National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN), 2001

FAST FACTS about the SURVEY

What is the National Survey of CSHCN?

- A national survey conducted by telephone for the first time during 2000 - 2001.
- Telephone numbers are randomly dialed to find households with one or more children under 18 years old. Trained interviewers ask parents or guardians of a series of questions to identify all children in the household with special health care needs.
- A total of 372,174 children under 18 years old representing 196,888 households nationally screened to identify those with special health care needs.
- A total of 750 children with special health care needs in EACH state selected to be the focus child for the longer, more detailed CSHCN interview.
- A total of 38,866 CSHCN interviews collected nationally during 2000 - 2001, with independent samples taken for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- The survey is conducted in twelve languages, including English and Spanish.

What is the purpose of the National Survey of CSHCN?

- To provide national and state estimates for the numbers of CSHCN in the population, plus national and state baseline measures to compare with future survey results over time.
- To provide information for the Title V Block Grant needs assessment states are required to conduct every five years.
- To provide state-level information about insurance status for all children.
- To provide information about CSHCN and their families to help guide policy makers, advocates, and researchers.

Data Resource Center (DRC) is a project of the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative at Oregon Health & Science University. DRC is sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration.
**Who sponsors the National Survey of CSHCN?**

- The National Survey of CSHCN is sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- The National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention oversees the sampling and telephone interviews for the National Survey of CSHCN

**Why is the survey sometimes called “SLAITS”?**

- The sampling and data collection for the National Survey of CSHCN, 2001 were conducted using the SLAITS program.
- SLAITS is an acronym for the “State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey,” an approach developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to quickly and consistently collect information on a variety of health topics at the state and local levels.
- Other national surveys collected through the SLAITS program include: the National Survey of Children’s Health, the National Immunization Survey, and the National Survey of Early Childhood Health.

**What information from the survey is available for EACH state?**

- The estimated number of CSHCN in the state’s population and the estimated number of households in the state with one or more CSHCN under 18 years old
- 750 in-depth CSHCN interviews — including information on health insurance status and adequacy of coverage

**What topics are covered by the CSHCN interview?**

- Child’s health and functional status
- Child’s health insurance status and adequacy of coverage
- Access to health care — including amounts and types of health care services used by child and any unmet needs for care
- Care coordination
- Family-centeredness of child’s health care
- Impact of child’s health on family

**Are the data from the National Survey of CSHCN available to the public?**

- Datasets from the National Survey of CSHCN can be downloaded in SAS file format at no cost from the National Center for Health Statistics website: [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)
- State-level datasets with all of the questions shown on the Data Resource Center are available in SAS and SPSS formats at [www.cshcndata.org](http://www.cshcndata.org)