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Vital and Health Statistics

October 2002

Series 10, Number 208

# Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention • National Center for Health Statistics



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#### Suggested Citation

Blackwell DL, Tonthat L. Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 1998. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 10(208). 2002.

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#### Library of Congress-Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Blackwell, Debra, Tonthat, Luong.

Summary health statistics for the U.S. children: National health interview survey, 1998.

p. cm.— (Vital and health statistics. Series 10, Data from the National Health Interview Survey ; no 208) (DHHS publication ; no. (PHS) 2002-1536)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-8406-0585-4

1. Children—Health and hygiene—United States—Statistics. 2. Public health—United States—Statistics. 3. Health surveys—United States—Statistics. I. National Center for Health Statistics (U.S.) II. Series. III. Vital and health statistics. Series 10, Data from the National Health Survey ; no. 208.

RA407.3 .A346 no. 208

[RJ102]

362.1'0973'021 s—dc21

[614.4'273]

2002027888

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For sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office  
Superintendent of Documents  
Mail Stop: SSOP  
Washington, DC 20402-9328  
Printed on acid-free paper.

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Data From the National Health  
Interview Survey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics

Hyattsville, Maryland  
October 2002  
DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2002-1536

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**Objectives**

This report presents statistics from the 1998 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) on selected health measures for children under 18 years of age, classified by sex, age, race/ethnicity, family structure, parent's education, family income, poverty status, health insurance coverage, place of residence, region, and current health status. The topics covered are asthma, allergies, learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, use of medication, respondent-assessed health status, school-loss days, usual place of medical care, time since last contact with a health care professional, selected health care risk factors, and time since last dental contact.

**Source of Data**

The NHIS is a multistage probability sample survey conducted annually by interviewers of the U.S. Census Bureau for the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and is representative of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Data are collected during face-to-face interviews with adults present at the time of interview. Information about children is collected for one randomly selected child per family in face-to-face interviews with an adult proxy respondent familiar with the child's health.

**Highlights**

In 1998 most U.S. children under 18 years of age enjoyed excellent or very good health (84%). However, 12% of children had no health insurance coverage, and 6% of children had no usual place of medical care. Twelve percent of children had ever been diagnosed with asthma. An estimated 8% of children 3–17 years of age had a learning disability, and an estimated 6% of children had Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Lastly, 11% of children in single mother families had two or more visits to an emergency room in the past year compared with 6% of children in two-parent or single-father families.

**Keywords:** child health • health conditions • access to care • health provider contacts • unmet medical need • ADD

# Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children: National Health Interview Survey, 1998

by *Debra L. Blackwell, Ph.D., and Luong Tonthat, National Health Interview Survey Statistics*

## Introduction

This report is one of a set of reports summarizing data from the 1998 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), a multipurpose health survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of this report is to provide national estimates for a broad range of health measures for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population of children under 18 years of age. Two other reports in this set provide data on health measures for the U.S. population and for adults (1,2). These three data reports are published for each year of the NHIS (3–5), and replace the annual, one-volume Current Estimates series (7,9, 11–23). A fourth report, focusing on technical issues related to the survey design and estimation procedures, will be published at a later date (25).

Estimates are presented here for asthma, allergies, learning disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), use of prescription medication, respondent-assessed health status, school-loss days, usual place of medical care, time since last contact with a health care professional, selected health care risk factors, and time since last dental contact. (Information regarding injuries to children is contained in the U.S. population report.) They are derived from the Sample Child component of the annual NHIS Basic Module. These estimates are shown in [tables 1–18](#) for various subgroups of the population, including those defined by sex, age, race/ethnicity, family structure, parent's education, family income, poverty

status, health insurance coverage, place of residence, region, and current health status. Estimates for other characteristics of special relevance are also included, where appropriate. [Appendix I](#) contains brief technical notes, and [appendix II](#) contains definitions of terms used in this report.

The NHIS has been an important source of information about health and health care in the United States since it was first conducted in 1957. Given the ever-changing nature of the U.S. population, the NHIS has been revised every 10–15 years, with the latest revision taking place in 1997. The first design changes were introduced in 1973 and the first procedural changes in 1975 (6). In 1982, the NHIS questionnaire and data preparation procedures of the survey were extensively revised. The basic concepts of NHIS changed in some cases, and in other cases the concepts were measured in a different way. A more complete explanation of these changes is in [appendix IV of Series 10, No. 150 \(7\)](#). In 1985, a new sample design for NHIS and a different method of presenting sampling errors were introduced (8,9). In 1995, another change in the sample design was introduced, including the oversampling of black and Hispanic persons (10).

The latest revision of the NHIS was implemented in 1997. The 1997 design of the NHIS features both a substantially revised instrument (in terms of content) as well as a new means of administration (i.e., computer-assisted personal interviewing). This new design improves the ability of the NHIS to provide important health information. However, comparisons of the 1997 data to data from previous NHIS survey years

should not be undertaken without a careful examination of the changes across survey instruments (7, 9, 11–23).

## Methods

### Data Source

The main objective of the NHIS is to monitor the health of the United States population through the collection and analysis of data on a broad range of health topics. The target population for the NHIS is the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Persons excluded are patients in long-term care institutions (e.g., nursing homes for the elderly, hospitals for the chronically ill, disabled, or retarded, as well as wards for abused/neglected children), correctional facilities (e.g., prisons or jails, juvenile detention centers, or halfway houses), active duty Armed Forces personnel (although their dependents are included), and U.S. nationals living in foreign countries. Each year, a representative sample of households across the country is selected for the NHIS using a multistage cluster sample design. Details on sample design can be found in *Design and Estimation for the National Health Interview Survey, 1995–2004* (10). Trained interviewers from the Census Bureau visit each selected household and administer the NHIS in person. Detailed interviewer instructions can be found in the NHIS Field Representative's Manual (24).

The forthcoming technical report will describe in detail the changes to the basic health and demographic questionnaire that occurred in the redesigned survey introduced in 1997 (25). Briefly, the annual NHIS questionnaire, now called the Basic Module or Core, consists of three main components: the Family Core, the Sample Adult Core, and the Sample Child Core. The Family Core collects information for all family members regarding household composition and sociodemographic characteristics, along with basic indicators of health status, activity limitations, and utilization of health care services. All members of the

household 17 years of age and over who are at home at the time of the interview are invited to participate and respond for themselves. For children and those adults not at home during the interview, information is provided by a knowledgeable adult family member (18 years of age or over) residing in the household. Although considerable effort is made to ensure accurate reporting, the information from both proxy and self-respondents may be inaccurate because the respondent is unaware of relevant information, has forgotten it, does not wish to reveal it to an interviewer, or does not understand the intended meaning of the question.

The Sample Adult and Sample Child Cores obtain additional information on the health of one randomly selected adult and child in the family; the sample adult responds for himself/herself, while a knowledgeable adult in the family provides proxy responses for the sample child. The Sample Child Core is the primary source of data for this report, while information regarding demographic characteristics is derived from the Family Core.

The interviewed sample for 1998 consisted of 38,209 households, which yielded 98,785 persons in 38,773 families. There were 14,619 children 0–17 years of age eligible for the Sample Child questionnaire. Data were collected for 13,645 children, a conditional response rate of 93.3%. The unconditional or final response rate for the Sample Child component was calculated by multiplying the conditional rate by the overall family response rate of 88.2%, yielding a rate of 82.3% (27).

### Estimation Procedures

The data presented in this report are weighted to provide national health estimates. For each health measure, both weighted frequencies and percents for all children and for various subgroups of the child population are shown. All counts are expressed in thousands. Counts for persons of unknown status with respect to each health characteristic of interest are not shown separately in the tables, nor are they included in the calculation of percentages, in order to

make the presentation of the data more straightforward. For all health measures in this report, the overall percent unknown is typically small, in most cases less than 1%, and is shown in [appendix I](#). These unknown cases are nevertheless included in the total population counts for each table. It should therefore be noted that the reader may obtain slightly different percentages than those shown in the tables if he or she elects to calculate percentages based on the frequencies and population counts presented in the tables.

Additionally, some of the sociodemographic variables that are used to delineate various subgroups of the population have unknown values. Again, for most of these variables, the percent unknown is small. However, in the case of family income, there is no income information for about 7% of respondents in the 1998 survey, while 10% of respondents stated that their combined family income was \$20,000 or more without providing additional detail. Poverty status, which is based on family income, has a high nonresponse rate as a result. Health estimates for persons with these unknown sociodemographic characteristics are not shown in the tables, but readers should refer to [appendix I](#) for more information on the quantities of cases in the unknown income and poverty status categories.

### Limitations of the Data

Although the data are presented for various age groups, estimates for other sociodemographic subgroups are not age-adjusted, so differences between groups should be interpreted with caution. Also, as mentioned previously, the redesigned NHIS is quite different in content, format, and mode of data collection from earlier versions of the survey. These changes make it difficult to compare 1997–98 NHIS estimates with those of earlier years.

In addition, it is important to note that frequencies are underestimates due to item nonresponse and unknowns, both of which are excluded from the tables (with the exception of the “All children” or total columns shown in each table). See [appendix I](#) for more



information about the number of unknowns with respect to each health characteristic.

## Variance Estimation and Significance Testing

The NHIS data are based on a sample of the population, and are therefore subject to sampling error. Standard errors are reported in order to indicate the reliability of the estimates. Estimates and standard errors were calculated using SUDAAN software that takes into account the complex sampling design of the NHIS. The Taylor series linearization method was used for variance estimation in SUDAAN (26).

Standard errors are shown for all percents in the tables (but not for the frequencies). Estimates with relative standard errors of greater than 30% are considered unreliable and are indicated with an asterisk (\*). The statistical significance of differences between point estimates was evaluated using two-sided *t* tests at the 0.05 level and assuming independence. Terms such as “greater than,” “less than,” “more likely,” “less likely,” “compared with,” or “opposed to” indicate a statistically significant difference between estimates, whereas “similar,” “no difference,” or “comparable” indicate that the estimates are not statistically different. A lack of commentary about any two estimates should not be interpreted to mean that a *t* test was performed and the difference was found to be not significant. Furthermore, these tests did not take multiple comparisons into account.

## Further Information

Data users can obtain the latest information about the National Health Interview Survey by periodically checking our Web site:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

The Web site features downloadable public-use data and documentation for recent surveys, as well as important information about any modifications or updates to the data and/or documentation.

Researchers may also wish to join the NHIS electronic mail list. To do so, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/subscribe.html>

Fill in the appropriate information, and click the “National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) researchers” box, followed by the “Subscribe” button at the bottom of the page. The list serve is made up of approximately 3,000 NHIS data users located around the world who receive e-news about NHIS surveys (e.g., new releases of data or modifications to existing data), publications, and conferences.

## Highlights

In the following section, brief, bulleted summaries of the estimates shown in [tables 1–18](#) are presented. All estimates were calculated using the appropriate weight variable, which is calibrated by NCHS staff to produce numbers consistent with the population estimates of the United States by age, sex, and race/ethnicity, based on projections from the 1990 U.S. Census.

## Health Conditions ([tables 1,2](#))

- Twelve percent of U.S. children under 18 years of age, or 8.7 million children, have ever been diagnosed with asthma. Boys were more likely than girls to have ever been diagnosed with asthma (15% and 10%, respectively).
- Nearly 4 million children, or 5% of all children, had an asthma attack in the past 12 months. Boys were more likely to have had an asthma attack in the past 12 months than girls.
- Non-Hispanic black children (16%) were more likely than non-Hispanic white or Hispanic children (12% and 10%, respectively) to have ever been diagnosed with asthma.
- Children from single mother families (17%) were more likely to have ever been diagnosed with asthma than children from two-parent families (11%).

- Twelve percent of U.S. children under 18 years of age suffered from respiratory allergies, 11% from hay fever, and 10% from other allergies in the past 12 months.
- As the level of parent’s education increases, the proportion of children with all types of allergies increases. For example, 8% of children whose parents did not obtain a high school diploma had respiratory allergies compared with 14% of children with a parent who continued education beyond high school.
- Children with private health insurance coverage were more likely to have had respiratory allergies (13%) than children with Medicaid (11%) or who were uninsured (10%).

## Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Learning Disabilities ([table 3](#))

- An estimated 4.5 million children 3–17 years of age (8%) had a learning disability, and an estimated 3.6 million children (6%) had Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).
- Ten percent of boys had a learning disability compared with 5% of girls; 9% of boys had ADD compared with 3% of girls.
- The percent of children with a learning disability in the lowest income group is nearly double that of the highest income group.
- Six percent of children with private health insurance coverage and 6% of children lacking insurance coverage had a learning disability compared with 16% of children with Medicaid coverage.
- Children with a fair or poor health status were more than four times as likely to have a learning disability and three times as likely to have ADD than children with an excellent, very good, or good health status.

## Prescription Medication Use ([table 4](#))

- Nine percent or 6.6 million children in the United States had a problem

for which prescription medication had been taken regularly for at least 3 months.

- Children 12–17 years of age were more likely to have been on prescription medication regularly for at least 3 months (12%) than children 5–11 years of age (10%) or children less than 5 years of age (5%).
- Eleven percent of boys were on medication regularly for at least 3 months compared with 8% of girls.
- Non-Hispanic white children (10%) were more likely to have been on medication regularly for at least 3 months than either Hispanic children or non-Hispanic black children (7% and 8%, respectively).
- Twelve percent of children with Medicaid coverage were on medication regularly for at least 3 months compared with 9% of children with private insurance and 5% of children with no health insurance coverage.

## Respondent-Assessed Health Status (tables 5–8)

- In 1998 the overwhelming majority of children in the United States enjoyed excellent or very good health (60 million children or 84%). In addition, 10 million children (15%) were in good health. The remaining 2% of children were in fair or poor health.
- Children’s health status was associated with race/ethnicity: 62% of non-Hispanic white children had excellent health, while 47% of non-Hispanic black children and 44% of Hispanic children had excellent health.
- Parental educational attainment was positively associated with children’s health: only 38% of children whose parent(s) did not obtain a high school diploma were in excellent health compared with 49% of children whose more highly educated parent had graduated from high school or received a GED and 65% of children whose more highly educated parent had continued education beyond high school.

- Children living in two-parent families were more likely to be in excellent health (61%) than children living in single mother families (46%) or children living in single father families (52%).
- Poverty status was associated with children’s health: 66% of children from not poor families were in excellent health, compared with 48% of children from near poor families and 42% of children from poor families.
- Children with Medicaid insurance coverage were less likely to be in excellent health (40%) than children with private health insurance (63%) or children with no health insurance coverage (45%).
- In general, a child’s health status was much more likely to be the same as last year than to be better than last year, and much more likely to be better than last year than to be worse than last year.
- Among children with currently excellent or very good health status, the chance of the child’s having experienced an improvement in health status since a year ago was greater for Hispanic children (27%) than for non-Hispanic white children (18%) or non-Hispanic black children (20%).

## School-Loss Days Due to Illness or Injury (tables 9,10)

- Of the 52 million school-aged children (5–17 years of age) in the United States, 13 million or 26% never missed a day of school in the past 12 months due to illness or injury, 27% missed 1–2 days, and 28% missed 3–5 days of school.
- Six percent of all school-aged children (5–17 years of age) missed 11 or more days of school because of illness or injury in the past 12 months.
- Non-Hispanic black and Hispanic children were more likely than non-Hispanic white children to have missed no school in the past 12 months due to illness or injury.

Children who were poor or near poor were more likely than children who were not poor to have missed no school due to illness or injury.

- Children in single-parent families were absent from school for 11 or more days in the past year at about twice the rate of children in two-parent families.
- Parental education is associated with the number of school days missed. Nine percent of children whose parent(s) did not have a high school diploma and 7% whose more highly educated parent had a high school diploma or GED missed 11 or more days of school compared with 5% of children whose more highly educated parent had continued education beyond high school.

## Usual Place of Health Care (tables 11,12)

- In 1998, most children in the United States had a usual place of health care (94%).
- Four percent of non-Hispanic white children did not have a usual place of health care in 1998 compared with 8% of non-Hispanic black children and 13% of Hispanic children.
- Among children with a usual place of health care, 78% visited a doctor’s office, 20% received care in a clinic, 2% used a hospital outpatient department, and 1% used a hospital emergency room (ER) as a usual place of health care.
- Four percent of children who were uninsured used an ER for routine care compared with 0.2% of children with private health insurance coverage and 1% of children with Medicaid coverage.
- Among children with a usual place of health care, 83% of non-Hispanic white children visited a doctor’s office for that care compared with 66% of non-Hispanic black children and 68% of Hispanic children. Hispanic and non-Hispanic black children were more likely to have a clinic as their usual place of care (28% and 29%, respectively) than were non-Hispanic white children (15%).

- Children living with two parents were more likely to go to a doctor's office for care (81%) than those living in a single mother family (70%), a single father family (71%), or with neither parent present (65%).

## Time Since Last Contact with a Health Care Professional (tables 13,14)

- Most children had a contact with a doctor or other health professional at some time during the past 12 months, ranging from 85% of children 12–17 years of age to 97% of children 0–4 years of age.
- Children living in a single father family were less likely to have had a contact with a doctor or other health professional in the past 6 months (62%) than children living in a single mother or a two-parent family (71% and 72%, respectively).
- Ninety-two percent of children with private health insurance coverage and 92% of those with Medicaid had a contact with a doctor or other health professional in the past 12 months compared with 76% of children with no insurance coverage. Seven percent of uninsured children had not had a contact with a doctor or other health professional in over 3 years (or had never had a contact), compared with 1% for both children with private coverage and children with Medicaid.

## Selected Health Care Risk Factors (tables 15,16)

- In 1998, 8.7 million children (12%) had no health insurance coverage, ranging from 2% of children in families with an income of \$75,000 or more to 22% of children in families with an income of less than \$35,000.
- One and one-half million children (2%) were unable to get needed medical care because the family couldn't afford it, and medical care for 2.7 million children (4%) was delayed because of worry about the cost.

- Five percent of children in single father families and 4% of children in single mother families were unable to get needed medical care because the family couldn't afford it, compared with 2% of children in two-parent families.
- Eleven percent of children in single-mother families had two or more visits to an emergency room in the past year compared with 6% of children in two-parent families and 6% of children in single-father families.
- Children in poor and near poor families were more likely to be uninsured, to have unmet medical need, delayed care, no usual place of medical care, and high use of emergency room service than children in not poor families.
- Regionally, 9% of children in the West and 8% of children in the South had no usual place of medical care compared with 4% of children in the Midwest and 2% of children in the Northeast.
- Regionally, 16% of children in the West and 16% of children in the South had no health insurance compared with 8% of children in the Midwest and 7% of children in the Northeast.

When compared with children with an excellent, very good, or good health status, children with a fair or poor health status were:

- four times as likely to have unmet need (8% versus 2%);
- two times as likely to have delayed medical care (8% versus 4%); and
- four times as likely to have two or more emergency room visits (28% versus 7%).

## Dental Care (tables 17,18)

- An estimated 3.6 million children had unmet dental need because their families could not afford dental care.
- Sixteen percent of children lacking health insurance coverage experienced unmet dental need because their families could not afford dental care compared with 4% of children with private health

insurance coverage and 6% of children with Medicaid.

- Nine percent of children in single mother families had unmet dental need compared with 5% of children in two-parent families and 4% of children in single-father families.
- Regionally, 7% of children in the West and 7% of children in the South experienced unmet dental need compared with 5% of children in the Midwest and 4% of children in the Northeast.
- Non-Hispanic white children were most likely to have had a dental contact in the past 6 months (60%) than non-Hispanic black children (44%), Hispanic children (42%), and Mexican American children (37%).
- Hispanic children were more than 1.5 times as likely as non-Hispanic white children to have had no dental contact for more than 3 years.

