What is the National Survey of Children’s Health?

The National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) is a nationally-representative telephone survey primarily funded by The Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is designed to provide information about the physical, emotional, and behavioral health of children aged 0-17 in the United States. Currently, there are three sets of cross-sectional data, collected in 2003-04, 2007-08, and 2011-12. The 2011-12 data set includes information from 95,677 respondents, with 1,811-2,200 respondents per state, allowing for side-by-side comparisons of states, as well as to the nation as a whole.

What Does the NSCH Offer Family Scholars?

The NSCH provides information not only about children’s health, but also that of their parents. Since the survey respondent is a parent or guardian of the child, it also includes information on parental health. In addition, it contains questions on adverse family experiences that occurred during the child’s lifetime, parental involvement, and parent-child relationship quality.

Along with child and parental health information, the NSCH also includes information on the following demographic characteristics:

- Age and marital status of the adults in the household
- Neighborhood characteristics
- Race/Ethnicity of the child
- Parental education level
- Household employment and income
- Health insurance coverage

What is New in the 2011-12 Survey?

The 2011-12 survey of the NSCH provides researchers with a variety of new information, including information on premature births, birth weight, presence of an intellectual disability or cerebral palsy; when the child’s behavioral problem, intellectual disability, developmental delay, speech/language problems, vision problems or cerebral palsy was first diagnosed; flourishing, and adverse family experiences that happened during the child’s lifetime.
Accessing and Using the Data

- Project websites
  - NSCH at the DRC
  - NSCH at the CDC NCHS

- Years covered
  - 2011-12
  - Longitudinal
    - No

- Data specific bibliography
  - Not Available

- Publicly available
  - CDC National Center for Health Statistics NSCH Data
    - Data only available to download as SAS files.

  - DRC NSCH Data Request Form
    - Data available by request in SPSS, SAS, and Stata formats. Users must submit the request form above to info@cahmi.org.

- List serve/ User group/ Helpline
  - Ask the Data Resource Center a question:
    - http://childhealthdata.org/help/asku
  - E-mail the CDC with further questions about the NSCH 2011-12 at slaits@cdc.gov

- Data citation (IPUMS-CPS)

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National Center for Family and Marriage Research
The Data Source: Descriptions of newly released data sets of interest to family researchers

http://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr.html

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