



National Health Interview Survey

About NCHS

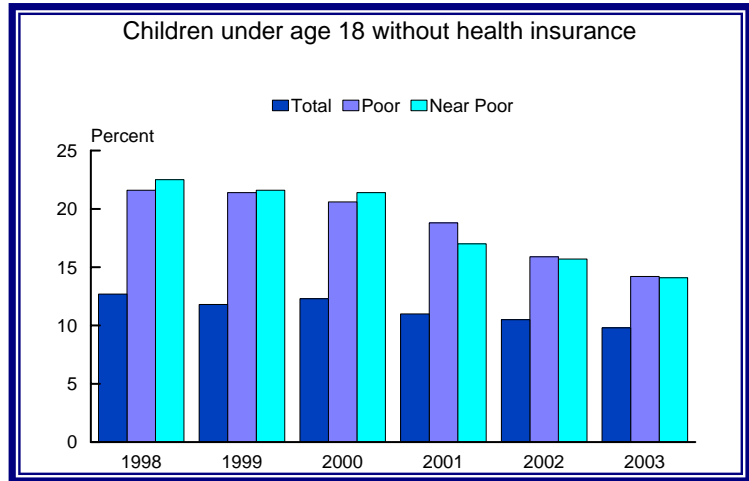
The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data to identify and address health issues. NCHS compiles statistical information to help guide public health and health policy decisions.

Collaborating with other public and private health partners, NCHS employs a variety of data collection mechanisms to obtain accurate information from multiple sources. This process provides multiple perspectives to help us understand the population's health, influences on health, and health outcomes.

National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

The NHIS provides information annually on the health status of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population through confidential interviews conducted in households. The NHIS is the nation's largest household health survey, providing data for analysis of broad health trends, as well as the ability to characterize persons with various health problems, determine barriers to care, and compare health status, health related behaviors, and risk factors across racial and ethnic populations.

Examples of NHIS Data

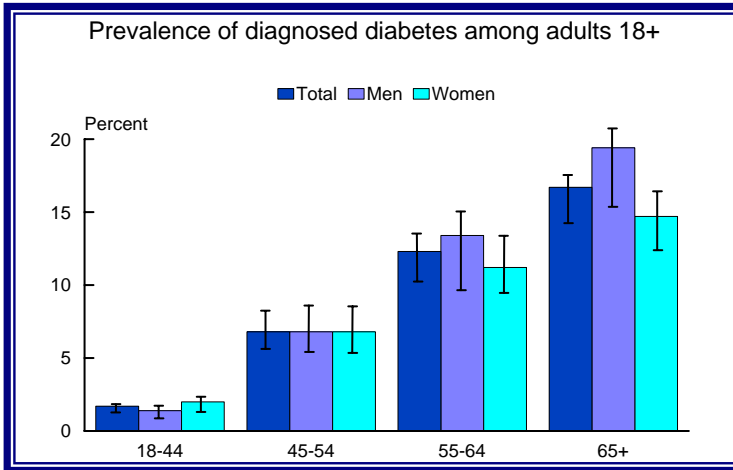


Source: National Health Interview Survey, 1998 - January-September 2003

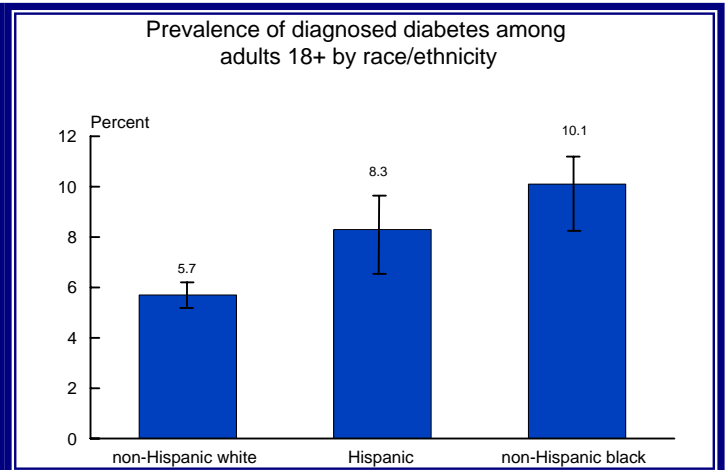
- An increasing number of American children have **health insurance coverage**. The percent of children without insurance decreased from 12.7 percent in 1998 to 9.8 percent through the third quarter of 2003.
- The percent of poor children without health insurance decreased from 21.6 percent in 1998 to 14.2 percent through the third quarter of 2003. The percent of near poor children without health insurance decreased from 22.5 percent in 1998 to 14.1 through the third quarter of 2003.

Health topics addressed:

- Health Status and Disability
- Insurance Coverage
- Access to Care
- Use of Health Services
- Immunizations (child)
- Health Behaviors
- Injury
- Ability to Perform Daily Activities
- Child Mental Health



Source: National Health Interview Survey, January-September 2003
 *Prevalence of diagnosed diabetes is based on self-report of physician diagnosis.



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- For both sexes combined, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes increased with age, the highest rates among adults 65 years of age and older.
- The prevalence of diagnosed diabetes was highest among non-Hispanic blacks, and lowest among non-Hispanic whites.

Other findings through the third quarter of 2003:

- The percent of **persons without health insurance** at the time of the interview was highest for Hispanics at 32.4 percent, and lowest for non-Hispanic whites at 11 percent.
- The percent of persons of all ages with a **usual place to go for medical care** was highest for non-Hispanic whites at 90.4 percent and lowest for Hispanics at 78.1 percent.
- The prevalence of **current smoking among U.S. adults** age 18+ was highest for non-Hispanic whites at 23.2 percent, and lowest for Hispanics at 15.7percent.
- The prevalence of self-reported **obesity** among adults aged 20+ increased from 19.4 percent in 1997 to 23.7 percent.

Challenges and Future Opportunities

- Design and implement a new sample for the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) to ensure that it accurately reflects the shifting U.S. population demographics documented by the 2002 Census. The NHIS is the nation's largest national household health survey, providing a rich resource for analysis of racial and ethnic populations.

For further information about NCHS and its programs, visit us at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs>, or call the Office of Planning, Budget and Legislation at 301-458-4100.

For further information on NHIS, visit their website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhis.htm>.