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**Table 1. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever having asthma and having an asthma attack in the past 12 months, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Ever told had asthma <sup>1</sup>	Had asthma attack in past 12 months <sup>1</sup>	Ever told had asthma	Had asthma attack in past 12 months
	Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>			Percent (standard error) <sup>2</sup>	
Total	71,710	8,650	3,809	12.1 (0.35)	5.3 (0.23)
Sex					
Male	36,712	5,397	2,382	14.7 (0.53)	6.5 (0.34)
Female	34,998	3,253	1,428	9.3 (0.44)	4.1 (0.31)
Age					
0–4 years	19,692	1,627	915	8.3 (0.59)	4.6 (0.40)
5–17 years	52,018	7,023	2,894	13.5 (0.41)	5.6 (0.28)
5–11 years	28,463	3,679	1,552	13.0 (0.54)	5.5 (0.39)
12–17 years	23,555	3,344	1,342	14.2 (0.59)	5.7 (0.40)
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>					
Non-Hispanic white	46,672	5,569	2,431	12.0 (0.45)	5.2 (0.30)
Non-Hispanic black	10,823	1,697	735	15.7 (1.07)	6.8 (0.66)
Non-Hispanic other	3,162	270	120	8.6 (1.24)	3.8 (0.86)
Hispanic	11,052	1,113	524	10.1 (0.66)	4.7 (0.46)
Mexican American	6,019	463	217	7.7 (0.72)	3.6 (0.53)
Family structure <sup>4</sup>					
Mother and father	52,448	5,607	2,408	10.7 (0.38)	4.6 (0.26)
Mother, no father	15,093	2,571	1,202	17.1 (0.84)	8.0 (0.58)
Father, no mother	2,097	218	96	10.4 (1.74)	4.6 (1.23)
Neither mother nor father	2,004	247	96	12.4 (1.85)	4.8 (1.27)
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>					
Less than high school diploma	9,077	1,120	450	12.4 (0.98)	5.0 (0.64)
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup>	17,419	2,270	1,032	13.0 (0.72)	5.9 (0.50)
More than high school	42,585	4,972	2,215	11.7 (0.44)	5.2 (0.30)
Family income <sup>7</sup>					
Less than \$20,000	14,730	2,323	1,016	15.8 (0.87)	6.9 (0.53)
\$20,000 or more	53,899	6,047	2,676	11.2 (0.36)	5.0 (0.26)
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,392	1,213	602	10.7 (0.77)	5.3 (0.58)
\$35,000–\$54,999	13,358	1,530	614	11.5 (0.78)	4.6 (0.48)
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,195	1,035	400	11.3 (0.94)	4.3 (0.54)
\$75,000 or more	12,739	1,536	660	12.1 (0.85)	5.2 (0.62)
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>					
Poor	10,398	1,599	698	15.4 (1.02)	6.7 (0.69)
Near poor	12,760	1,485	694	11.7 (0.83)	5.4 (0.53)
Not poor	35,442	4,125	1,706	11.6 (0.44)	4.8 (0.31)
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>					
Private	49,150	5,501	2,412	11.2 (0.38)	4.9 (0.28)
Medicaid/other public	11,737	1,890	880	16.2 (1.00)	7.5 (0.64)
Other	1,840	338	170	18.3 (2.44)	9.2 (1.59)
Uninsured	8,747	902	340	10.3 (0.91)	3.9 (0.57)
Place of residence <sup>10</sup>					
Large MSA	34,073	4,115	1,915	12.1 (0.47)	5.6 (0.33)
Small MSA	22,496	2,800	1,212	12.5 (0.64)	5.4 (0.45)
Not in MSA	15,141	1,735	682	11.5 (0.86)	4.5 (0.48)
Region					
Northeast	13,469	1,870	868	13.9 (0.91)	6.5 (0.59)
Midwest	18,549	2,130	852	11.5 (0.74)	4.6 (0.45)
South	24,327	3,017	1,300	12.4 (0.60)	5.3 (0.41)
West	15,365	1,634	790	10.7 (0.56)	5.1 (0.47)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever having asthma and having an asthma attack in the past 12 months, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Ever told had asthma <sup>1</sup>	Had asthma attack in past 12 months <sup>1</sup>	Ever told had asthma	Had asthma attack in past 12 months
Current health status	Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>			Percent (standard error) <sup>2</sup>	
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	70,510	8,158	3,471	11.6 (0.34)	4.9 (0.23)
Fair/poor . . . . .	1,185	492	338	41.5 (3.62)	28.6 (3.20)
Sex and age					
Male:					
0–4 years . . . . .	10,074	978	536	9.7 (0.89)	5.3 (0.58)
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	4,418	1,845	16.6 (0.62)	6.9 (0.40)
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	2,363	1,096	16.2 (0.82)	7.5 (0.62)
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	2,055	749	17.1 (0.95)	6.2 (0.55)
Female:					
0–4 years . . . . .	9,617	649	379	6.8 (0.75)	3.9 (0.58)
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	2,604	1,049	10.3 (0.53)	4.1 (0.37)
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	1,316	456	9.5 (0.69)	3.3 (0.42)
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	1,288	593	11.2 (0.78)	5.2 (0.63)

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: "Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that {child's name} had asthma?" and "During the past 12 months, has {child's name} had an episode of asthma or an asthma attack?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. They are, however, included in the "All children" column.

<sup>3</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>5</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent's age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.



**Table 2. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of hay fever, respiratory allergies, and other allergies in the past 12 months, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Hay fever <sup>1</sup>	Respiratory allergies <sup>1</sup>	Other allergies <sup>1</sup>	Hay fever <sup>1</sup>	Respiratory allergies <sup>2</sup>	Other allergies <sup>2</sup>
	Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>				Percent (standard error) <sup>2</sup>		
Total	71,710	7,489	8,679	7,311	10.5 (0.31)	12.2 (0.35)	10.2 (0.30)
Sex							
Male	36,712	3,974	4,675	3,555	10.9 (0.45)	12.8 (0.51)	9.7 (0.42)
Female	34,998	3,515	4,004	3,756	10.1 (0.48)	11.5 (0.49)	10.7 (0.45)
Age							
0–4 years	19,692	921	1,682	2,137	4.7 (0.39)	8.6 (0.60)	10.9 (0.62)
5–17 years	52,018	6,568	6,997	5,174	12.7 (0.40)	13.5 (0.42)	10.0 (0.35)
5–11 years	28,463	3,220	3,718	2,997	11.4 (0.56)	13.1 (0.54)	10.5 (0.48)
12–17 years	23,555	3,349	3,279	2,177	14.3 (0.64)	14.0 (0.62)	9.2 (0.51)
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>							
Non-Hispanic white	46,672	5,382	6,303	5,073	11.6 (0.40)	13.6 (0.47)	10.9 (0.38)
Non-Hispanic black	10,823	929	1,300	1,161	8.6 (0.73)	12.1 (0.89)	10.7 (0.84)
Non-Hispanic other	3,162	306	208	264	9.7 (1.53)	6.6 (1.14)	8.4 (1.19)
Hispanic	11,052	872	867	813	7.9 (0.54)	7.9 (0.55)	7.4 (0.59)
Mexican American	6,019	414	358	411	6.9 (0.72)	6.0 (0.68)	6.8 (0.78)
Family structure <sup>4</sup>							
Mother and father	52,448	5,688	6,285	5,219	10.9 (0.38)	12.0 (0.42)	10.0 (0.36)
Mother, no father	15,093	1,501	1,949	1,778	10.0 (0.64)	13.0 (0.79)	11.8 (0.67)
Father, no mother	2,097	172	195	169	8.2 (1.51)	9.3 (1.63)	8.1 (1.48)
Neither mother nor father	2,004	118	238	137	5.9 (1.15)	12.0 (1.97)	6.9 (1.46)
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>							
Less than high school diploma	9,077	677	697	638	7.5 (0.79)	7.7 (0.75)	7.1 (0.78)
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup>	17,419	1,649	1,828	1,685	9.5 (0.65)	10.6 (0.64)	9.7 (0.60)
More than high school	42,585	5,016	5,898	4,832	11.8 (0.44)	13.9 (0.50)	11.4 (0.43)
Family income <sup>7</sup>							
Less than \$20,000	14,730	1,369	1,490	1,557	9.3 (0.73)	10.2 (0.68)	10.6 (0.67)
\$20,000 or more	53,899	5,912	6,969	5,598	11.0 (0.37)	13.0 (0.42)	10.4 (0.34)
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,392	1,079	1,399	1,221	9.5 (0.68)	12.3 (0.80)	10.7 (0.75)
\$35,000–\$54,999	13,358	1,449	1,595	1,429	10.9 (0.76)	12.0 (0.83)	10.7 (0.71)
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,195	1,155	1,342	931	12.6 (1.09)	14.7 (1.04)	10.1 (0.88)
\$75,000 or more	12,739	1,785	1,883	1,541	14.1 (0.83)	14.9 (0.91)	12.1 (0.72)
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>							
Poor	10,398	1,039	1,132	1,168	10.0 (0.95)	10.9 (0.85)	11.3 (0.88)
Near poor	12,760	997	1,467	1,335	7.8 (0.64)	11.5 (0.76)	10.5 (0.72)
Not poor	35,442	4,600	4,900	3,979	13.0 (0.49)	13.9 (0.55)	11.2 (0.44)
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>							
Private	49,150	5,472	6,305	4,935	11.2 (0.39)	12.9 (0.45)	10.0 (0.34)
Medicaid/other public	11,737	1,055	1,283	1,273	9.0 (0.75)	11.0 (0.80)	10.9 (0.81)
Other	1,840	150	233	254	8.2 (1.59)	12.7 (2.32)	13.8 (2.18)
Uninsured	8,747	803	850	846	9.2 (0.89)	9.8 (0.86)	9.7 (0.85)
Place of residence							
Large MSA <sup>10</sup>	34,073	3,405	3,968	3,348	10.0 (0.44)	11.7 (0.52)	9.8 (0.42)
Small MSA <sup>10</sup>	22,496	2,529	2,981	2,325	11.3 (0.62)	13.3 (0.61)	10.4 (0.54)
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup>	15,141	1,555	1,730	1,638	10.3 (0.60)	11.5 (0.77)	10.8 (0.72)
Region							
Northeast	13,469	1,483	1,604	1,498	11.1 (0.80)	12.0 (0.79)	11.2 (0.64)
Midwest	18,549	1,721	2,078	1,895	9.3 (0.54)	11.3 (0.67)	10.2 (0.57)
South	24,327	2,540	3,697	2,346	10.5 (0.55)	15.3 (0.69)	9.7 (0.52)
West	15,365	1,745	1,299	1,571	11.4 (0.69)	8.5 (0.58)	10.2 (0.69)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of hay fever, respiratory allergies, and other allergies in the past 12 months, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Hay fever <sup>1</sup>	Respiratory allergies <sup>1</sup>	Other allergies <sup>1</sup>	Hay fever <sup>1</sup>	Respiratory allergies <sup>2</sup>	Other allergies <sup>2</sup>
	Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>				Percent (standard error) <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Current health status</b>							
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	70,510	7,246	8,301	7,034	10.3 (0.31)	11.8 (0.36)	10.0 (0.30)
Fair/poor . . . . .	1,185	237	378	271	20.0 (2.56)	32.1 (3.34)	22.8 (2.73)
<b>Sex and age</b>							
<b>Male:</b>							
0–4 years . . . . .	10,074	466	878	1,124	4.6 (0.58)	8.8 (0.83)	11.2 (0.88)
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	3,508	3,797	2,431	13.2 (0.58)	14.3 (0.62)	9.1 (0.49)
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	1,779	2,060	1,493	12.2 (0.85)	14.2 (0.90)	10.2 (0.70)
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	1,729	1,737	938	14.4 (0.86)	14.5 (0.83)	7.8 (0.62)
<b>Female:</b>							
0–4 years . . . . .	9,617	455	804	1,013	4.7 (0.54)	8.4 (0.76)	10.6 (0.80)
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	3,061	3,200	2,743	12.1 (0.61)	12.7 (0.62)	10.8 (0.53)
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	1,441	1,658	1,504	10.4 (0.74)	12.0 (0.78)	10.9 (0.71)
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	1,620	1,542	1,238	14.1 (0.97)	13.4 (0.89)	10.8 (0.78)

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: “During the past 12 months, has {child’s name} had any of the following conditions? Hay fever? Any kind of respiratory allergy? Any kind of food or digestive allergy? Eczema or any kind of skin allergy?” See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report. A child may be counted in more than one category.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. They are, however, included in the “All children” column.

<sup>3</sup>“Non-Hispanic other” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

<sup>5</sup>Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent’s age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>“MSA” is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 3. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever having a learning disability or Attention Deficit Disorder, for children 3–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 3–17 years	Ever told had			
		Learning disability <sup>1</sup>	Attention Deficit Disorder <sup>1</sup>	Learning disability	Attention Deficit Disorder
		Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>		Percent (standard error) <sup>2</sup>	
Total	59,948	4,481	3,551	7.5 (0.30)	5.9 (0.27)
Sex					
Male	30,735	2,915	2,611	9.5 (0.44)	8.5 (0.45)
Female	29,212	1,566	940	5.4 (0.43)	3.2 (0.28)
Age					
3–4 years	7,930	210	*55	2.7 (0.63)	*0.7 (0.25)
5–17 years	52,018	4,270	3,496	8.2 (0.33)	6.7 (0.31)
5–11 years	28,463	1,879	1,725	6.6 (0.38)	6.1 (0.39)
12–17 years	23,555	2,391	1,771	10.2 (0.55)	7.5 (0.49)
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>					
Non-Hispanic white	39,395	2,954	2,746	7.5 (0.40)	7.0 (0.35)
Non-Hispanic black	9,111	880	441	9.7 (0.85)	4.9 (0.55)
Non-Hispanic other	2,546	*103	*57	*4.0 (1.23)	*2.2 (0.72)
Hispanic	8,896	544	307	6.1 (0.64)	3.5 (0.49)
Mexican American	4,810	242	105	5.0 (0.87)	2.2 (0.47)
Family structure <sup>4</sup>					
Mother and father	43,388	2,877	2,332	6.6 (0.34)	5.4 (0.32)
Mother, no father	12,865	1,191	925	9.3 (0.69)	7.2 (0.60)
Father, no mother	1,898	138	98	7.3 (1.54)	5.2 (1.24)
Neither mother nor father	1,738	268	179	15.4 (2.49)	10.5 (1.86)
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>					
Less than high school diploma	7,504	770	364	10.3 (0.97)	4.9 (0.68)
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup>	14,827	1,160	976	7.8 (0.63)	6.6 (0.57)
More than high school	35,344	2,270	2,015	6.4 (0.36)	5.7 (0.35)
Family income <sup>7</sup>					
Less than \$20,000	11,882	1,311	837	11.1 (0.84)	7.1 (0.59)
\$20,000 or more	45,460	2,934	2,574	6.5 (0.32)	5.7 (0.32)
\$20,000–\$34,999	9,392	830	625	8.8 (0.93)	6.7 (0.76)
\$35,000–\$54,999	11,136	754	537	6.8 (0.59)	4.8 (0.56)
\$55,000–\$74,999	7,895	416	455	5.3 (0.77)	5.8 (0.80)
\$75,000 or more	10,882	618	671	5.7 (0.63)	6.2 (0.66)
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>					
Poor	8,461	962	565	11.4 (1.10)	6.7 (0.73)
Near poor	10,467	989	727	9.5 (0.88)	7.0 (0.74)
Not poor	29,969	1,789	1,703	6.0 (0.33)	5.7 (0.38)
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>					
Private	41,696	2,522	2,169	6.1 (0.34)	5.2 (0.31)
Medicaid/other public	8,957	1,413	879	15.8 (1.22)	9.9 (0.91)
Other	1,548	78	133	5.0 (1.44)	8.6 (2.02)
Uninsured	7,543	456	368	6.0 (0.76)	4.9 (0.77)
Place of residence					
Large MSA <sup>10</sup>	28,303	2,003	1,561	7.1 (0.43)	5.5 (0.39)
Small MSA <sup>10</sup>	18,810	1,395	1,124	7.4 (0.53)	6.0 (0.45)
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup>	12,834	1,083	866	8.4 (0.73)	6.8 (0.61)
Region					
Northeast	11,378	908	634	8.0 (0.79)	5.6 (0.53)
Midwest	15,210	1,292	1,029	8.5 (0.66)	6.8 (0.52)
South	20,504	1,515	1,259	7.4 (0.50)	6.2 (0.47)
West	12,856	765	629	6.0 (0.46)	4.9 (0.62)

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 3. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of ever having a learning disability or Attention Deficit Disorder, for children 3–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 3–17 years	Ever told had			
		Learning disability <sup>1</sup>	Attention Deficit Disorder <sup>1</sup>	Learning disability	Attention Deficit Disorder
Current health status	Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>		Percent (standard error) <sup>2</sup>		
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	58,927	4,158	3,341	7.1 (0.30)	5.7 (0.27)
Fair/poor . . . . .	1,006	323	210	32.1 (3.66)	21.0 (2.89)
Sex and age					
Male:					
3–4 years . . . . .	4,098	151	*55	3.7 (0.91)	*1.4 (0.49)
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	2,764	2,556	10.4 (0.48)	9.6 (0.52)
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	1,192	1,237	8.2 (0.58)	8.5 (0.63)
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	1,572	1,319	13.1 (0.85)	11.0 (0.83)
Female:					
3–4 years . . . . .	3,832	*59	*–	*1.5 (0.91)	*–
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	1,507	940	5.9 (0.46)	3.7 (0.33)
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	687	488	5.0 (0.53)	3.5 (0.46)
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	819	452	7.1 (0.72)	3.9 (0.50)

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: “Has a representative from a school or a health professional ever told you that (child’s name) had a learning disability?” and “Has a doctor or health professional ever told you that (child’s name) had Attention Deficit Disorder?” See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. They are, however, included in the “All children” column.<sup>3</sup>“Non-Hispanic other” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”<sup>5</sup>Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent’s age.<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.<sup>7</sup>“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.<sup>10</sup>“MSA” is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 4. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of having a problem for which prescription medication had been taken regularly for at least 3 months, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Prescription medication taken regularly for at least 3 months <sup>1</sup>	Prescription medication taken regularly for at least 3 months <sup>1</sup>
Total	71,710	6,617	9.2 (0.27)
Sex			
Male	36,712	3,929	10.7 (0.42)
Female	34,998	2,688	7.7 (0.37)
Age			
0–4 years	19,692	1,022	5.2 (0.45)
5–17 years	52,018	5,595	10.8 (0.34)
5–11 years	28,463	2,722	9.6 (0.46)
12–17 years	23,555	2,873	12.2 (0.54)
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>			
Non-Hispanic white	46,672	4,810	10.3 (0.36)
Non-Hispanic black	10,823	867	8.0 (0.68)
Non-Hispanic other	3,162	212	6.7 (1.30)
Hispanic	11,052	729	6.6 (0.50)
Mexican American	6,019	273	4.5 (0.55)
Family structure <sup>4</sup>			
Mother and father	52,448	4,760	9.1 (0.34)
Mother, no father	15,093	1,510	10.0 (0.61)
Father, no mother	2,097	144	6.9 (1.40)
Neither mother nor father	2,004	192	9.6 (1.73)
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>			
Less than high school diploma	9,077	666	7.3 (0.79)
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup>	17,419	1,497	8.6 (0.59)
More than high school	42,585	4,238	10.0 (0.39)
Family income <sup>7</sup>			
Less than \$20,000	14,730	1,367	9.3 (0.65)
\$20,000 or more	53,899	5,071	9.4 (0.33)
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,392	983	8.6 (0.78)
\$35,000–\$54,999	13,358	1,226	9.2 (0.68)
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,195	978	10.6 (0.84)
\$75,000 or more	12,739	1,405	11.0 (0.70)
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>			
Poor	10,398	986	9.5 (0.87)
Near poor	12,760	1,128	8.8 (0.65)
Not poor	35,442	3,636	10.3 (0.43)
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>			
Private	49,150	4,514	9.2 (0.34)
Medicaid/other public	11,737	1,420	12.1 (0.94)
Other	1,840	243	13.2 (1.95)
Uninsured	8,747	428	4.9 (0.60)
Place of residence			
Large MSA <sup>10</sup>	34,073	3,051	9.0 (0.39)
Small MSA <sup>10</sup>	22,496	2,201	9.8 (0.52)
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup>	15,141	1,365	9.0 (0.60)
Region			
Northeast	13,469	1,295	9.6 (0.72)
Midwest	18,549	1,824	9.8 (0.55)
South	24,327	2,320	9.5 (0.51)
West	15,365	1,179	7.7 (0.41)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4. Frequencies and percents (with standard errors) of having a problem for which prescription medication had been taken regularly for at least 3 months, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Prescription medication taken regularly for at least 3 months <sup>1</sup>	Prescription medication taken regularly for at least 3 months <sup>1</sup>
Current health status			
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	70,510	6,106	8.7 (0.28)
Fair/poor . . . . .	1,185	507	42.8 (3.54)
Sex and age			
Male:			
0–4 years . . . . .	10,074	512	5.1 (0.59)
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	3,417	12.8 (0.53)
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	1,802	12.4 (0.69)
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	1,615	13.4 (0.81)
Female:			
0–4 years . . . . .	9,617	510	5.3 (0.65)
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	2,178	8.6 (0.45)
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	920	6.6 (0.58)
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	1,258	10.9 (0.74)

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following question: “Does {child’s} name now have a problem for which {he/she} has regularly taken prescription medication for at least 3 months?” See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. They are, however, included in the “All children” column.

