

About the Data - CYSHCN

Indicator Description

Children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) is an estimate of the number of children aged 0-17 who have a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition and, regardless of diagnosis, require additional services and support compared to their peers without special health care needs.

Data Sources

Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. [The National Survey of Children's Health \(NSCH\)](#), 2016-2019. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

Data Analysis

The CYSHCN percentage is the estimated number of children aged 0-17 with special health care needs per 100 children aged 0-17. The survey identifies CYSHCN by asking parents or other caregivers a series of five screening questions covering a wide range of childhood chronic conditions and special needs. The number of CYSHCN is a weighted estimate based on a population representative sample of respondents. These data were stratified by sex, age and household income using two years of aggregated data. The 95% confidence interval (CI) presented in the tooltips indicates there is a 95% chance that the range contains the true prevalence or rate in the population.

Denominators include the estimated number of all children aged 0-17 residing in California at the time of the survey. See Category and Subcategory Definitions below for additional inclusion/exclusion criteria.

Data Annotation and Suppression

Rates or percentages should be interpreted with caution if 1) the absolute CI width is greater than 20% of the magnitude of the estimate, 2) the relative CI width is greater than 120% (1.2 times the magnitude of the estimate), or 3) the CI is inestimable due to no sample variance (estimate is exactly 0% or 100%).

In accordance with NSCH guidelines, data are not shown if the unweighted denominator is less than 30.

Category and Subcategory Definitions

Age: Child's age reported by the parent or caregiver at the time of the survey.

Household income: Ratio of the total parent- or caregiver-reported annual family income to the family poverty threshold established by the U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty thresholds are based on the number and age of adults and the number of children under age 18 in a family unit. Individuals in a family whose annual combined income, before taxes, is less than the poverty threshold for the family's size and composition are defined as living in poverty. Missing values were imputed. Poverty ratios are grouped into the following categories: 0-99%, 100-199%, 200-399%, and 400% or more of poverty (or the family poverty threshold). More information is available from: [How the U.S. Census Bureau measures poverty](#)

Receiving care in a well-functioning system: This measure is comprised of five age-relevant measures for children aged 0-11 years and six age-relevant measures for children aged 12-17 years. Those five measures for children aged 0-11 years include: family feels like they are a partner in their child's care, child receives care within a medical home, child had a past-year preventive medical and dental visit, child has adequate insurance, and child did not have a time when he/she needed health care that was not received and was not frustrated in receiving health care. For adolescents aged 12-17 years, preparation for adult transition is included in addition to these five measures. If a child has at least one valid positive response to any of these measures and the remainder of the components were missing or legitimately skipped, this child was categorized as receiving care in a well-functioning system. Respondents with "missing" to all items were set to missing.

Sex: Parent or caregiver was asked to indicate whether the child was male or female. Missing values were imputed.

Suggested Citation

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go.cdph.ca.gov/CYSHCN-Dashboard