.

Sample. A national random-digit-dialed (RDD) sample of households with children aged 4 to 35 months old was selected. The study included an oversample of households having an eligible African-American or Hispanic child, permitting more precise estimates for these groups.

Questionnaire. The questionnaire included seven sections regarding: health care utilization; perceptions of the quality of the focal child's pediatric care; the level of interaction between the respondent and the health care providers; family interactions and home safety; respondent and child health; financial welfare and health insurance; and demographic information about the focal child, respondent, and household. As with all SLAITS questionnaires, the National Survey of Early Childhood Health questionnaire was designed to immediately follow administration of the National Immunization Survey interview or screener. The National Immunization Survey is a large-scale random-digit-dial telephone survey that screens for the presence of young children in sampled households.

Data Collection. An introductory letter was mailed to households (61.2% of the sample) for which telephone numbers could be matched to addresses. A computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system was used to collect the data. Data collection began on February 16, 2000 and ended on July 31, 2000, with interviews conducted from telephone centers in Chicago, Illinois and Las Vegas, Nevada. 2,068 interviews were completed. Of these interviews, 1,208 were from the main sample and 860 from the minority oversample. The CASRO response rate was 65.3%. There are no plans at this time to repeat this survey, though some questions from this survey will be used in other future surveys.

Data File. In Summer or Fall 2001, data collected from this survey will be released to the public, along with reports highlighting the most important results from the survey. The data file will contain demographic information on the focal child (age, gender, race, ethnicity) and respondent (age, race, ethnicity, marital status, employment status, and highest educational grade completed), as well as survey data. The weighted data file will include adjustments for multiple-telephone households, unit nonresponse, noncoverage of nontelephone households, and the oversampling of minority children. Estimates based on the sampling weights will generalize to the entire U.S. population of children aged 4 to 35 months old.