<sup>3</sup>“Non-Hispanic other” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

<sup>5</sup>Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent’s age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>“MSA” is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 5. Frequency distributions of respondent-assessed health status, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Respondent-assessed health status <sup>1</sup>				
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
		Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>				
Total . . . . .	71,710	40,536	19,492	10,481	1,035	150
Sex						
Male . . . . .	36,712	20,577	9,875	5,584	568	93
Female . . . . .	34,998	19,960	9,617	4,897	467	*57
Age						
0–4 years . . . . .	19,692	11,731	4,988	2,692	236	*45
5–17 years . . . . .	52,018	28,805	14,504	7,789	800	105
5–11 years . . . . .	28,463	16,341	7,589	4,085	392	51
12–17 years . . . . .	23,555	12,465	6,915	3,704	408	*54
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>						
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	46,672	29,042	12,161	5,037	377	*46
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	10,823	5,037	3,081	2,264	388	*49
Non-Hispanic other . . . . .	3,162	1,590	846	696	*31	*–
Hispanic . . . . .	11,052	4,868	3,405	2,485	240	55
Mexican American . . . . .	6,019	2,492	1,878	1,495	134	*21
Parental structure <sup>4</sup>						
Mother and father . . . . .	52,448	31,742	13,681	6,395	566	*53
Mother, no father . . . . .	15,093	6,862	4,582	3,185	385	75
Father, no mother . . . . .	2,097	1,080	641	360	*15	*–
Neither mother nor father . . . . .	2,004	834	566	524	57	*22
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>						
Less than high school diploma . . . . .	9,077	3,446	2,699	2,560	328	*43
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	17,419	8,563	5,416	3,092	320	*28
More than high school . . . . .	42,585	27,470	10,559	4,183	304	*55
Family income <sup>7</sup>						
Less than \$20,000 . . . . .	14,730	6,065	4,315	3,733	541	77
\$20,000 or more . . . . .	53,899	32,968	14,336	6,102	419	*64
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	11,392	5,596	3,382	2,201	185	*25
\$35,000–\$54,999 . . . . .	13,358	7,849	3,764	1,612	117	*16
\$55,000–\$74,999 . . . . .	9,195	6,055	2,410	690	*31	*3
\$75,000 or more . . . . .	12,739	9,248	2,754	690	*37	*10
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>						
Poor . . . . .	10,398	4,405	2,870	2,696	373	*55
Near poor . . . . .	12,760	6,149	3,754	2,541	283	*33
Not poor . . . . .	35,442	23,236	9,103	2,894	169	*30
Health insurance <sup>9</sup>						
Private . . . . .	49,150	30,685	12,905	5,109	404	*32
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	11,737	4,690	3,266	3,205	491	86
Other . . . . .	1,840	1,119	489	211	*21	*1
Uninsured . . . . .	8,747	3,955	2,732	1,915	120	*26
Place of residence						
Large MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	34,073	19,306	9,249	4,926	498	94
Small MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	22,496	13,094	5,874	3,197	287	*33
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	15,141	8,137	4,369	2,359	251	*23
Region						
Northeast . . . . .	13,469	7,362	4,108	1,781	163	*49
Midwest . . . . .	18,549	10,829	4,842	2,573	284	*20
South . . . . .	24,327	13,718	6,503	3,641	400	*59
West . . . . .	15,365	8,628	4,039	2,485	189	*21

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 5. Frequency distributions of respondent-assessed health status, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Respondent-assessed health status <sup>1</sup>				
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Sex and age		Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>				
<b>Male:</b>						
0–4 years . . . . .	10,074	6,025	2,397	1,466	162	*24
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	14,552	7,478	4,118	406	69
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	8,076	4,002	2,265	220	*29
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	6,476	3,476	1,854	186	*40
<b>Female:</b>						
0–4 years . . . . .	9,617	5,706	2,590	1,226	74	*21
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	14,254	7,026	3,671	393	*36
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	8,265	3,587	1,820	172	*22
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	5,989	3,439	1,851	222	*14

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following question in the Family Core section of the survey: "Would you say (subject's name) health in general was excellent, very good, fair, or poor?" See appendix II for more information about the source question.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Hence, row frequencies may not sum to the total number of children in column 1. Additionally, numbers may not add to their respective totals because of rounding.

<sup>3</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>5</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent's age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 6. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of respondent-assessed health status, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Respondent-assessed health status <sup>1</sup>				
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>2</sup>						
Total	100.0 (0.00)	56.5 (0.55)	27.2 (0.48)	14.6 (0.38)	1.4 (0.12)	0.2 (0.04)
Sex						
Male	100.0 (0.00)	56.1 (0.76)	26.9 (0.65)	15.2 (0.50)	1.5 (0.17)	0.3 (0.06)
Female	100.0 (0.00)	57.0 (0.75)	27.5 (0.67)	14.0 (0.54)	1.3 (0.15)	*0.2 (0.05)
Age						
1–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	59.6 (0.97)	25.3 (0.83)	13.7 (0.64)	1.2 (0.20)	*0.2 (0.08)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	55.4 (0.64)	27.9 (0.57)	15.0 (0.45)	1.5 (0.14)	0.2 (0.05)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	57.4 (0.88)	26.7 (0.73)	14.4 (0.62)	1.4 (0.18)	0.2 (0.05)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	52.9 (0.87)	29.4 (0.84)	15.7 (0.63)	1.7 (0.20)	*0.2 (0.08)
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>						
Non-Hispanic white	100.0 (0.00)	62.2 (0.66)	26.1 (0.58)	10.8 (0.45)	0.8 (0.12)	*0.1 (0.04)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0 (0.00)	46.6 (1.35)	28.5 (1.38)	20.9 (1.09)	3.6 (0.49)	*0.5 (0.16)
Non-Hispanic other	100.0 (0.00)	50.3 (2.57)	26.7 (2.29)	22.0 (2.54)	*1.0 (0.41)	*–
Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	44.0 (1.17)	30.8 (1.01)	22.5 (0.83)	2.2 (0.27)	0.5 (0.15)
Mexican American	100.0 (0.00)	41.4 (1.68)	31.2 (1.39)	24.8 (1.20)	2.2 (0.42)	*0.3 (0.18)
Family structure <sup>4</sup>						
Mother and father	100.0 (0.00)	60.5 (0.61)	26.1 (0.55)	12.2 (0.39)	1.1 (0.13)	*0.1 (0.03)
Mother, no father	100.0 (0.00)	45.5 (1.05)	30.4 (1.00)	21.1 (0.87)	2.6 (0.31)	0.5 (0.14)
Father, no mother	100.0 (0.00)	51.5 (2.61)	30.6 (2.44)	17.2 (1.91)	*0.7 (0.36)	*–
Neither mother nor father	100.0 (0.00)	41.6 (2.92)	28.3 (2.91)	26.1 (2.70)	2.9 (0.75)	*1.1 (0.54)
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>						
Less than high school diploma	100.0 (0.00)	38.0 (1.42)	29.7 (1.42)	28.2 (1.28)	3.6 (0.47)	*0.5 (0.18)
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	49.2 (1.08)	31.1 (0.99)	17.8 (0.77)	1.8 (0.28)	*0.2 (0.07)
More than high school	100.0 (0.00)	64.5 (0.65)	24.8 (0.57)	9.8 (0.43)	0.7 (0.11)	*0.1 (0.04)
Family income <sup>7</sup>						
Less than \$20,000	100.0 (0.00)	41.2 (1.21)	29.3 (1.16)	25.3 (1.02)	3.7 (0.38)	0.5 (0.14)
\$20,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	61.2 (0.57)	26.6 (0.52)	11.3 (0.36)	0.8 (0.10)	*0.1 (0.04)
\$20,000–\$34,999	100.0 (0.00)	49.1 (1.24)	29.7 (1.21)	19.3 (0.97)	1.6 (0.30)	*0.2 (0.10)
\$35,000–\$54,999	100.0 (0.00)	58.8 (1.08)	28.2 (1.00)	12.1 (0.75)	0.9 (0.24)	*0.1 (0.08)
\$55,000–\$74,999	100.0 (0.00)	65.9 (1.44)	26.2 (1.33)	7.5 (0.68)	*0.3 (0.12)	*0.0 (0.03)
\$75,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	72.6 (1.12)	21.6 (1.05)	5.4 (0.56)	*0.3 (0.13)	*0.1 (0.08)
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>						
Poor	100.0 (0.00)	42.4 (1.59)	27.6 (1.38)	25.9 (1.28)	3.6 (0.47)	*0.5 (0.17)
Near poor	100.0 (0.00)	48.2 (1.22)	29.4 (1.17)	19.9 (1.02)	2.2 (0.33)	*0.3 (0.09)
Not poor	100.0 (0.00)	65.6 (0.66)	25.7 (0.61)	8.2 (0.36)	0.5 (0.10)	*0.1 (0.04)
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>						
Private	100.0 (0.00)	62.5 (0.59)	26.3 (0.55)	10.4 (0.38)	0.8 (0.10)	*0.1 (0.03)
Medicaid/other public	100.0 (0.00)	40.0 (1.31)	27.8 (1.37)	27.3 (1.19)	4.2 (0.47)	0.7 (0.19)
Other	100.0 (0.00)	60.8 (3.41)	26.5 (2.77)	11.5 (2.32)	*1.2 (0.59)	*0.1 (0.06)
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	45.2 (1.31)	31.2 (1.33)	21.9 (1.17)	1.4 (0.24)	*0.3 (0.14)
Place of residence						
Large MSA <sup>10</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	56.7 (0.80)	27.1 (0.70)	14.5 (0.57)	1.5 (0.17)	0.3 (0.07)
Small MSA <sup>10</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	58.2 (1.04)	26.1 (0.85)	14.2 (0.70)	1.3 (0.18)	*0.1 (0.06)
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	53.8 (1.09)	28.9 (1.16)	15.6 (0.77)	1.7 (0.28)	*0.2 (0.07)
Region						
Northeast	100.0 (0.00)	54.7 (1.28)	30.5 (1.21)	13.2 (0.85)	1.2 (0.20)	*0.4 (0.12)
Midwest	100.0 (0.00)	58.4 (1.04)	26.1 (0.92)	13.9 (0.83)	1.5 (0.27)	*0.1 (0.07)
South	100.0 (0.00)	56.4 (0.98)	26.7 (0.82)	15.0 (0.62)	1.6 (0.20)	*0.2 (0.07)
West	100.0 (0.00)	56.2 (1.22)	26.3 (0.98)	16.2 (0.80)	1.2 (0.22)	*0.1 (0.06)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 6. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of respondent-assessed health status, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Respondent-assessed health status <sup>1</sup>				
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Sex and age		Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>2</sup>				
<b>Male:</b>						
1–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	59.8 (1.28)	23.8 (1.09)	14.6 (0.91)	1.6 (0.34)	*0.2 (0.12)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	54.7 (0.87)	28.1 (0.77)	15.5 (0.57)	1.5 (0.19)	0.3 (0.07)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	55.3 (1.19)	27.4 (1.03)	15.5 (0.79)	1.5 (0.26)	*0.2 (0.07)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	53.8 (1.21)	28.9 (1.18)	15.4 (0.90)	1.5 (0.26)	*0.3 (0.13)
<b>Female:</b>						
1–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	59.3 (1.29)	26.9 (1.23)	12.8 (0.86)	0.8 (0.19)	*0.2 (0.11)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	56.2 (0.92)	27.7 (0.81)	14.5 (0.67)	1.6 (0.20)	*0.1 (0.06)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	59.6 (1.25)	25.9 (1.03)	13.1 (0.87)	1.2 (0.24)	*0.2 (0.07)
12–17 years	100.0(0.00)	52.0 (1.29)	29.9 (1.20)	16.1 (0.96)	1.9 (0.32)	*0.1 (0.09)

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

- Quantity zero.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following question in the Family Core section of the survey: "Would you say {subject's name} health in general was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?" See appendix II for more information about the source question.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100% because of rounding.

<sup>3</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>5</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent's age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I).

The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 7. Frequency distributions of health status compared with a year ago given current health status, for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	Current health status <sup>1</sup>								
	Excellent/very good			Good			Fair/poor		
	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year
	Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>								
Total . . . . .	11,360	44,663	654	2,625	6,956	375	346	646	131
Sex									
Male . . . . .	6,021	22,403	287	1,470	3,683	160	189	355	76
Female . . . . .	5,340	22,260	367	1,156	3,273	215	157	291	*55
Age									
1–4 years . . . . .	3,523	9,719	169	762	1,342	*63	87	120	*11
5–17 years . . . . .	7,837	34,944	485	1,863	5,614	312	259	526	120
5–11 years . . . . .	4,733	18,909	280	1,196	2,771	*118	135	241	*66
12–17 years . . . . .	3,104	16,035	205	668	2,843	194	124	285	53
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>									
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	7,169	31,392	452	1,279	3,306	207	127	208	67
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	1,533	6,067	98	451	1,608	*62	98	277	*41
Non-Hispanic other . . . . .	608	1,611	*37	155	466	*32	*18	*13	*–
Hispanic . . . . .	2,049	5,593	67	740	1,575	*74	103	148	*23
Mexican American . . . . .	1,150	2,910	26	435	945	*48	57	77	*9
Family structure <sup>4</sup>									
Mother and father . . . . .	8,334	33,968	465	1,690	4,142	235	174	349	*51
Mother, no father . . . . .	2,408	8,309	160	720	2,137	140	147	229	69
Father, no mother . . . . .	273	1,352	*20	*73	278	*–	*7	*5	*–
Neither mother nor father . . . . .	336	1,005	*10	*142	382	*–	*17	52	*10
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>									
Less than high school diploma . . . . .	1,522	4,154	*80	665	1,643	*101	104	178	*61
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	2,715	10,417	189	787	2,047	94	131	163	*29
More than high school . . . . .	6,742	28,713	375	1,014	2,794	178	93	226	*30
Family income <sup>7</sup>									
Less than \$20,000 . . . . .	2,462	7,009	179	963	2,450	140	169	323	100
\$20,000 or more . . . . .	8,437	35,894	465	1,512	4,068	212	158	278	*23
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	1,984	6,326	112	565	1,466	*70	72	121	*10
\$35,000–\$54,999 . . . . .	2,239	8,648	99	418	1,019	63	*58	*63	*3
\$55,000–\$74,999 . . . . .	1,544	6,447	70	161	482	*15	*15	*13	*6
\$75,000 or more . . . . .	1,828	9,454	126	154	463	*29	*3	*44	*–
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>									
Poor . . . . .	1,761	4,925	106	753	1,739	*103	115	217	76
Near poor . . . . .	2,239	6,908	121	629	1,680	*74	108	172	*18
Not poor . . . . .	5,638	24,733	320	740	1,911	104	*73	112	*9
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>									
Private . . . . .	7,656	33,409	418	1,184	3,602	133	117	253	50
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	1,916	5,095	96	894	1,894	138	170	292	*67
Other . . . . .	342	1,135	*14	*52	136	*19	*5	*17	*–
Uninsured . . . . .	1,408	4,883	127	479	1,303	*85	54	78	*13
Place of residence									
Large MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	5,498	21,027	342	1,145	3,380	177	161	353	49
Small MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	3,446	14,259	228	769	2,141	102	113	141	*44
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	2,416	9,377	84	711	1,435	96	*73	151	*37
Region									
Northeast . . . . .	1,842	8,952	118	427	1,223	*64	*56	114	*24
Midwest . . . . .	2,716	11,728	203	624	1,696	*86	*55	206	*28
South . . . . .	4,003	15,029	206	893	2,438	140	149	228	*58
West . . . . .	2,799	8,954	127	681	1,598	*85	86	98	*21

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 7. Frequency distributions of health status compared with a year ago given current health status, for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	Current health status <sup>1</sup>									
	Excellent/very good			Good			Fair/poor			
	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	
Sex and age		Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>								
Male:										
1–4 years . . . . .	1,852	4,783	80	480	673	*41	*56	*81	*7	
5–17 years . . . . .	4,169	17,620	208	989	3,010	119	133	273	69	
5–11 years . . . . .	2,467	9,497	110	649	1,564	*52	*81	130	37	
12–17 years . . . . .	1,701	8,123	97	340	1,446	*67	*51	143	*32	
Female:										
1–4 years . . . . .	1,671	4,936	89	282	669	*22	*31	*39	*4	
5–17 years . . . . .	3,668	17,324	278	874	2,604	193	126	253	*51	
5–11 years . . . . .	2,266	9,412	170	547	1,207	*66	*54	111	*29	
12–17 years . . . . .	1,402	7,912	108	327	1,397	*127	*72	142	*22	

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: “Would you say {subject’s name} health in general was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?” and “Compared with 12 months ago, would you say {child’s name}’s health is better, worse, or about the same?” See appendix II for more information about the source question.<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable(s) of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions.<sup>3</sup>“Non-Hispanic other” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”<sup>5</sup>Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent’s age.<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.<sup>7</sup>“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.<sup>10</sup>“MSA” is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSAs” consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 8. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of health status compared with a year ago given current health status, for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	Current health status <sup>1</sup>								
	Excellent/very good			Good			Fair/poor		
	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year
	Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>2</sup>								
Total . . . . .	20.0 (0.49)	78.8 (0.51)	1.2 (0.11)	26.4 (1.17)	69.9 (1.26)	3.8 (0.59)	30.8 (3.28)	57.5 (3.54)	11.6 (2.30)
Sex									
Male . . . . .	21.0 (0.70)	78.0 (0.71)	1.0 (0.15)	27.7 (1.65)	69.3 (1.74)	3.0 (0.62)	30.5 (4.49)	57.3 (4.75)	12.2 (2.58)
Female . . . . .	19.1 (0.62)	79.6 (0.67)	1.3 (0.19)	24.9 (1.63)	70.5 (1.84)	4.6 (1.09)	31.2 (4.87)	57.9 (5.71)	*10.9 (3.89)
Age									
1–4 years . . . . .	26.3 (0.99)	72.5 (1.01)	1.3 (0.23)	35.2 (2.90)	61.9 (2.93)	*2.9 (0.99)	40.1 (8.32)	54.9 (8.53)	*5.0 (3.36)
5–17 years . . . . .	18.1 (0.54)	80.8 (0.55)	1.1 (0.13)	23.9 (1.24)	72.1 (1.36)	4.0 (0.71)	28.6 (3.60)	58.2 (4.03)	13.2 (2.66)
5–11 years . . . . .	19.8 (0.74)	79.0 (0.74)	1.2 (0.20)	29.3 (1.95)	67.8 (2.01)	*2.9 (0.87)	30.5 (5.60)	54.5 (5.97)	15.0 (4.38)
12–17 years . . . . .	16.0 (0.69)	82.9 (0.73)	1.1 (0.18)	18.0 (1.68)	76.7 (1.92)	5.2 (1.17)	26.8 (4.95)	61.7 (5.80)	11.6 (3.12)
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>									
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	18.4 (0.61)	80.5 (0.63)	1.2 (0.14)	26.7 (1.73)	69.0 (1.82)	4.3 (0.82)	31.6 (6.45)	51.8 (6.90)	16.6 (4.51)
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	19.9 (1.36)	78.8 (1.41)	1.3 (0.30)	21.3 (2.96)	75.8 (2.96)	*2.9 (0.98)	23.5 (5.26)	66.7 (5.59)	*9.8 (4.05)
Non-Hispanic other . . . . .	27.0 (2.69)	71.4 (2.77)	*1.6 (0.74)	23.7 (5.47)	71.4 (6.07)	*4.8 (3.92)	*59.1 (20.28)	*40.9 (20.28)	0.0 (0.00)
Hispanic . . . . .	26.6 (1.13)	72.5 (1.13)	0.9 (0.19)	31.0 (2.25)	65.9 (2.46)	*3.1 (1.14)	37.6 (5.33)	53.9 (6.37)	*8.5 (3.62)
Mexican American . . . . .	28.1 (1.57)	71.2 (1.55)	0.6 (0.19)	30.4 (2.79)	66.2 (3.00)	*3.4 (1.81)	39.9 (8.10)	53.9 (9.08)	*6.2 (3.99)
Family structure <sup>4</sup>									
Mother and father . . . . .	19.5 (0.55)	79.4 (0.56)	1.1 (0.13)	27.9 (1.54)	68.3 (1.64)	3.9 (0.79)	30.3 (4.88)	60.8 (5.26)	*8.9 (2.79)
Mother, no father . . . . .	22.1 (1.12)	76.4 (1.12)	1.5 (0.28)	24.0 (1.78)	71.3 (1.96)	4.7 (1.13)	33.0 (5.48)	51.5 (5.76)	15.5 (4.46)
Father, no mother . . . . .	16.6 (2.53)	82.2 (2.59)	*1.2 (0.57)	20.8 (6.11)	79.2 (6.11)	*–	*56.5 (30.12)	*43.5 (30.12)	*–
Neither mother nor father . . . . .	24.9 (3.16)	74.4 (3.18)	*0.7 (0.45)	27.0 (6.69)	73.0 (6.69)	*–	*21.8 (9.33)	65.3 (10.79)	*12.9 (7.02)
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>									
Less than high school diploma . . . . .	26.4 (1.50)	72.2 (1.50)	*1.4 (0.42)	27.6 (2.25)	68.2 (2.62)	*4.2 (1.60)	30.3 (5.77)	51.9 (6.25)	*17.8 (5.89)
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	20.4 (1.00)	78.2 (1.01)	1.4 (0.28)	26.9 (2.15)	69.9 (2.21)	3.2 (0.87)	40.6 (7.34)	50.4 (7.55)	*9.1 (3.52)
More than high school . . . . .	18.8 (0.59)	80.1 (0.61)	1.0 (0.14)	25.4 (1.83)	70.1 (1.93)	4.5 (0.89)	26.5 (5.98)	64.9 (6.54)	*8.6 (3.11)
Family income <sup>7</sup>									
Less than \$20,000 . . . . .	25.5 (1.30)	72.6 (1.32)	1.9 (0.38)	27.1 (2.32)	69.0 (2.44)	3.9 (1.09)	28.6 (4.47)	54.5 (4.68)	16.9 (3.83)
\$20,000 or more . . . . .	18.8 (0.51)	80.1 (0.53)	1.0 (0.12)	26.1 (1.43)	70.2 (1.54)	3.7 (0.73)	34.3 (5.46)	60.5 (5.77)	*5.1 (2.06)
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	23.6 (1.26)	75.1 (1.29)	1.3 (0.30)	26.9 (2.45)	69.8 (2.59)	*3.3 (1.16)	35.5 (7.30)	59.7 (7.61)	*4.8 (2.90)
\$35,000–\$54,999 . . . . .	20.4 (0.98)	78.7 (1.00)	0.9 (0.22)	27.9 (3.09)	68.0 (3.11)	4.2 (1.09)	46.4 (13.22)	50.8 (13.19)	*2.8 (2.82)
\$55,000–\$74,999 . . . . .	19.2 (1.21)	80.0 (1.23)	0.9 (0.26)	24.5 (4.42)	73.2 (4.32)	*2.3 (1.69)	*42.8 (16.92)	*39.7 (17.33)	*17.5 (11.84)
\$75,000 or more . . . . .	16.0 (0.91)	82.9 (0.93)	1.1 (0.29)	23.8 (4.36)	71.7 (4.49)	*4.5 (2.41)	*7.0 (7.07)	93.0 (7.07)	0.0 (0.00)
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>									
Poor . . . . .	25.9 (1.75)	72.5 (1.76)	1.6 (0.46)	29.0 (2.85)	67.0 (3.02)	*4.0 (1.36)	28.2 (5.47)	53.2 (5.54)	18.6 (4.88)
Near poor . . . . .	24.2 (1.22)	74.5 (1.25)	1.3 (0.29)	26.4 (2.37)	70.5 (2.45)	*3.1 (1.05)	36.3 (6.26)	57.7 (6.59)	*6.1 (2.77)
Not poor . . . . .	18.4 (0.60)	80.6 (0.61)	1.0 (0.15)	26.9 (2.05)	69.4 (2.08)	3.8 (0.89)	37.4 (9.42)	57.8 (9.84)	*4.8 (3.02)
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>									
Private . . . . .	18.5 (0.53)	80.5 (0.55)	1.0 (0.12)	24.1 (1.54)	73.2 (1.63)	2.7 (0.57)	27.8 (5.83)	60.2 (6.34)	12.0 (3.24)
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	27.0 (1.50)	71.7 (1.54)	1.3 (0.31)	30.6 (2.52)	64.7 (2.64)	4.7 (1.30)	32.2 (5.03)	55.2 (5.04)	*12.6 (3.91)
Other . . . . .	22.9 (2.91)	76.1 (2.92)	*1.0 (0.48)	*25.0 (8.57)	65.7 (9.60)	*9.2 (5.94)	*22.1 (17.13)	77.9 (17.13)	*–
Uninsured . . . . .	21.9 (1.38)	76.1 (1.43)	2.0 (0.53)	25.7 (2.61)	69.8 (2.92)	*4.6 (1.76)	37.2 (8.09)	53.6 (8.23)	*9.3 (4.76)
Place of residence									
Large MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	20.5 (0.72)	78.3 (0.73)	1.3 (0.17)	24.4 (1.59)	71.9 (1.76)	3.8 (0.97)	28.5 (4.23)	62.8 (4.62)	8.7 (2.09)
Small MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	19.2 (0.87)	79.5 (0.93)	1.3 (0.21)	25.5 (2.35)	71.1 (2.46)	3.4 (0.77)	37.8 (6.88)	47.3 (7.15)	*14.8 (4.94)
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	20.3 (1.16)	78.9 (1.16)	0.7 (0.19)	31.7 (2.47)	64.0 (2.58)	4.3 (1.21)	27.8 (7.27)	57.9 (7.24)	*14.3 (6.46)
Region									
Northeast . . . . .	16.9 (1.00)	82.0 (1.03)	1.1 (0.22)	24.9 (2.85)	71.4 (3.07)	*3.7 (1.15)	28.9 (8.65)	58.8 (9.33)	*12.3 (4.74)
Midwest . . . . .	18.5 (0.96)	80.1 (1.05)	1.4 (0.27)	25.9 (2.78)	70.5 (3.01)	*3.6 (1.34)	*18.9 (7.12)	71.5 (7.64)	*9.6 (4.03)
South . . . . .	20.8 (0.89)	78.1 (0.91)	1.1 (0.19)	25.7 (1.82)	70.2 (1.91)	4.0 (1.00)	34.3 (5.30)	52.3 (5.40)	*13.4 (4.54)
West . . . . .	23.6 (1.11)	75.4 (1.11)	1.1 (0.22)	28.8 (2.24)	67.6 (2.43)	*3.6 (1.17)	42.1 (5.95)	47.8 (6.54)	*10.1 (3.37)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 8. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of health status compared with a year ago given current health status, for children 1–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	Current health status <sup>1</sup>									
	Excellent/very good			Good			Fair/poor			
	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	Better than last year	About the same as last year	Worse than last year	
Sex and age		Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>2</sup>								
Male:										
1–4 years	27.6 (1.51)	71.2 (1.52)	1.2 (0.31)	40.2 (4.00)	56.4 (4.02)	*3.4 (1.51)	39.1 (10.76)	56.4 (11.04)	*4.5 (4.45)	
5–17 years	19.0 (0.77)	80.1 (0.78)	0.9 (0.17)	24.0 (1.73)	73.1 (1.80)	2.9 (0.67)	27.9 (5.08)	57.5 (5.52)	14.5 (3.09)	
5–11 years	20.4 (1.08)	78.7 (1.11)	0.9 (0.23)	28.7 (2.49)	69.1 (2.51)	*2.3 (0.78)	32.7 (7.99)	52.3 (7.95)	15.0 (4.26)	
12–17 years	17.1 (0.96)	81.9 (0.99)	1.0 (0.24)	18.4 (2.33)	78.0 (2.47)	*3.6 (1.12)	22.7 (5.91)	63.3 (7.38)	*14.0 (4.48)	
Female:										
1–4 years	25.0 (1.38)	73.7 (1.42)	1.3 (0.35)	28.9 (3.77)	68.8 (3.83)	*2.3 (1.21)	*42.1 (12.86)	52.1 (13.10)	*5.8 (4.78)	
5–17 years	17.2 (0.70)	81.4 (0.75)	1.3 (0.22)	23.8 (1.82)	70.9 (2.12)	5.3 (1.34)	29.3 (5.42)	58.9 (6.24)	*11.8 (4.41)	
5–11 years	19.1 (0.97)	79.4 (1.01)	1.4 (0.33)	30.0 (3.03)	66.3 (3.26)	*3.6 (1.69)	27.7 (7.57)	57.3 (9.18)	*14.9 (8.35)	
12–17 years	14.9 (1.02)	84.0 (1.09)	1.1 (0.28)	17.7 (2.27)	75.5 (2.81)	6.9 (2.06)	30.6 (7.70)	60.1 (8.50)	*9.2 (3.90)	

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: “Would you say (subject’s name) health in general was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?” and “Compared with 12 months ago, would you say (child’s name)’s health is better, worse, or about the same?” See appendix II for more information about the source question.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable(s) of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. This table consists of conditional percents: the total number of children in excellent or very good health (shown in table 7) serves as the denominator for the percents in columns 1–3 above. Likewise, the number of children in good health is the denominator for the percents in columns 4–6, while the total number of children in fair or poor health is the denominator for the percents in columns 7–9.

<sup>3</sup>“Non-Hispanic other” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

<sup>5</sup>Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent’s age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>“MSA” is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 9. Frequency distributions of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months, for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 5–17 years	Number of school days missed in past 12 months <sup>1</sup>					Did not go to school
		None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–10 days	11 or more days	
		Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>					
Total . . . . .	52,018	13,161	13,869	14,224	5,960	3,015	703
Sex							
Male . . . . .	26,638	7,132	6,974	7,244	2,864	1,431	418
Female . . . . .	25,380	6,029	6,896	6,980	3,096	1,583	284
Age							
5–17 years . . . . .	52,018	13,161	13,869	14,224	5,960	3,015	703
5–11 years . . . . .	28,463	7,126	8,014	8,060	2,894	1,348	559
12–17 years . . . . .	23,555	6,034	5,855	6,164	3,066	1,666	143
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>							
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	34,324	7,190	9,737	9,994	4,240	1,986	549
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	7,970	2,684	1,873	1,812	778	514	64
Non-Hispanic other . . . . .	2,225	831	598	475	171	72	*19
Hispanic . . . . .	7,499	2,455	1,662	1,944	771	443	70
Mexican American . . . . .	4,086	1,366	940	1,031	430	213	*44
Family structure <sup>4</sup>							
Mother and father . . . . .	37,635	9,093	10,867	10,638	4,093	1,766	486
Mother, no father . . . . .	11,120	2,998	2,316	2,897	1,455	1,005	169
Father, no mother . . . . .	1,689	496	377	354	238	156	*10
Neither mother nor father . . . . .	1,533	563	304	327	170	*82	*38
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>							
Less than high school diploma . . . . .	6,479	2,063	1,167	1,571	794	575	101
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	12,947	3,119	3,271	3,627	1,578	860	189
More than high school . . . . .	30,614	7,270	9,082	8,673	3,410	1,492	370
Family income <sup>7</sup>							
Less than \$20,000 . . . . .	9,982	2,878	1,881	2,438	1,348	976	219
\$20,000 or more . . . . .	39,737	9,521	11,463	11,391	4,486	1,975	476
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	8,065	2,088	1,851	2,326	955	635	132
\$35,000–\$54,999 . . . . .	9,724	2,287	2,859	2,712	1,108	538	162
\$55,000–\$74,999 . . . . .	6,998	1,630	2,096	2,132	775	259	*60
\$75,000 or more . . . . .	9,501	1,912	3,225	2,833	1,100	342	*57
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>							
Poor . . . . .	7,069	2,071	1,341	1,747	942	741	103
Near poor . . . . .	9,054	2,332	2,193	2,416	1,150	699	178
Not poor . . . . .	26,224	5,722	8,074	7,874	2,985	1,142	285
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>							
Private . . . . .	36,587	8,587	10,767	10,320	4,098	1,727	446
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	7,266	2,154	1,227	1,708	983	886	*100
Other . . . . .	1,383	439	355	326	165	*67	*27
Uninsured . . . . .	6,625	1,933	1,490	1,847	693	335	129
Place of residence							
Large MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	24,660	6,616	6,572	6,626	2,671	1,350	206
Small MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	16,176	3,863	4,369	4,408	2,011	959	282
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	11,181	2,681	2,928	3,191	1,278	706	215
Region							
Northeast . . . . .	9,811	2,416	2,521	2,702	1,162	530	123
Midwest . . . . .	13,304	3,018	3,888	3,604	1,480	879	147
South . . . . .	17,770	4,983	4,376	4,830	2,024	980	288
West . . . . .	11,133	2,744	3,084	3,087	1,295	626	145

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 9. Frequency distributions of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months, for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 5–17 years	Number of school days missed in past 12 months <sup>1</sup>					Did not go to school
		None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–10 days	11 or more days	
Current health status		Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>					
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	51,099	13,031	13,823	14,015	5,782	2,745	664
Fair/poor . . . . .	904	129	*46	206	178	264	*39
Sex and age							
Male:							
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	7,132	6,974	7,244	2,864	1,431	418
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	3,679	4,059	4,139	1,454	701	313
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	3,453	2,915	3,105	1,409	731	106
Female:							
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	6,029	6,896	6,980	3,096	1,583	284
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	3,447	3,955	3,921	1,440	648	247
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	2,582	2,941	3,059	1,657	936	*38

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: “During the past 12 months, that is since (12-month ref. date), about how many days did {child’s name} miss school because of illness or injury?” See appendix II for more detailed definition of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions. They are, however, included in the “All children 5–17 years” column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

<sup>3</sup>“Non-Hispanic other” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

<sup>5</sup>Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent’s age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>“MSA” is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 10. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months, for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 5–17 years	Number of school days missed in past 12 months <sup>1</sup>					Did not go to school
		None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–10 days	11 or more days	
		Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>2</sup>					
Total . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	25.8 (0.55)	27.2 (0.57)	27.9 (0.55)	11.7 (0.40)	5.9 (0.27)	1.4 (0.14)
Sex							
Male . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	27.4 (0.76)	26.8 (0.78)	27.8 (0.78)	11.0 (0.54)	5.5 (0.38)	1.6 (0.21)
Female . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	24.2 (0.77)	27.7 (0.76)	28.1 (0.82)	12.5 (0.61)	6.4 (0.43)	1.1 (0.19)
Age							
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	25.8 (0.55)	27.2 (0.57)	27.9 (0.55)	11.7 (0.40)	5.9 (0.27)	1.4 (0.14)
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	25.4 (0.74)	28.6 (0.82)	28.8 (0.82)	10.3 (0.52)	4.8 (0.33)	2.0 (0.24)
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	26.3 (0.74)	25.5 (0.78)	26.9 (0.79)	13.4 (0.63)	7.3 (0.45)	0.6 (0.13)
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>							
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	21.3 (0.67)	28.9 (0.76)	29.7 (0.71)	12.6 (0.54)	5.9 (0.34)	1.6 (0.20)
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	34.7 (1.48)	24.2 (1.35)	23.4 (1.43)	10.1 (0.88)	6.7 (0.86)	0.8 (0.23)
Non-Hispanic other . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	38.4 (3.17)	27.6 (2.95)	21.9 (2.74)	7.9 (1.61)	3.3 (1.00)	*0.9 (0.54)
Hispanic . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	33.4 (1.23)	22.6 (1.06)	26.5 (1.11)	10.5 (0.77)	6.0 (0.58)	1.0 (0.24)
Mexican American . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	33.9 (1.51)	23.4 (1.32)	25.6 (1.48)	10.7 (1.01)	5.3 (0.70)	*1.1 (0.39)
Family structure <sup>4</sup>							
Mother and father . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	24.6 (0.64)	29.4 (0.68)	28.8 (0.66)	11.1 (0.45)	4.8 (0.30)	1.3 (0.16)
Mother, no father . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	27.7 (1.18)	21.4 (0.95)	26.7 (1.21)	13.4 (0.87)	9.3 (0.70)	1.6 (0.34)
Father, no mother . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	30.4 (2.96)	23.1 (2.71)	21.7 (2.55)	14.6 (2.02)	9.6 (1.77)	*0.6 (0.40)
Neither mother nor father . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	37.9 (3.12)	20.5 (3.03)	22.1 (2.66)	11.5 (2.20)	*5.5 (1.91)	*2.5 (0.82)
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>							
Less than high school diploma . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	32.9 (1.52)	18.6 (1.35)	25.1 (1.51)	12.7 (1.12)	9.2 (1.03)	1.6 (0.45)
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	24.7 (1.03)	25.9 (1.04)	28.7 (1.20)	12.5 (0.83)	6.8 (0.63)	1.5 (0.30)
More than high school . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	24.0 (0.73)	30.0 (0.76)	28.6 (0.74)	11.3 (0.51)	4.9 (0.32)	1.2 (0.17)
Family income <sup>7</sup>							
Less than \$20,000 . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	29.5 (1.28)	19.3 (1.13)	25.0 (1.21)	13.8 (0.97)	10.0 (0.86)	2.3 (0.47)
\$20,000 or more . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	24.2 (0.60)	29.2 (0.66)	29.0 (0.63)	11.4 (0.44)	5.0 (0.28)	1.2 (0.14)
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	26.1 (1.32)	23.2 (1.29)	29.1 (1.51)	12.0 (0.93)	7.9 (0.80)	1.7 (0.39)
\$35,000–\$54,999 . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	23.7 (1.24)	29.6 (1.31)	28.1 (1.28)	11.5 (0.86)	5.6 (0.64)	1.7 (0.36)
\$55,000–\$74,999 . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	23.4 (1.45)	30.2 (1.49)	30.7 (1.67)	11.1 (1.14)	3.7 (0.63)	*0.9 (0.31)
\$75,000 or more . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	20.2 (1.13)	34.1 (1.35)	29.9 (1.19)	11.6 (0.91)	3.6 (0.53)	*0.6 (0.22)
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>							
Poor . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	29.8 (1.54)	19.3 (1.46)	25.2 (1.51)	13.6 (1.15)	10.7 (1.02)	1.5 (0.43)
Near poor . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	26.0 (1.31)	24.5 (1.31)	26.9 (1.34)	12.8 (0.96)	7.8 (0.74)	2.0 (0.40)
Not poor . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	21.9 (0.74)	31.0 (0.78)	30.2 (0.77)	11.4 (0.55)	4.4 (0.33)	1.1 (0.18)
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>							
Private . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	23.9 (0.64)	30.0 (0.70)	28.7 (0.67)	11.4 (0.47)	4.8 (0.29)	1.2 (0.15)
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	30.5 (1.54)	17.4 (1.27)	24.2 (1.57)	13.9 (1.14)	12.6 (1.08)	*1.4 (0.44)
Other . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	31.8 (3.80)	25.8 (3.44)	23.7 (3.15)	11.9 (2.34)	*4.8 (1.55)	*2.0 (0.89)
Uninsured . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	30.1 (1.56)	23.2 (1.43)	28.7 (1.56)	10.8 (1.01)	5.2 (0.75)	2.0 (0.47)
Place of residence							
Large MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	27.5 (0.79)	27.3 (0.82)	27.6 (0.71)	11.1 (0.57)	5.6 (0.37)	0.9 (0.15)
Small MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	24.3 (0.93)	27.5 (0.99)	27.7 (1.10)	12.7 (0.69)	6.0 (0.50)	1.8 (0.30)
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	24.4 (1.28)	26.6 (1.35)	29.0 (1.26)	11.6 (0.85)	6.4 (0.55)	2.0 (0.37)
Region							
Northeast . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	25.6 (1.23)	26.7 (1.06)	28.6 (1.17)	12.3 (0.94)	5.6 (0.53)	1.3 (0.31)
Midwest . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	23.2 (0.99)	29.9 (1.35)	27.7 (1.17)	11.4 (0.82)	6.8 (0.54)	1.1 (0.27)
South . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	28.5 (1.01)	25.0 (0.97)	27.6 (1.02)	11.6 (0.65)	5.6 (0.50)	1.6 (0.28)
West . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	25.0 (1.17)	28.1 (1.15)	28.1 (1.06)	11.8 (0.85)	5.7 (0.53)	1.3 (0.25)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 10. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of number of school days missed because of illness or injury in the past 12 months, for children 5–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 5–17 years	Number of school days missed in past 12 months <sup>1</sup>					Did not go to school
		None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–10 days	11 or more days	
Current health status		Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>2</sup>					
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	26.0 (0.56)	27.6 (0.58)	28.0 (0.56)	11.5 (0.40)	5.5 (0.26)	1.3 (0.14)
Fair/poor . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	15.0 (2.98)	*5.4 (1.65)	23.9 (4.00)	20.7 (3.46)	30.6 (4.01)	*4.5 (1.69)
Sex and age							
Male:							
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	27.4 (0.76)	26.8 (0.78)	27.8 (0.78)	11.0 (0.54)	5.5 (0.38)	1.6 (0.21)
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	25.6 (1.10)	28.3 (1.13)	28.9 (1.13)	10.1 (0.72)	4.9 (0.51)	2.2 (0.34)
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	29.5 (1.11)	24.9 (1.05)	26.5 (1.09)	12.0 (0.85)	6.2 (0.57)	0.9 (0.22)
Female:							
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	24.2 (0.77)	27.7 (0.76)	28.1 (0.82)	12.5 (0.61)	6.4 (0.43)	1.1 (0.19)
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	25.2 (1.07)	29.0 (1.09)	28.7 (1.12)	10.5 (0.79)	4.7 (0.47)	1.8 (0.32)
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	23.0 (1.01)	26.2 (1.12)	27.3 (1.20)	14.8 (0.91)	8.3 (0.69)	*0.3 (0.14)

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following question: "During the past 12 months, that is since {12-month ref. date}, about how many days did (child's name) miss school because of illness or injury?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100% because of rounding.

<sup>3</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>5</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent's age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 11. Frequency distributions of having a usual place of health care for children 17 years of age and under, and frequency distributions of usual place of health care for children 17 years of age and under with a usual place of care, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Has no usual place of health care	Has usual place of health care	Usual place of care <sup>1</sup>				
				Clinic	Doctor's office	Emergency room	Hospital outpatient	Some other place
Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>								
Total	71,710	4,210	67,379	13,154	52,431	443	1,029	284
Sex								
Male	36,712	2,063	34,594	6,846	26,778	250	560	143
Female	34,998	2,147	32,785	6,308	25,653	193	470	142
Age								
0–4 years	19,692	654	19,023	4,025	14,546	134	289	*28
5–17 years	52,018	3,556	48,356	9,129	37,885	309	741	257
5–11 years	28,463	1,596	26,825	5,089	21,114	135	366	107
12–17 years	23,555	1,960	21,531	4,040	16,770	174	375	150
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>								
Non-Hispanic white	46,672	1,683	44,926	6,904	37,251	188	392	185
Non-Hispanic black	10,823	858	9,935	2,828	6,492	146	407	*43
Non-Hispanic other	3,162	273	2,878	687	2,132	*21	*26	*13
Hispanic	11,052	1,396	9,640	2,734	6,557	89	204	*44
Mexican American	6,019	935	5,070	1,608	3,270	*45	119	*28
Family structure <sup>4</sup>								
Mother and father	52,448	2,646	49,720	8,491	40,249	162	598	209
Mother, no father	15,093	1,047	14,012	3,673	9,719	221	316	*61
Father, no mother	2,097	219	1,873	458	1,326	*21	*59	*8
Neither mother nor father	2,004	287	1,716	507	1,107	*38	*54	*7
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>								
Less than high school diploma	9,077	1,336	7,716	3,056	4,248	123	232	*35
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup>	17,419	1,108	16,283	3,436	12,319	140	333	*55
More than high school	42,585	1,428	41,108	6,050	34,327	138	399	188
Family income <sup>7</sup>								
Less than \$20,000	14,730	1,412	13,295	4,579	8,042	220	393	*51
\$20,000 or more	53,899	2,499	51,333	8,033	42,275	207	589	226
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,392	1,024	10,359	2,493	7,463	122	215	*65
\$35,000–\$54,999	13,358	658	12,691	2,215	10,169	*47	170	90
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,195	248	8,944	1,355	7,470	*23	*71	*25
\$75,000 or more	12,739	231	12,489	1,181	11,228	*–	*57	*22
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>								
Poor	10,398	1,048	9,340	3,476	5,378	156	295	*35
Near poor	12,760	1,126	11,617	2,914	8,218	164	259	*63
Not poor	35,442	1,124	34,290	4,653	29,148	71	267	150
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>								
Private	49,150	1,343	47,736	6,203	41,012	83	286	145
Medicaid/other public	11,737	552	11,163	3,938	6,760	124	296	*27
Other	1,840	72	1,768	764	702	*11	230	*59
Uninsured	8,747	2,216	6,509	2,226	3,780	225	216	*54
Place of residence								
Large MSA <sup>10</sup>	34,073	2,110	31,882	5,383	25,576	202	603	88
Small MSA <sup>10</sup>	22,496	1,358	21,099	4,054	16,428	148	339	129
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup>	15,141	741	14,398	3,717	10,427	94	*87	*68
Region								
Northeast	13,469	298	13,148	1,651	11,173	52	201	*43
Midwest	18,549	642	17,879	4,693	12,763	*62	277	84
South	24,327	1,851	22,443	3,946	17,742	263	386	102
West	15,365	1,419	13,909	2,865	10,752	*67	165	*55

See footnotes at end of table.



**Table 11. Frequency distributions of having a usual place of health care for children 17 years of age and under, and frequency distributions of usual place of health care for children 17 years of age and under with a usual place of care, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Has no usual place of health care	Has usual place of health care	Usual place of care <sup>1</sup>				
				Clinic	Doctor's office	Emergency room	Hospital outpatient	Some other place
				Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>				
Current health status								
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	70,510	4,127	66,262	12,844	51,698	417	982	284
Fair/poor . . . . .	1,185	78	1,107	307	727	*26	*48	*–
Sex and age								
Male:								
0–4 years . . . . .	10,074	336	9,732	2,176	7,332	87	120	*17
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	1,727	24,862	4,670	19,446	163	440	126
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	731	13,835	2,597	10,853	101	219	*54
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	996	11,027	2,073	8,593	62	221	*72
Female:								
0–4 years . . . . .	9,617	318	9,291	1,849	7,214	*47	169	*11
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	1,829	23,494	4,459	18,439	146	301	131
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	865	12,990	2,492	10,261	*34	147	*53
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	964	10,504	1,967	8,178	112	154	*78

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: "Is there a place that {child's name} USUALLY goes when {he/she} is sick or you need advice about {his/her} health?" and "What kind of place is it — a clinic or health center, doctor's office or HMO, hospital emergency room, hospital outpatient department or some other place?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown among the frequencies. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

<sup>3</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>5</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of the parent's age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 12. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of having a usual place of health care for children 17 years of age and under, and percent distributions (with standard errors) of usual place of health care, for children 17 years of age and under with a usual place of care, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Has no usual place of health care	Has usual place of health care	All children 0–17 years with a usual place of health care	Usual place of care <sup>1</sup>					
					Clinic	Doctor's office	Emergency room	Hospital outpatient	Some other place	
Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>2</sup>										
Total	100.0 (0.00)	5.9 (0.25)	94.1 (0.25)	100.0 (0.00)	19.5 (0.63)	77.9 (0.65)	0.7 (0.08)	1.5 (0.16)	0.4 (0.06)	
Sex										
Male	100.0 (0.00)	5.6 (0.31)	94.4 (0.31)	100.0 (0.00)	19.8 (0.76)	77.4 (0.80)	0.7 (0.12)	1.6 (0.21)	0.4 (0.08)	
Female	100.0 (0.00)	6.1 (0.34)	93.9 (0.34)	100.0 (0.00)	19.3 (0.78)	78.3 (0.81)	0.6 (0.10)	1.4 (0.20)	0.4 (0.10)	
Age										
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	3.3 (0.30)	96.7 (0.30)	100.0 (0.00)	21.2 (0.95)	76.5 (1.00)	0.7 (0.16)	1.5 (0.28)	*0.1 (0.05)	
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	6.9 (0.33)	93.1 (0.33)	100.0 (0.00)	18.9 (0.71)	78.4 (0.73)	0.6 (0.09)	1.5 (0.18)	0.5 (0.09)	
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	5.6 (0.40)	94.4 (0.40)	100.0 (0.00)	19.0 (0.91)	78.8 (0.94)	0.5 (0.10)	1.4 (0.22)	0.4 (0.10)	
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	8.3 (0.48)	91.7 (0.48)	100.0 (0.00)	18.8 (0.85)	78.0 (0.87)	0.8 (0.17)	1.7 (0.27)	0.7 (0.16)	
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>										
Non-Hispanic white	100.0 (0.00)	3.6 (0.25)	96.4 (0.25)	100.0 (0.00)	15.4 (0.74)	82.9 (0.75)	0.4 (0.08)	0.9 (0.13)	0.4 (0.08)	
Non-Hispanic black	100.0 (0.00)	8.0 (0.70)	92.0 (0.70)	100.0 (0.00)	28.5 (1.64)	65.5 (1.74)	1.5 (0.32)	4.1 (0.74)	*0.4 (0.18)	
Non-Hispanic other	100.0 (0.00)	8.7 (1.39)	91.3 (1.39)	100.0 (0.00)	23.9 (3.35)	74.1 (3.26)	*0.7 (0.33)	*0.9 (0.38)	*0.4 (0.35)	
Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	12.6 (0.68)	87.4 (0.68)	100.0 (0.00)	28.4 (1.20)	68.1 (1.29)	0.9 (0.21)	2.1 (0.34)	*0.5 (0.15)	
Mexican American	100.0 (0.00)	15.6 (1.05)	84.4 (1.05)	100.0 (0.00)	31.7 (1.66)	64.5 (1.86)	*0.9 (0.31)	2.4 (0.52)	*0.5 (0.21)	
Family structure <sup>4</sup>										
Mother and father	100.0 (0.00)	5.1 (0.27)	94.9 (0.27)	100.0 (0.00)	17.1 (0.67)	81.0 (0.70)	0.3 (0.07)	1.2 (0.15)	0.4 (0.08)	
Mother, no father	100.0 (0.00)	7.0 (0.55)	93.0 (0.55)	100.0 (0.00)	26.3 (1.27)	69.5 (1.29)	1.6 (0.29)	2.3 (0.43)	*0.4 (0.14)	
Father, no mother	100.0 (0.00)	10.5 (1.68)	89.5 (1.68)	100.0 (0.00)	24.4 (2.53)	70.8 (2.63)	*1.1 (0.54)	*3.2 (0.96)	*0.4 (0.32)	
Neither mother nor father	100.0 (0.00)	14.3 (2.02)	85.7 (2.02)	100.0 (0.00)	29.6 (3.36)	64.7 (3.69)	*2.2 (0.83)	*3.1 (1.54)	*0.4 (0.27)	
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>										
Less than high school diploma	100.0 (0.00)	14.8 (0.96)	85.2 (0.96)	100.0 (0.00)	39.7 (1.61)	55.2 (1.70)	1.6 (0.36)	3.0 (0.57)	*0.5 (0.18)	
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	6.4 (0.54)	93.6 (0.54)	100.0 (0.00)	21.1 (1.10)	75.7 (1.12)	0.9 (0.18)	2.0 (0.36)	*0.3 (0.12)	
More than high school	100.0 (0.00)	3.4 (0.23)	96.6 (0.23)	100.0 (0.00)	14.7 (0.73)	83.5 (0.75)	0.3 (0.07)	1.0 (0.14)	0.5 (0.09)	
Family income <sup>7</sup>										
Less than \$20,000	100.0 (0.00)	9.6 (0.61)	90.4 (0.61)	100.0 (0.00)	34.5 (1.41)	60.5 (1.45)	1.7 (0.31)	3.0 (0.49)	*0.4 (0.13)	
\$20,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	4.6 (0.24)	95.4 (0.24)	100.0 (0.00)	15.6 (0.63)	82.4 (0.65)	0.4 (0.07)	1.1 (0.14)	0.4 (0.08)	
\$20,000–\$34,999	100.0 (0.00)	9.0 (0.66)	91.0 (0.66)	100.0 (0.00)	24.1 (1.20)	72.0 (1.28)	1.2 (0.30)	2.1 (0.35)	*0.6 (0.20)	
\$35,000–\$54,999	100.0 (0.00)	4.9 (0.48)	95.1 (0.48)	100.0 (0.00)	17.5 (1.07)	80.1 (1.14)	*0.4 (0.13)	1.3 (0.30)	0.7 (0.20)	
\$55,000–\$74,999	100.0 (0.00)	2.7 (0.50)	97.3 (0.50)	100.0 (0.00)	15.1 (1.25)	83.5 (1.26)	*0.3 (0.13)	*0.8 (0.26)	*0.3 (0.17)	
\$75,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	1.8 (0.33)	98.2 (0.33)	100.0 (0.00)	9.5 (0.82)	89.9 (0.84)	*–	*0.5 (0.15)	*0.2 (0.08)	
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>										
Poor	100.0 (0.00)	10.1 (0.76)	89.9 (0.76)	100.0 (0.00)	37.2 (1.75)	57.6 (1.83)	1.7 (0.38)	3.2 (0.62)	*0.4 (0.16)	
Near poor	100.0 (0.00)	8.8 (0.68)	91.2 (0.68)	100.0 (0.00)	25.1 (1.20)	70.7 (1.30)	1.4 (0.30)	2.2 (0.42)	*0.5 (0.18)	
Not poor	100.0 (0.00)	3.2 (0.24)	96.8 (0.24)	100.0 (0.00)	13.6 (0.68)	85.0 (0.70)	0.2 (0.05)	0.8 (0.13)	0.4 (0.09)	
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>										
Private	100.0 (0.00)	2.7 (0.20)	97.3 (0.20)	100.0 (0.00)	13.0 (0.61)	85.9 (0.61)	0.2 (0.05)	0.6 (0.10)	0.3 (0.07)	
Medicaid/other public	100.0 (0.00)	4.7 (0.50)	95.3 (0.50)	100.0 (0.00)	35.3 (1.65)	60.7 (1.65)	1.1 (0.24)	2.7 (0.44)	*0.2 (0.12)	
Other	100.0 (0.00)	3.9 (1.11)	96.1 (1.11)	100.0 (0.00)	43.3 (3.89)	39.8 (3.65)	*0.6 (0.39)	13.0 (2.58)	*3.3 (1.02)	
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	25.4 (1.34)	74.6 (1.34)	100.0 (0.00)	34.2 (1.70)	58.1 (1.76)	3.5 (0.64)	3.3 (0.70)	*0.8 (0.27)	
Place of residence										
Large MSA <sup>10</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	6.2 (0.37)	93.8 (0.37)	100.0 (0.00)	16.9 (0.72)	80.3 (0.80)	0.6 (0.11)	1.9 (0.25)	0.3 (0.08)	
Small MSA <sup>10</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	6.0 (0.46)	94.0 (0.46)	100.0 (0.00)	19.2 (1.18)	77.9 (1.23)	0.7 (0.18)	1.6 (0.33)	0.6 (0.13)	
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	4.9 (0.50)	95.1 (0.50)	100.0 (0.00)	25.8 (1.79)	72.4 (1.78)	0.7 (0.15)	*0.6 (0.19)	*0.5 (0.16)	
Region										
Northeast	100.0 (0.00)	2.2 (0.41)	97.8 (0.41)	100.0 (0.00)	12.6 (1.13)	85.2 (1.18)	0.4 (0.10)	1.5 (0.37)	*0.3 (0.14)	
Midwest	100.0 (0.00)	3.5 (0.38)	96.5 (0.38)	100.0 (0.00)	26.2 (1.68)	71.4 (1.71)	*0.3 (0.11)	1.5 (0.31)	0.5 (0.13)	
South	100.0 (0.00)	7.6 (0.49)	92.4 (0.49)	100.0 (0.00)	17.6 (0.89)	79.1 (0.97)	1.2 (0.20)	1.7 (0.31)	0.5 (0.12)	
West	100.0 (0.00)	9.3 (0.60)	90.7 (0.60)	100.0 (0.00)	20.6 (1.09)	77.3 (1.14)	*0.5 (0.15)	1.2 (0.30)	*0.4 (0.13)	

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 12. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of having a usual place of health care for children 17 years of age and under, and percent distributions (with standard errors) of usual place of health care, for children 17 years of age and under with a usual place of care, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Has no usual place of health care	Has usual place of health care	All children 0–17 years with a usual place of health care	Usual place of care <sup>1</sup>				
					Clinic	Doctor's office	Emergency room	Hospital outpatient	Some other place
Current health status					Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>2</sup>				
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	5.9 (0.25)	94.1 (0.25)	100.0 (0.00)	19.4 (0.63)	78.1 (0.66)	0.6 (0.08)	1.5 (0.16)	0.4 (0.07)
Fair/poor . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	6.6 (1.61)	93.4 (1.61)	100.0 (0.00)	27.7 (3.30)	65.6 (3.68)	*2.3 (0.89)	*4.3 (1.74)	*–
Sex and age									
Male:									
0–4 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	3.3 (0.41)	96.7 (0.41)	100.0 (0.00)	22.4 (1.24)	75.3 (1.28)	0.9 (0.24)	1.2 (0.27)	*0.2 (0.07)
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	6.5 (0.40)	93.5 (0.40)	100.0 (0.00)	18.8 (0.86)	78.3 (0.90)	0.7 (0.12)	1.8 (0.27)	0.5 (0.11)
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	5.0 (0.46)	95.0 (0.46)	100.0 (0.00)	18.8 (1.14)	78.5 (1.20)	0.7 (0.17)	1.6 (0.35)	*0.4 (0.13)
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	8.3 (0.62)	91.7 (0.62)	100.0 (0.00)	18.8 (1.03)	78.0 (1.09)	0.6 (0.17)	2.0 (0.39)	*0.7 (0.20)
Female:									
0–4 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	3.3 (0.44)	96.7 (0.44)	100.0 (0.00)	19.9 (1.25)	77.7 (1.31)	*0.5 (0.17)	1.8 (0.44)	*0.1 (0.07)
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	7.2 (0.46)	92.8 (0.46)	100.0 (0.00)	19.0 (0.93)	78.5 (0.96)	0.6 (0.12)	1.3 (0.21)	0.6 (0.13)
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	6.2 (0.61)	93.8 (0.61)	100.0 (0.00)	19.2 (1.18)	79.0 (1.22)	*0.3 (0.11)	1.1 (0.25)	*0.4 (0.15)
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	8.4 (0.69)	91.6 (0.69)	100.0 (0.00)	18.8 (1.25)	78.0 (1.31)	1.1 (0.28)	1.5 (0.35)	*0.7 (0.23)

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

– Quantity zero.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.5.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: "Is there a place that {child's name} USUALLY goes when {he/she} is sick or you need advice about {his/her} health?" and "What kind of place is it — a clinic or health center, doctor's office or HMO, hospital emergency room, hospital outpatient department, or some other place?" See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100% because of rounding.

<sup>3</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>5</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of the parent's age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 13. Frequency distributions of length of time since last contact with a health care professional, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Time since last contact with a health care professional <sup>1</sup>			
		6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years <sup>2</sup>
Number in thousands <sup>3</sup>					
Total . . . . .	71,710	50,736	13,013	6,098	1,133
Sex					
Male . . . . .	36,712	25,554	6,785	3,341	591
Female . . . . .	34,998	25,183	6,228	2,756	542
Age					
0–4 years . . . . .	19,692	17,042	1,958	459	99
5–17 years . . . . .	52,018	33,694	11,055	5,639	1,034
5–11 years . . . . .	28,463	18,859	6,211	2,794	361
12–17 years . . . . .	23,555	14,835	4,844	2,845	674
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>					
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	46,672	34,051	8,260	3,487	480
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	10,823	7,106	2,300	1,074	154
Non-Hispanic other . . . . .	3,162	2,298	508	267	*63
Hispanic . . . . .	11,052	7,281	1,945	1,269	435
Mexican American . . . . .	6,019	3,754	1,032	845	326
Family structure <sup>5</sup>					
Mother and father . . . . .	52,448	37,414	9,393	4,314	834
Mother, no father . . . . .	15,093	10,656	2,770	1,316	193
Father, no mother . . . . .	2,097	1,266	492	268	*30
Neither mother nor father . . . . .	2,004	1,349	354	200	64
Parent's education <sup>6</sup>					
Less than high school diploma . . . . .	9,077	5,706	1,541	1,290	407
High school diploma or GED <sup>7</sup> . . . . .	17,419	11,788	3,396	1,772	284
More than high school . . . . .	42,585	31,518	7,658	2,819	355
Family income <sup>8</sup>					
Less than \$20,000 . . . . .	14,730	10,110	2,630	1,512	369
\$20,000 or more . . . . .	53,899	38,608	9,926	4,306	672
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	11,392	7,696	2,122	1,231	260
\$35,000–\$54,999 . . . . .	13,358	9,388	2,548	1,190	158
\$55,000–\$74,999 . . . . .	9,195	6,719	1,765	602	*93
\$75,000 or more . . . . .	12,739	9,712	2,166	769	*37
Poverty status <sup>9</sup>					
Poor . . . . .	10,398	7,126	1,859	1,069	277
Near poor . . . . .	12,760	8,524	2,479	1,363	311
Not poor . . . . .	35,442	26,069	6,375	2,611	242
Health insurance coverage <sup>10</sup>					
Private . . . . .	49,150	35,546	9,114	3,738	362
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	11,737	9,034	1,698	772	103
Other . . . . .	1,840	1,385	282	109	*55
Uninsured . . . . .	8,747	4,618	1,874	1,471	604
Place of residence					
Large MSA <sup>11</sup> . . . . .	34,073	24,416	6,052	2,587	539
Small MSA <sup>11</sup> . . . . .	22,496	15,888	4,152	1,965	326
Not in MSA <sup>11</sup> . . . . .	15,141	10,432	2,809	1,546	269
Region					
Northeast . . . . .	13,469	10,453	2,243	513	87
Midwest . . . . .	18,549	13,358	3,093	1,831	108
South . . . . .	24,327	16,690	4,858	2,039	514
West . . . . .	15,365	10,235	2,818	1,714	424

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 13. Frequency distributions of length of time since last contact with a health care professional, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 0–17 years	Time since last contact with a health care professional <sup>1</sup>			
		6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years <sup>2</sup>
Current health status		Number in thousands <sup>3</sup>			
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	70,510	49,705	12,918	6,061	1,107
Fair/poor . . . . .	1,185	1,017	95	*36	*27
Sex and age					
Male:					
0–4 years . . . . .	10,074	8,755	971	233	*26
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	16,799	5,813	3,108	565
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	9,595	3,137	1,537	162
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	7,204	2,676	1,571	403
Female:					
0–4 years . . . . .	9,617	8,288	987	226	*73
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	16,895	5,241	2,531	469
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	9,263	3,074	1,257	198
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	7,632	2,167	1,274	271

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following question: "About how long has it been since anyone in the family last saw or talked to a doctor or other health care professional about (child's name)'s health? Include doctors seen while (he/she) was a patient in a hospital." See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>This category includes a small number of children who have never seen a doctor.

<sup>3</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

<sup>4</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>5</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>6</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent's age.

<sup>7</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>8</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>9</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>10</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>11</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.



**Table 14. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last contact with a health care professional, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 1–17 years	Time since last contact with a health care professional <sup>1</sup>			
		6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years <sup>2</sup>
Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>3</sup>					
Total	100.0 (0.00)	71.5 (0.45)	18.3 (0.38)	8.6 (0.31)	1.6 (0.12)
Sex					
Male	100.0 (0.00)	70.5 (0.66)	18.7 (0.55)	9.2 (0.45)	1.6 (0.18)
Female	100.0 (0.00)	72.6 (0.64)	17.9 (0.60)	7.9 (0.39)	1.6 (0.19)
Age					
0–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	87.1 (0.70)	10.0 (0.62)	2.3 (0.29)	0.5 (0.13)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	65.5 (0.57)	21.5 (0.48)	11.0 (0.41)	2.0 (0.16)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	66.8 (0.77)	22.0 (0.69)	9.9 (0.53)	1.3 (0.20)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	64.0 (0.87)	20.9 (0.75)	12.3 (0.58)	2.9 (0.27)
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>					
Non-Hispanic white	100.0 (0.00)	73.6 (0.57)	17.8 (0.53)	7.5 (0.34)	1.0 (0.14)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0 (0.00)	66.8 (1.24)	21.6 (1.06)	10.1 (0.95)	1.5 (0.28)
Non-Hispanic other	100.0 (0.00)	73.3 (2.31)	16.2 (1.89)	8.5 (1.41)	*2.0 (0.64)
Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	66.6 (0.93)	17.8 (0.71)	11.6 (0.71)	4.0 (0.40)
Mexican American	100.0 (0.00)	63.0 (1.28)	17.3 (0.96)	14.2 (1.08)	5.5 (0.71)
Family structure <sup>5</sup>					
Mother and father	100.0 (0.00)	72.0 (0.50)	18.1 (0.44)	8.3 (0.34)	1.6 (0.15)
Mother, no father	100.0 (0.00)	71.3 (0.96)	18.5 (0.85)	8.8 (0.64)	1.3 (0.23)
Father, no mother	100.0 (0.00)	61.5 (2.78)	23.9 (2.40)	13.1 (1.96)	*1.5 (0.58)
Neither mother nor father	100.0 (0.00)	68.6 (3.12)	18.0 (2.08)	10.1 (2.30)	3.2 (0.74)
Parent's education <sup>6</sup>					
Less than high school diploma	100.0 (0.00)	63.8 (1.30)	17.2 (0.99)	14.4 (1.05)	4.6 (0.55)
High school diploma or GED <sup>7</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	68.4 (0.96)	19.7 (0.77)	10.3 (0.62)	1.6 (0.26)
More than high school	100.0 (0.00)	74.4 (0.59)	18.1 (0.50)	6.7 (0.35)	0.8 (0.13)
Family income <sup>8</sup>					
Less than \$20,000	100.0 (0.00)	69.1 (1.00)	18.0 (0.84)	10.3 (0.74)	2.5 (0.32)
\$20,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	72.1 (0.50)	18.5 (0.43)	8.0 (0.33)	1.3 (0.13)
\$20,000–\$34,999	100.0 (0.00)	68.1 (1.15)	18.8 (0.94)	10.9 (0.74)	2.3 (0.37)
\$35,000–\$54,999	100.0 (0.00)	70.7 (1.15)	19.2 (1.06)	9.0 (0.73)	1.2 (0.26)
\$55,000–\$74,999	100.0 (0.00)	73.2 (1.28)	19.2 (1.12)	6.6 (0.77)	*1.0 (0.41)
\$75,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	76.6 (0.98)	17.1 (0.90)	6.1 (0.60)	*0.3 (0.11)
Poverty status <sup>9</sup>					
Poor	100.0 (0.00)	69.0 (1.39)	18.0 (1.10)	10.3 (0.94)	2.7 (0.42)
Near poor	100.0 (0.00)	67.2 (1.20)	19.6 (0.94)	10.8 (0.76)	2.5 (0.42)
Not poor	100.0 (0.00)	73.9 (0.63)	18.1 (0.52)	7.4 (0.43)	0.7 (0.11)
Health insurance coverage <sup>10</sup>					
Private	100.0 (0.00)	72.9 (0.51)	18.7 (0.46)	7.7 (0.35)	0.7 (0.11)
Medicaid/other public	100.0 (0.00)	77.8 (1.08)	14.6 (0.89)	6.7 (0.77)	0.9 (0.21)
Other	100.0 (0.00)	75.7 (2.77)	15.4 (2.25)	6.0 (1.47)	*3.0 (1.53)
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	53.9 (1.40)	21.9 (1.22)	17.2 (1.06)	7.0 (0.69)
Place of residence					
Large MSA <sup>11</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	72.7 (0.59)	18.0 (0.49)	7.7 (0.42)	1.6 (0.15)
Small MSA <sup>11</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	71.1 (0.84)	18.6 (0.67)	8.8 (0.51)	1.5 (0.22)
Not in MSA <sup>11</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	69.3 (1.17)	18.7 (1.00)	10.3 (0.80)	1.8 (0.34)
Region					
Northeast	100.0 (0.00)	78.6 (0.90)	16.9 (0.79)	3.9 (0.44)	0.7 (0.16)
Midwest	100.0 (0.00)	72.6 (0.93)	16.8 (0.77)	10.0 (0.64)	0.6 (0.15)
South	100.0 (0.00)	69.2 (0.82)	20.2 (0.71)	8.5 (0.55)	2.1 (0.24)
West	100.0 (0.00)	67.4 (0.89)	18.6 (0.71)	11.3 (0.70)	2.8 (0.35)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 14. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last contact with a health care professional, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 1–17 years	Time since last contact with a health care professional <sup>1</sup>			
		6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years <sup>2</sup>
Current health status		Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>3</sup>			
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	71.2 (0.45)	18.5 (0.38)	8.7 (0.31)	1.6 (0.12)
Fair/poor . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	86.6 (2.52)	8.1 (2.01)	*3.1 (1.11)	*2.3 (1.32)
Sex and age					
Male:					
0–4 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	87.7 (0.94)	9.7 (0.86)	2.3 (0.44)	*0.3 (0.10)
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	63.9 (0.84)	22.1 (0.67)	11.8 (0.60)	2.2 (0.24)
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	66.5 (1.13)	21.7 (0.97)	10.6 (0.78)	1.1 (0.28)
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	60.8 (1.21)	22.6 (1.05)	13.3 (0.82)	3.4 (0.41)
Female:					
0–4 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	86.6 (0.96)	10.3 (0.86)	2.4 (0.41)	*0.8 (0.25)
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	67.2 (0.82)	20.9 (0.76)	10.1 (0.51)	1.9 (0.24)
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	67.2 (1.19)	22.3 (1.10)	9.1 (0.67)	1.4 (0.29)
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	67.3 (1.17)	19.1 (1.06)	11.2 (0.84)	2.4 (0.37)

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following question: "About how long has it been since anyone in the family last saw or talked to a doctor or other health care professional about (child's name)'s health? Include doctors seen while (he/she) was a patient in a hospital." See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>This category includes a small number of children who have never seen a doctor.

<sup>3</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown in the frequency distributions. They are, however, included in the "All children" column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

<sup>4</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>5</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>6</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent's age.

<sup>7</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>8</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>9</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>10</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>11</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 15. Frequencies of selected health care risk factors, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	Selected health care risk factors <sup>1</sup>					
	All children 0–17 years	Uninsured for health care	Unmet medical need	Delayed care due to cost	No usual source of care	Two or more visits to the emergency room in the past year
Total	71,710	8,747	1,502	2,722	4,210	4,939
			Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>			
Sex						
Male	36,712	4,412	735	1,318	2,063	2,770
Female	34,998	4,335	768	1,403	2,147	2,169
Age						
0–4 years	19,692	2,122	294	627	654	1,924
5–17 years	52,018	6,625	1,209	2,094	3,556	3,015
5–11 years	28,463	3,545	610	1,006	1,596	1,559
12–17 years	23,555	3,080	598	1,088	1,960	1,456
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>						
Non-Hispanic white	46,672	4,021	787	1,681	1,683	2,891
Non-Hispanic black	10,823	1,334	295	456	858	1,073
Non-Hispanic other	3,162	502	*87	84	273	212
Hispanic	11,052	2,890	334	500	1,396	764
Mexican American	6,019	1,910	221	304	935	351
Family structure <sup>4</sup>						
Mother and father	52,448	5,963	813	1,718	2,646	3,040
Mother, no father	15,093	2,067	549	838	1,047	1,589
Father, no mother	2,097	329	101	116	219	125
Neither mother nor father	2,004	379	*39	*49	287	175
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>						
Less than high school diploma	9,077	2,630	307	400	1,336	957
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup>	17,419	2,565	368	820	1,108	1,492
More than high school	42,585	3,013	777	1,435	1,428	2,278
Family income <sup>7</sup>						
Less than \$20,000	14,730	3,183	560	905	1,412	1,695
\$20,000 or more	53,899	5,005	845	1,660	2,499	3,049
\$20,000–\$34,999	11,392	2,448	344	661	1,024	959
\$35,000–\$54,999	13,358	1,215	265	497	658	786
\$55,000–\$74,999	9,195	342	*69	194	248	391
\$75,000 or more	12,739	251	*19	98	231	502
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>						
Poor	10,398	2,185	370	588	1,048	1,229
Near poor	12,760	2,918	485	877	1,126	1,139
Not poor	35,442	1,731	331	754	1,124	1,672
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>						
Private	49,150	...	458	1,053	1,343	2,565
Medicaid/other public	11,737	...	243	342	552	1,561
Other	1,840	...	*36	63	72	167
Uninsured	8,747	8,747	766	1,264	2,216	612
Place of residence						
Large MSA <sup>11</sup>	34,073	4,196	762	1,301	2,110	2,120
Small MSA <sup>11</sup>	22,496	2,346	470	919	1,358	1,575
Not in MSA <sup>11</sup>	15,141	2,205	270	502	741	1,244
Region						
Northeast	13,469	986	206	400	298	770
Midwest	18,549	1,436	323	656	642	1,307
South	24,327	3,803	575	1,043	1,851	1,953
West	15,365	2,522	398	622	1,419	908

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 15. Frequencies of selected health care risk factors, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	Selected health care risk factors <sup>1</sup>					Two or more visits to the emergency room in the past year
	All children 0–17 years	Uninsured for health care	Unmet medical need	Delayed care due to cost	No usual source of care	
Current health status		Number in thousands <sup>2</sup>				
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	70,510	8,601	1,413	2,624	4,127	4,612
Fair /poor . . . . .	1,185	146	89	98	78	327
Sex and age						
Male:						
0–4 years . . . . .	10,074	1,139	161	328	336	1,107
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	3,272	574	991	1,727	1,663
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	1,786	293	448	731	916
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	1,486	281	542	996	747
Female:						
0–4 years . . . . .	9,617	983	133	299	318	816
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	3,352	635	1,104	1,829	1,352
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	1,759	317	558	865	643
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	1,593	318	546	964	709

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

. . . Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: “{Are you/Is anyone} covered by health insurance or some other kind of health care plan?”; “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, was there any time when {you/someone in the family} needed medical care, but did not get it because {you/the family} couldn’t afford it?”; “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, {have/has you/anyone in the family} delayed seeking medical care because of worry about the cost?”; “Is there a place that {child’s name} USUALLY goes when {he/she} is sick or you need advice about {his/her} health?”; “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how many times has {child’s name} gone to a hospital emergency room about {his/her} health? (This includes emergency room visits that resulted in a hospital admission.)” See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown among the frequencies. They are, however, included in the “All children” column.

<sup>3</sup>“Non-Hispanic other” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

<sup>5</sup>Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent’s age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>“MSA” is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 16. Percents (with standard errors) of selected health care risk factors, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	Selected health care risk factors <sup>1</sup>				
	Uninsured for health care	Unmet medical need	Delayed care due to cost	No usual source of care	Two or more visits to the emergency room in the past year
	Percent (standard error) <sup>2</sup>				
Total . . . . .	12.2 (0.36)	2.1 (0.14)	3.8 (0.19)	5.9 (0.25)	6.9 (0.28)
Sex					
Male . . . . .	12.0 (0.43)	2.0 (0.19)	3.6 (0.25)	5.6 (0.31)	7.5 (0.42)
Female . . . . .	12.4 (0.52)	2.2 (0.21)	4.0 (0.29)	6.1 (0.34)	6.2 (0.34)
Age					
0–4 years . . . . .	10.8 (0.52)	1.5 (0.20)	3.2 (0.31)	3.3 (0.30)	9.8 (0.62)
5–17 years . . . . .	12.7 (0.45)	2.3 (0.17)	4.0 (0.24)	6.8 (0.32)	5.8 (0.29)
5–11 years . . . . .	12.5 (0.59)	2.1 (0.23)	3.5 (0.31)	5.6 (0.39)	5.5 (0.39)
12–17 years . . . . .	13.1 (0.57)	2.5 (0.27)	4.6 (0.35)	8.3 (0.48)	6.2 (0.41)
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>					
Non-Hispanic white . . . . .	8.6 (0.41)	1.7 (0.16)	3.6 (0.24)	3.6 (0.25)	6.2 (0.36)
Non-Hispanic black . . . . .	12.3 (0.86)	2.7 (0.38)	4.2 (0.48)	7.9 (0.70)	9.9 (0.82)
Non-Hispanic other . . . . .	15.9 (2.51)	2.7 (0.81)	2.7 (0.76)	8.6 (1.38)	6.7 (1.39)
Hispanic . . . . .	26.1 (0.90)	3.0 (0.39)	4.5 (0.48)	12.6 (0.67)	6.9 (0.49)
Mexican American . . . . .	31.7 (1.32)	3.7 (0.63)	5.0 (0.76)	15.5 (1.04)	5.8 (0.55)
Family structure <sup>4</sup>					
Mother and father . . . . .	11.4 (0.41)	1.5 (0.14)	3.3 (0.22)	5.0 (0.27)	5.8 (0.31)
Mother, no father . . . . .	13.7 (0.69)	3.6 (0.38)	5.6 (0.47)	6.9 (0.54)	10.5 (0.69)
Father, no mother . . . . .	15.7 (1.83)	4.8 (1.21)	5.5 (1.20)	10.5 (1.68)	6.0 (1.55)
Neither mother nor father . . . . .	18.9 (2.06)	*1.9 (0.75)	*2.5 (0.75)	14.3 (2.02)	8.7 (1.64)
Parent's education <sup>5</sup>					
Less than high school diploma . . . . .	29.0 (1.25)	3.4 (0.47)	4.4 (0.53)	14.7 (0.95)	10.5 (0.96)
High school diploma or GED <sup>6</sup> . . . . .	14.7 (0.79)	2.1 (0.28)	4.7 (0.45)	6.4 (0.54)	8.6 (0.64)
More than high school . . . . .	7.1 (0.37)	1.8 (0.18)	3.4 (0.24)	3.4 (0.23)	5.3 (0.29)
Family income <sup>7</sup>					
Less than \$20,000 . . . . .	21.6 (0.85)	3.8 (0.39)	6.1 (0.52)	9.6 (0.61)	11.5 (0.74)
\$20,000 or more . . . . .	9.3 (0.38)	1.6 (0.14)	3.1 (0.20)	4.6 (0.24)	5.7 (0.28)
\$20,000–\$34,999 . . . . .	21.5 (1.08)	3.0 (0.40)	5.8 (0.60)	9.0 (0.66)	8.4 (0.75)
\$35,000–\$54,999 . . . . .	9.1 (0.75)	2.0 (0.35)	3.7 (0.50)	4.9 (0.48)	5.9 (0.55)
\$55,000–\$74,999 . . . . .	3.7 (0.66)	*0.8 (0.28)	2.1 (0.45)	2.7 (0.50)	4.2 (0.54)
\$75,000 or more . . . . .	2.0 (0.32)	*0.1 (0.09)	0.8 (0.22)	1.8 (0.33)	3.9 (0.48)
Poverty status <sup>8</sup>					
Poor . . . . .	21.0 (1.08)	3.6 (0.47)	5.7 (0.63)	10.1 (0.76)	11.8 (0.94)
Near poor . . . . .	22.9 (1.04)	3.8 (0.46)	6.9 (0.63)	8.8 (0.68)	8.9 (0.74)
Not poor . . . . .	4.9 (0.31)	0.9 (0.13)	2.1 (0.21)	3.2 (0.24)	4.7 (0.29)
Health insurance coverage <sup>9</sup>					
Private . . . . .	...	0.9 (0.12)	2.1 (0.17)	2.7 (0.20)	5.2 (0.28)
Medicaid/other public . . . . .	...	2.1 (0.36)	2.9 (0.39)	4.7 (0.50)	13.3 (0.85)
Other . . . . .	...	*2.0 (0.78)	3.4 (1.00)	3.9 (1.11)	9.1 (1.70)
Uninsured . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	8.8 (0.81)	14.5 (1.06)	25.3 (1.34)	7.0 (0.71)
Place of residence					
Large MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	12.3 (0.50)	2.2 (0.22)	3.8 (0.28)	6.2 (0.37)	6.2 (0.34)
Small MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	10.4 (0.59)	2.1 (0.22)	4.1 (0.34)	6.0 (0.45)	7.0 (0.56)
Not in MSA <sup>10</sup> . . . . .	14.6 (0.92)	1.8 (0.28)	3.3 (0.41)	4.9 (0.50)	8.2 (0.70)
Region					
Northeast . . . . .	7.3 (0.59)	1.5 (0.22)	3.0 (0.30)	2.2 (0.41)	5.7 (0.55)
Midwest . . . . .	7.7 (0.61)	1.7 (0.28)	3.5 (0.39)	3.5 (0.38)	7.0 (0.58)
South . . . . .	15.6 (0.73)	2.4 (0.25)	4.3 (0.37)	7.6 (0.49)	8.0 (0.58)
West . . . . .	16.4 (0.74)	2.6 (0.31)	4.1 (0.40)	9.2 (0.59)	5.9 (0.39)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 16. Percents (with standard errors) of selected health care risk factors, for children 17 years of age and under, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	Selected health care risk factors <sup>1</sup>				
	Uninsured for health care	Unmet medical need	Delayed care due to cost	No usual source of care	Two or more visits to the emergency room in the past year
Current health status					
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	12.2 (0.36)	2.0 (0.13)	3.7 (0.19)	5.9 (0.25)	6.5 (0.28)
Fair/poor . . . . .	12.3 (1.95)	7.5 (1.70)	8.2 (1.70)	6.6 (1.61)	27.6 (2.86)
Sex and age					
Male:					
0–4 years . . . . .	11.3 (0.79)	1.6 (0.30)	3.3 (0.43)	3.3 (0.41)	11.0 (0.89)
5–17 years . . . . .	12.3 (0.55)	2.2 (0.23)	3.7 (0.31)	6.5 (0.40)	6.2 (0.44)
5–11 years . . . . .	12.2 (0.73)	2.0 (0.32)	3.1 (0.38)	5.0 (0.46)	6.3 (0.58)
12–17 years . . . . .	12.3 (0.73)	2.3 (0.35)	4.5 (0.48)	8.3 (0.62)	6.2 (0.59)
Female:					
0–4 years . . . . .	10.2 (0.69)	1.4 (0.28)	3.1 (0.47)	3.3 (0.44)	8.5 (0.77)
5–17 years . . . . .	13.2 (0.65)	2.5 (0.26)	4.3 (0.36)	7.2 (0.46)	5.3 (0.39)
5–11 years . . . . .	12.7 (0.83)	2.3 (0.35)	4.0 (0.49)	6.2 (0.61)	4.6 (0.50)
12–17 years . . . . .	13.8 (0.89)	2.8 (0.40)	4.7 (0.52)	8.4 (0.68)	6.2 (0.61)

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

. . . Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions: “{Are you/Is anyone} covered by health insurance or some other kind of health care plan?”; “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, was there any time when {you/someone in the family} needed medical care, but did not get it because {you/the family} couldn’t afford it?”; “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, {have/has {you/anyone in the family} delayed seeking medical care because of worry about the cost?”; “Is there a place that {child’s name} USUALLY goes when {he/she} is sick or you need advice about {his/her} health?”; “DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, how many times has {child’s name} gone to a hospital emergency room about {his/her} health? (This includes emergency room visits that resulted in a hospital admission.)” See appendix II for more detailed definitions of selected terms used in this report.

<sup>2</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents.

<sup>3</sup>“Non-Hispanic other” includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>4</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in “Neither mother nor father.”

<sup>5</sup>Parent’s education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent’s age.

<sup>6</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>7</sup>“Less than \$20,000” and “\$20,000 or more” include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>8</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau’s poverty thresholds. “Poor” children in families defined as below the poverty threshold. “Near poor” children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. “Not poor” children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>9</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, “Medicaid/other public” includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). “Other coverage” includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>10</sup>“MSA” is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. “Not in MSA” consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.



**Table 17. Frequency distributions of unmet dental need in the past 12 months, and frequency distributions of length of time since last dental contact, for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 2–17 years	Unmet dental need	Met dental need	Time since first dental contact <sup>1</sup>			
				6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years <sup>2</sup>
Number in thousands <sup>3</sup>							
Total	63,841	3,590	60,071	34,239	12,076	6,300	10,428
Sex							
Male	32,712	1,730	30,882	16,827	6,387	3,417	5,632
Female	31,129	1,861	29,188	17,412	5,688	2,883	4,796
Age							
2–4 years	11,823	297	11,505	4,047	1,187	408	6,046
5–17 years	52,018	3,293	48,566	30,192	10,889	5,891	4,382
5–11 years	28,463	1,681	26,706	16,684	5,885	2,890	2,705
12–17 years	23,555	1,612	21,859	13,508	5,003	3,002	1,676
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>							
Non-Hispanic white	41,778	2,063	39,635	24,697	7,215	3,255	6,236
Non-Hispanic black	9,685	623	9,001	4,207	2,399	1,373	1,486
Non-Hispanic other	2,719	159	2,552	1,347	531	305	504
Hispanic	9,659	745	8,883	3,988	1,930	1,366	2,203
Mexican American	5,250	443	4,781	1,907	1,020	889	1,341
Family structure <sup>5</sup>							
Mother and father	46,287	2,207	43,961	26,226	8,023	4,109	7,465
Mother, no father	13,659	1,255	12,345	6,320	3,108	1,592	2,423
Father, no mother	1,966	72	1,892	892	444	300	268
Neither mother nor father	1,866	*57	1,810	779	482	293	256
Parent's education <sup>6</sup>							
Less than high school diploma	8,044	678	7,343	2,753	1,676	1,273	2,151
High school diploma or GED <sup>7</sup>	15,694	1,046	14,595	7,254	3,597	1,851	2,830
More than high school	37,678	1,801	35,803	23,277	6,211	2,837	5,108
Family income <sup>8</sup>							
Less than \$20,000	12,810	1,224	11,555	5,149	2,848	1,803	2,867
\$20,000 or more	48,219	2,282	45,829	27,828	8,685	4,208	7,106
\$20,000–\$34,999	10,062	919	9,124	4,108	2,160	1,416	2,294
\$35,000–\$54,999	11,811	736	11,065	6,232	2,291	1,244	1,967
\$55,000–\$74,999	8,322	225	8,091	5,274	1,526	558	936
\$75,000 or more	11,485	149	11,317	8,400	1,449	519	1,059
Poverty status <sup>9</sup>							
Poor	9,114	829	8,271	3,597	2,112	1,413	1,899
Near poor	11,181	1,213	9,939	4,460	2,329	1,642	2,674
Not poor	31,743	1,058	30,653	20,051	5,316	2,227	3,982
Health insurance coverage <sup>10</sup>							
Private	44,245	1,639	42,509	26,615	7,913	3,415	5,928
Medicaid/other public	9,753	555	9,175	4,287	2,286	1,176	1,854
Other	1,594	*94	1,494	941	289	169	180
Uninsured	8,031	1,296	6,694	2,312	1,529	1,538	2,421
Place of residence							
Large MSA <sup>11</sup>	30,171	1,474	28,558	16,424	5,908	2,786	4,492
Small MSA <sup>11</sup>	19,976	1,204	18,735	11,107	3,398	2,001	3,307
Not in MSA <sup>11</sup>	13,694	913	12,778	6,708	2,769	1,512	2,630
Region							
Northeast	12,099	451	11,605	7,301	2,266	880	1,437
Midwest	16,259	759	15,459	9,366	3,010	1,375	2,342
South	21,817	1,414	20,360	10,539	4,362	2,446	4,208
West	13,666	967	12,646	7,032	2,438	1,599	2,440

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 17. Frequency distributions of unmet dental need in the past 12 months, and frequency distributions of length of time since last dental contact, for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 2–17 years	Unmet dental need	Met dental need	Time since first dental contact <sup>1</sup>			
				6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years <sup>2</sup>
				Number in thousands <sup>3</sup>			
<b>Current health status</b>							
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	62,738	3,463	59,095	33,806	11,871	6,144	10,137
Fair/poor . . . . .	1,089	128	961	419	205	156	291
<b>Dental care affordability</b>							
Can't afford dental care . . . . .	3,590	3,590	...	889	652	1,069	960
Can afford dental care . . . . .	60,071	...	60,071	33,321	11,422	5,231	9,453
<b>Sex and age</b>							
<b>Male:</b>							
2–4 years . . . . .	6,075	158	5,907	1,942	533	202	3,309
5–17 years . . . . .	26,638	1,571	24,975	14,884	5,854	3,215	2,323
5–11 years . . . . .	14,597	837	13,711	8,217	3,274	1,518	1,411
12–17 years . . . . .	12,041	734	11,265	6,668	2,580	1,696	912
<b>Female:</b>							
2–4 years . . . . .	5,748	139	5,598	2,105	654	206	2,737
5–17 years . . . . .	25,380	1,722	23,590	15,307	5,035	2,677	2,059
5–11 years . . . . .	13,866	844	12,996	8,467	2,611	1,372	1,295
12–17 years . . . . .	11,514	878	10,595	6,840	2,423	1,305	764

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

... Category not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions, "During the past 12 months, was there any time when (child's name) needed any of the following, but didn't get it because you couldn't afford it: dental care (including check-ups)?" and "About how long has it been since (child's name) last saw or talked to a dentist? Include all types of dentists, such as orthodontists, oral surgeons, and all other dental specialists, as well as dental hygienists." See appendix II for more detailed definitions.

<sup>2</sup>This category includes children who have never seen a dentist.

<sup>3</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not shown among the frequencies. They are, however, included in the "All children 2–17 years" column. Hence, frequencies may not sum to their respective totals. Additionally, numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

<sup>4</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>5</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>6</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent's age.

<sup>7</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>8</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>9</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>10</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>11</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

**Table 18. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of unmet dental need in the past 12 months, and percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last dental contact, for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998**

Selected characteristic	All children 2–17 years	Unmet dental need	Met dental need	All children 2–17 years	Time since last dental contact <sup>1</sup>			
					6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years <sup>2</sup>
Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>3</sup>								
Total	100.0 (0.00)	5.6 (0.27)	94.4 (0.27)	100.0 (0.00)	54.3 (0.63)	19.2 (0.47)	10.0 (0.34)	16.5 (0.43)
Sex								
Male	100.0 (0.00)	5.3 (0.37)	94.7 (0.37)	100.0 (0.00)	52.2 (0.80)	19.8 (0.63)	10.6 (0.48)	17.5 (0.58)
Female	100.0 (0.00)	6.0 (0.40)	94.0 (0.40)	100.0 (0.00)	56.6 (0.82)	18.5 (0.68)	9.4 (0.48)	15.6 (0.58)
Age								
2–4 years	100.0 (0.00)	2.5 (0.36)	97.5 (0.36)	100.0 (0.00)	34.6 (1.17)	10.2 (0.81)	3.5 (0.45)	51.7 (1.27)
5–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	6.4 (0.32)	93.6 (0.32)	100.0 (0.00)	58.8 (0.69)	21.2 (0.54)	11.5 (0.40)	8.5 (0.34)
5–11 years	100.0 (0.00)	5.9 (0.40)	94.1 (0.40)	100.0 (0.00)	59.2 (0.88)	20.9 (0.70)	10.3 (0.50)	9.6 (0.47)
12–17 years	100.0 (0.00)	6.9 (0.48)	93.1 (0.48)	100.0 (0.00)	58.2 (0.96)	21.6 (0.76)	12.9 (0.60)	7.2 (0.44)
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>								
Non-Hispanic white	100.0 (0.00)	4.9 (0.32)	95.1 (0.32)	100.0 (0.00)	59.7 (0.75)	17.4 (0.55)	7.9 (0.38)	15.1 (0.54)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0 (0.00)	6.5 (0.74)	93.5 (0.74)	100.0 (0.00)	44.4 (1.71)	25.3 (1.41)	14.5 (1.07)	15.7 (1.09)
Non-Hispanic other	100.0 (0.00)	5.9 (1.29)	94.1 (1.29)	100.0 (0.00)	50.1 (2.61)	19.8 (2.11)	11.4 (1.80)	18.7 (2.09)
Hispanic	100.0 (0.00)	7.7 (0.68)	92.3 (0.68)	100.0 (0.00)	42.0 (1.08)	20.3 (0.97)	14.4 (0.81)	23.2 (0.93)
Mexican American	100.0 (0.00)	8.5 (1.02)	91.5 (1.02)	100.0 (0.00)	37.0 (1.28)	19.8 (1.45)	17.2 (1.25)	26.0 (1.25)
Family structure <sup>5</sup>								
Mother and father	100.0 (0.00)	4.8 (0.29)	95.2 (0.29)	100.0 (0.00)	57.2 (0.69)	17.5 (0.56)	9.0 (0.38)	16.3 (0.50)
Mother, no father	100.0 (0.00)	9.2 (0.67)	90.8 (0.67)	100.0 (0.00)	47.0 (1.23)	23.1 (0.98)	11.8 (0.78)	18.0 (0.85)
Father, no mother	100.0 (0.00)	3.7 (0.95)	96.3 (0.95)	100.0 (0.00)	46.9 (2.89)	23.3 (2.36)	15.7 (2.19)	14.1 (1.91)
Neither mother nor father	100.0 (0.00)	*3.0 (1.00)	97.0 (1.00)	100.0 (0.00)	43.0 (3.47)	26.6 (2.68)	16.2 (2.40)	14.2 (2.27)
Parent's education <sup>6</sup>								
Less than high school diploma	100.0 (0.00)	8.4 (0.90)	91.6 (0.90)	100.0 (0.00)	35.1 (1.53)	21.3 (1.27)	16.2 (1.08)	27.4 (1.34)
High school diploma or GED <sup>7</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	6.7 (0.55)	93.3 (0.55)	100.0 (0.00)	46.7 (1.08)	23.2 (0.93)	11.9 (0.79)	18.2 (0.86)
More than high school	100.0 (0.00)	4.8 (0.33)	95.2 (0.33)	100.0 (0.00)	62.2 (0.71)	16.6 (0.57)	7.6 (0.37)	13.6 (0.54)
Family income <sup>8</sup>								
Less than \$20,000	100.0 (0.00)	9.6 (0.79)	90.4 (0.79)	100.0 (0.00)	40.6 (1.31)	22.5 (1.06)	14.2 (0.90)	22.6 (0.97)
\$20,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	4.7 (0.27)	95.3 (0.27)	100.0 (0.00)	58.2 (0.69)	18.2 (0.53)	8.8 (0.37)	14.9 (0.47)
\$20,000–\$34,999	100.0 (0.00)	9.1 (0.76)	90.9 (0.76)	100.0 (0.00)	41.2 (1.49)	21.6 (1.09)	14.2 (0.97)	23.0 (1.12)
\$35,000–\$54,999	100.0 (0.00)	6.2 (0.61)	93.8 (0.61)	100.0 (0.00)	53.1 (1.23)	19.5 (0.97)	10.6 (0.78)	16.8 (0.97)
\$55,000–\$74,999	100.0 (0.00)	2.7 (0.45)	97.3 (0.45)	100.0 (0.00)	63.6 (1.47)	18.4 (1.26)	6.7 (0.75)	11.3 (0.93)
\$75,000 or more	100.0 (0.00)	1.3 (0.34)	98.7 (0.34)	100.0 (0.00)	73.5 (1.26)	12.7 (0.94)	4.5 (0.59)	9.3 (0.85)
Poverty status <sup>9</sup>								
Poor	100.0 (0.00)	9.1 (0.95)	90.9 (0.95)	100.0 (0.00)	39.9 (1.75)	23.4 (1.44)	15.7 (1.12)	21.1 (1.21)
Near poor	100.0 (0.00)	10.9 (0.87)	89.1 (0.87)	100.0 (0.00)	40.2 (1.50)	21.0 (1.12)	14.8 (0.99)	24.1 (1.07)
Not poor	100.0 (0.00)	3.3 (0.26)	96.7 (0.26)	100.0 (0.00)	63.5 (0.75)	16.8 (0.60)	7.1 (0.38)	12.6 (0.52)
Health insurance coverage <sup>10</sup>								
Private	100.0 (0.00)	3.7 (0.28)	96.3 (0.28)	100.0 (0.00)	60.7 (0.69)	18.0 (0.53)	7.8 (0.36)	13.5 (0.48)
Medicaid/other public	100.0 (0.00)	5.7 (0.66)	94.3 (0.66)	100.0 (0.00)	44.6 (1.58)	23.8 (1.30)	12.2 (1.00)	19.3 (1.15)
Other	100.0 (0.00)	5.9 (1.73)	94.1 (1.73)	100.0 (0.00)	59.6 (3.46)	18.3 (2.74)	10.7 (2.41)	11.4 (2.13)
Uninsured	100.0 (0.00)	16.2 (1.11)	83.8 (1.11)	100.0 (0.00)	29.6 (1.46)	19.6 (1.17)	19.7 (1.13)	31.0 (1.35)
Place of residence								
Large MSA <sup>11</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	4.9 (0.31)	95.1 (0.31)	100.0 (0.00)	55.5 (0.81)	20.0 (0.71)	9.4 (0.40)	15.2 (0.63)
Small MSA <sup>11</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	6.0 (0.48)	94.0 (0.48)	100.0 (0.00)	56.1 (1.20)	17.2 (0.82)	10.1 (0.66)	16.7 (0.76)
Not in MSA <sup>11</sup>	100.0 (0.00)	6.7 (0.79)	93.3 (0.79)	100.0 (0.00)	49.3 (1.47)	20.3 (0.99)	11.1 (0.86)	19.3 (0.94)
Region								
Northeast	100.0 (0.00)	3.7 (0.41)	96.3 (0.41)	100.0 (0.00)	61.4 (1.37)	19.1 (1.13)	7.4 (0.67)	12.1 (0.80)
Midwest	100.0 (0.00)	4.7 (0.51)	95.3 (0.51)	100.0 (0.00)	58.2 (1.29)	18.7 (0.97)	8.5 (0.63)	14.6 (0.93)
South	100.0 (0.00)	6.5 (0.54)	93.5 (0.54)	100.0 (0.00)	48.9 (1.19)	20.2 (0.84)	11.3 (0.64)	19.5 (0.69)
West	100.0 (0.00)	7.1 (0.61)	92.9 (0.61)	100.0 (0.00)	52.1 (1.17)	18.0 (0.89)	11.8 (0.73)	18.1 (1.05)

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 18. Percent distributions (with standard errors) of unmet dental need in the past 12 months, and percent distributions (with standard errors) of length of time since last dental contact, for children 2–17 years of age, by selected characteristics: United States, 1998—Con.**

Selected characteristic	All children 2–17 years	Unmet dental need	Met dental need	All children 2–17 years	Time since last dental contact <sup>1</sup>				
					6 months or less	More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	More than 1 year but not more than 3 years	More than 3 years <sup>2</sup>	
Current health status					Percent distribution (standard error) <sup>3</sup>				
Excellent/very good/good . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	5.5 (0.27)	94.5 (0.27)	100.0 (0.00)	54.6 (0.63)	19.2 (0.48)	9.9 (0.33)	16.4 (0.43)	
Fair/poor . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	11.7 (2.42)	88.3 (2.42)	100.0 (0.00)	39.1 (3.67)	19.1 (2.76)	14.6 (2.76)	27.2 (3.58)	
Dental care affordability									
Can't afford dental care . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	100.0 (0.00)	...	100.0 (0.00)	24.9 (2.12)	18.3 (1.72)	29.9 (2.18)	26.9 (2.08)	
Can afford dental care . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	0.0 (0.00)	100.0 (0.00)	100.0 (0.00)	56.1 (0.64)	19.2 (0.49)	8.8 (0.32)	15.9 (0.43)	
Sex and age									
Male:									
2–4 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	2.6 (0.54)	97.4 (0.54)	100.0 (0.00)	32.4 (1.67)	8.9 (1.05)	3.4 (0.57)	55.3 (1.70)	
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	5.9 (0.44)	94.1 (0.44)	100.0 (0.00)	56.6 (0.88)	22.3 (0.73)	12.2 (0.57)	8.8 (0.48)	
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	5.8 (0.58)	94.2 (0.58)	100.0 (0.00)	57.0 (1.18)	22.7 (1.01)	10.5 (0.73)	9.8 (0.68)	
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	6.1 (0.63)	93.9 (0.63)	100.0 (0.00)	56.2 (1.27)	21.8 (1.06)	14.3 (0.85)	7.7 (0.58)	
Female:									
2–4 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	2.4 (0.50)	97.6 (0.50)	100.0 (0.00)	36.9 (1.78)	11.5 (1.13)	3.6 (0.72)	48.0 (1.79)	
5–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	6.8 (0.47)	93.2 (0.47)	100.0 (0.00)	61.0 (0.91)	20.1 (0.75)	10.7 (0.55)	8.2 (0.49)	
5–11 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	6.1 (0.55)	93.9 (0.55)	100.0 (0.00)	61.6 (1.20)	19.0 (0.97)	10.0 (0.73)	9.4 (0.71)	
12–17 years . . . . .	100.0 (0.00)	7.7 (0.74)	92.3 (0.74)	100.0 (0.00)	60.4 (1.29)	21.4 (1.04)	11.5 (0.86)	6.7 (0.60)	

\* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

... Category not applicable.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

<sup>1</sup>The data in this table are based on the following questions, "During the past 12 months, was there any time when [child's name] last needed any of the following, but didn't get it because you couldn't afford it: dental care (including check-ups)?" and "About how long has it been since [child's name] last saw or talked to a dentist? Include all types of dentists, such as orthodontists, oral surgeons, and all other dental specialists, as well as dental hygienists." See appendix II for more detailed definitions.

<sup>2</sup>This category includes children who have never seen a dentist.

<sup>3</sup>Unknowns for the variable of interest are not included in the denominators when calculating percents. Additionally, percents may not add to 100% because of rounding.

<sup>4</sup>"Non-Hispanic other" includes non-Hispanic children whose race was identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Children of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

<sup>5</sup>Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster relationships. Legal guardians are classified in "Neither mother nor father."

<sup>6</sup>Parent's education is the education level of the parent with the higher level of education, regardless of that parent's age.

<sup>7</sup>GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

<sup>8</sup>"Less than \$20,000" and "\$20,000 or more" include both respondents reporting specific dollar amounts and respondents reporting that their incomes were within those categories (see appendix I). The indented categories include only those respondents who reported specific dollar amounts. Children with unknown family income are not shown.

<sup>9</sup>Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" children are in families defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near poor" children are in families with incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not poor" children are in families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater.

<sup>10</sup>Private health insurance may be obtained through the workplace or purchased directly. Among children under 18 years of age, "Medicaid/other public" includes those with Medicaid or other public health insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage). "Other coverage" includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Children with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured.

<sup>11</sup>"MSA" is metropolitan statistical area. Large MSAs have a population size of 1,000,000 or more; small MSAs have a population size of less than 1,000,000. "Not in MSA" consists of persons not living in a metropolitan statistical area.

# Appendix I

## Technical Notes on Methods

This report is one of a set of statistical reports published by the staff of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). It is based on data contained in the 1998 public use Sample Child and Person files, which are derived from the Sample Child and Family Core components of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). All analyses were appropriately weighted and carried out using the SUDAAN statistical package. Standard errors are shown for all percents in the tables (but not for the frequencies). Frequencies or percents with relative standard errors greater than 30% are considered unreliable and are indicated with an asterisk (\*). The relative standard errors are calculated as follows:

$$\text{Relative standard error} = (\text{SE}/\text{EST}) \times 100$$

where SE is the standard error of the estimate and EST is the estimate (percent or frequency). The reliability of frequencies and their percents are determined independently, so that it is possible for a particular frequency to be reliable and its associated percent unreliable, and vice versa. In most instances, however, both estimates were reliable (or unreliable) simultaneously.

In the tables, all unknown values (respondents coded as “refused,” “don’t know,” or “not ascertained”) with respect to each table’s variables of interest were removed from the denominators when calculating row percents. In most instances the overall number of unknowns is quite small and would not have supported disaggregation by the demographic characteristics included in the table. Because these unknowns are not shown separately, users calculating their own percentages based on the frequencies and population counts presented in the tables may obtain slightly different results. To aid users’ understanding of the data, weighted counts and percentages of unknowns (with respect

**Table I. Weighted counts and percents of children with unknown information: National Health Interview Survey, 1998**

Variable of interest	Weighted count (in thousands)	Percent of children
Ever had asthma (children aged 0–17 years) (table 1) . . . . .	154	0.21
Had asthma in past 12 months (children aged 0–17 years) (table 1) . . . . .	24	0.03
Hay fever (children aged 0–17 years) (table 2) . . . . .	274	0.38
Respiratory allergies (children aged 0–17 years) (table 2) . . . . .	318	0.44
Other allergies (children aged 0–17 years) (table 2) . . . . .	93	0.13
Learning disability (children aged 3–17 years) (table 3) . . . . .	67	0.11
Attention Deficit Disorder (children aged 3–17 years) (table 3) . . . . .	193	0.32
Taken prescription medicine for at least 3 months (children aged 0–17) (table 4) . . . . .	68	0.09
Current health status (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 5–6) . . . . .	15	0.02
Health status compared to a year ago (children aged 1–17 years) (tables 7–8) . . . . .	250	0.35
School days missed in the past 12 months (children aged 5–17 years) (tables 9–10) . . . . .	1,086	2.09
Has usual source of care (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 11–12,15–16) . . . . .	121	0.17
Location of usual source of care (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 11–12) . . . . .	37	0.05
Interval since last contact with health professional (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 13–14) . . . . .	729	1.02
Health insurance coverage (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 15–16) . . . . .	236	0.33
Unmet medical need (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 15–16) . . . . .	45	0.06
Delayed medical care due to cost (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 15–16) . . . . .	19	0.03
Emergency room visits (children aged 0–17 years) (tables 15–16) . . . . .	396	0.55
Unmet dental need (children aged 2–17 years) (tables 17–18) . . . . .	180	0.28
Time since last dental contact (children aged 2–17 years) (tables 17–18) . . . . .	798	1.25

<sup>1</sup>All parents not in the household were counted in the unknown category for parent’s education; this was in addition to parents in the household with unknown education level.

to the variables of interest in each table) are shown in [table I](#).

Unknowns with respect to the demographic characteristics used in each table are not shown, due to small cell counts. However, unknowns with respect to both family income and poverty status typically include a sizable number of persons regardless of the health outcome shown in the table. Because it is difficult to interpret the relationship between “unknown” income (or poverty status) and the health outcomes displayed in the tables, counts of persons in these unknown categories are not shown in the tables. [Table II](#) shows weighted counts of children in the U.S. population with unknown values with

respect to poverty status and family income, as well as family structure, parent’s education, health insurance coverage, and current health status.

The “Income and Assets” section in the Family Core of the NHIS instrument allows respondents to report their family income in several ways. Respondents are first asked to provide their family’s total combined income before taxes from all sources for the previous calendar year in a dollar amount (from \$0 up to \$999,995). Those respondents who did not know or refused to state an amount are then asked if their family’s combined income in the previous calendar year was \$20,000 or more, or less than \$20,000. If they again refused

**Table II. Weighted counts and percents of children 0–17 years of age with unknown information or selected sociodemographic characteristics: National Health Interview Survey, 1998**

Variable of interest	Weighted count (in thousands)	Percent of children
Family structure . . . . .	69	0.10
Parent’s education <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	2,628	3.66
Family income . . . . .	3,081	4.30
Poverty status . . . . .	13,109	18.28
Health insurance coverage . . . . .	236	0.33
Current health status . . . . .	15	0.02

<sup>1</sup>All parents not in the household were counted in the unknown category for parent’s education; this was in addition to parents in the household with unknown education level.

to answer, or said that they did not know, they were not asked any more questions about their family income. Those respondents who did reply to the “above-below \$20,000” question were then handed one of two cards with a list of detailed income categories on it (top-coded at \$75,000), and asked to pick the interval containing their best estimate of their family’s combined income. NHIS respondents thus fall in one of four categories with respect to income information: those willing to supply a dollar amount (71% of the 1998 sample), those who indicated their income from a fairly detailed set of intervals (4% of the sample), those who said that their family’s income was either \$20,000 or more or less than \$20,000 (18% of the sample), and those unwilling to provide any information whatsoever (8% of the sample). Respondents who stated that their family income was below \$20,000 are included in the “Less than \$20,000” category under “Family Income” in the tables in this report, along with respondents who gave a dollar amount or an interval estimate that was less than \$20,000. Likewise, respondents who stated that their family income was at or above \$20,000 are included in the “\$20,000 or more” category under Family Income, along with those respondents who gave a dollar amount or an interval estimate that was \$20,000 or more. Users will note that the counts for the detailed (indented) amounts do not sum to the count shown for “\$20,000 or more” for this reason.

A recoded poverty status variable is formed for those respondents who supplied either a dollar amount or an interval estimate for their family’s income. This variable is the ratio of the family’s income in the previous calendar year to the appropriate 1997 poverty threshold (given the family’s size and number of children), defined by the U.S. Census Bureau (28). Children who are categorized as “poor” had a ratio less than 1.0, that is, their family income was strictly below the poverty threshold. The “near poor” category includes those children with family incomes of

100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. Lastly, “not poor” children have family incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater. The remaining groups of respondents—those who would only indicate that they were at/above \$20,000 versus below \$20,000, as well as those who refused to provide any income information—are, by necessity, coded as “unknown” with respect to poverty status. Income information is missing for 4.3% of the U.S. child population, and poverty status information is missing for 18.3% of the U.S. child population (weighted results). Five percent of the child sample is missing information on income, while 20% of the child sample is missing information on poverty status (unweighted results).

## Hypothesis Tests

Two-tailed tests of significance were performed on all the comparisons mentioned in the “Highlights” section of this report (no adjustments were made for multiple comparisons). The test statistic used to determine statistical significance of the difference between two percents was

$$Z = \frac{|X_a - X_b|}{\sqrt{S_a^2 + S_b^2}}$$

where  $X_a$  and  $X_b$  are the two percents being compared, and  $S_a$  and  $S_b$  are the SUDAAN-calculated standard errors of those percents. The critical value used for two-sided tests at the 0.05 level of significance was 1.96.

## Appendix II

### Definitions of Terms

#### Sociodemographic Terms

*Age*—The age recorded for each child is the age at the last birthday. Age is recorded in single years and grouped using a variety of age categories depending on the purpose of the table.

*Family income*—Each member of a family is classified according to the total income of the family of which he or she is a member. Within the household, all persons related to each other by blood, marriage or cohabitation, or adoption constitute a family. Unrelated individuals living in the same household (e.g., roommates) are considered to be separate families and are classified according to their own incomes. The income recorded is the total of all income received by members of the family (or by an unrelated individual) in the previous calendar year. Income from all sources—including, wages, salaries, pensions, government payments, child support/alimony, dividends, help from relatives, etc.—is included.

*Family structure*—Family structure describes the parent(s) present in the household with the sample child. Mother and father can include biological, adoptive, step, in-law, or foster parents. Legal guardians are not classified as parents.

*Geographic region of residence*—For the purpose of classifying the U.S. population by geographic area, the States are grouped into four regions. These regions, which correspond to those used by the U.S. Census Bureau, are as follows:

<i>Region</i>	<i>States included</i>
Northeast	Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania
Midwest	Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, and Nebraska
South	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas



West Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, and Hawaii

*Health insurance coverage*—NHIS respondents were asked about their health insurance coverage at the time of the interview. Respondents could also state whether they were covered by private insurance obtained from their employer or workplace, private insurance that they had purchased directly, Medicare, Medi-Gap (supplemental Medicare coverage), Medicaid, military or VA health care (as well as CHAMPUS/TRICARE/CHAMP-VA), a State-sponsored health plan, or a government program (other than those already mentioned). This information is used to form a health insurance hierarchy of four mutually exclusive categories for persons under 65 years of age (private, Medicaid/other public, other coverage, or uninsured). Private coverage includes persons who have any comprehensive private health insurance plan (including health maintenance organizations and preferred provider organizations) and persons who have a hospitalization plan only; these may be either obtained from one's employer or workplace or purchased directly. Among persons younger than 65 years of age, those with Medicaid and/or another form of public insurance coverage (e.g., most State-sponsored coverage) are distinguished from those with "other coverage," which includes Medicare, military health insurance coverage, and/or another form of government-sponsored health insurance coverage. Given this hierarchy, an individual with more than one type of health insurance, such as private and military coverage, would be assigned to the first appropriate category in the hierarchy, i.e., private.

If respondents do not report coverage under one of the above types of plans then they are considered to have "unknown" coverage. Weighted frequencies indicate that 1.2% of the population under 65 years of age fell in this "unknown" category. All remaining respondents are considered uninsured.

The uninsured are persons who do not have coverage under private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, public assistance, a State-sponsored health plan, other government-sponsored programs, or a military health plan. In addition, persons with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered uninsured. Weighted frequencies indicate that 16.6% of the population under 65 years of age was uninsured.

*Parent's education*—This reflects the highest grade in school completed by the sample child's mother or father, regardless of that parent's age. (Note that in the U.S. Population (1) and U.S. Adult (2) reports, education is reported only for persons 25 years of age and over.) Only years completed in regular school, where persons are given a formal education, are included. A "regular" school is one that advances a person toward an elementary or high school diploma (or a GED, a General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma), or a college, university, or professional degree. Thus, education in vocational, trade, or business school outside the regular school system is not counted in determining the highest grade of school completed. Likewise, participation in "adult education" classes not taken for credit in a regular school system is not included. For example, a person who took "conversational Spanish" through an adult education program at a local university would not be counted as having "some college." Schooling in other than regular schools (e.g., home schooling) is counted only if the credits obtained are acceptable in a regular school system.

*Place of residence*—An individual's place of residence is classified as inside a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) or outside an MSA. Generally, an MSA consists of a county or group of counties containing at least one city (or twin cities) having a population of 50,000 or more, plus adjacent counties that are metropolitan in character and are economically and socially integrated with the central city. In New England, towns and cities rather than counties are the units used in defining MSAs. There is neither a limit to the number of adjacent counties included in the MSA

if they are integrated with the central city, nor is an MSA limited to a single State; boundaries may cross State lines. The metropolitan populations in this report are based on MSAs as defined in the 1990 Census. In the tables for this report, place of residence is based on a variable in the 1998 Person data file indicating MSA size. This variable is collapsed into three categories: MSAs with a population of 1,000,000 or more; MSAs with a population of less than 1,000,000; and non-MSA areas.

*Poverty status*—Poverty status is based on family income and family size using the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" persons are defined as below the poverty threshold. "Near Poor" persons have incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not Poor" persons have incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater. Please refer to [appendix I](#) in this report for more information on the measurement of family income and poverty status.

*Race/ethnicity*—Race characterization is based on the respondent's description of his or her racial background as well as the racial background of each family member. Respondents are also asked whether they are of Hispanic origin. Information from these two sources is used to create a four-category race/ethnicity indicator, which distinguishes among non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic other, and Hispanic persons. Non-Hispanic other includes persons who identified their race as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, or Pacific Islander. Hispanic persons may be of any race. Some tables also show Mexican Americans as a subset of Hispanics.

## Description of Health Terms

*Asthma*—Asthma includes smoker's asthma, bronchial asthma, allergic asthma, etc. Asthma is indicated when a doctor or other health professional reported to the family that the sample child has asthma.

*Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)*—ADD is indicated when a doctor or

other health professional reported to the family that the sample child has Attention Deficit Disorder or ADD.

*Contacts with health professionals*—A contact with a health professional is defined as a visit to or conversation with a doctor or other health professional by anyone in the family about the health of the sample child. Contacts may include visits by a health professional to the patient's home, a telephone call to the office of a health professional (for medical advice, prescriptions, or test results, but not to make an appointment), or an appointment with a health professional in a doctor's office, clinic, emergency room, or some other place (excluding overnight hospital stays). Health professionals are defined as all types of medical doctors, including dermatologists, psychiatrists, ophthalmologists, and general practitioners, as well as nurses, physical therapists, and chiropractors. The NHIS focuses on contacts that occurred during the 2-week period before the interview took place.

*Delays in receiving needed medical care*—Data pertaining to delays in receiving needed medical care due to cost are derived from a question in the 1998 NHIS that asked respondents whether anyone in the family had delayed seeking medical care in the past 12 months because of worry about the cost.

*Doctor or other health professional*—This refers to medical doctors (MDs) and osteopathic physicians (DOs), including general practitioners as well as specialists, psychologists, nurses, physical therapists, chiropractors, etc.

*Health status*—Respondent-assessed health status is obtained from a question in the survey that asked respondents "Would you say your health in general was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?" Information was obtained from all respondents, with proxy responses allowed for adults not taking part in the interview and all children under 18 years of age. A small number of respondents either refused to answer or could not provide an answer to the question; these persons are not shown in the frequency distributions, nor are they

included in the denominators when calculating the percentage distributions.

*Hospital emergency room or ER visits*—This includes visits to a hospital emergency room only. Visits for emergency care received at a health maintenance organization (HMO), outpatient clinic, or urgent care center are not included.

*Prescription medicine*—Medication that can only be obtained with the approval of a licensed health care provider.

*Unmet medical need*—Unmet medical need was based on a question that asked respondents whether someone in the family had needed medical care during the past 12 months, but did not get it because the family could not afford it.

*Usual place of care*—A usual place of care includes a walk-in clinic, doctor's office, clinic, health center, HMO, hospital emergency room or outpatient clinic, or a military or VA health care facility.

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For answers to questions about this report or for a list of reports published in these series, contact:

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