

National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

(Used for Indicators E5, H1, H2, H6, H7, H8, and H9)

Brief description of the data set	The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) collects data on a broad range of health topics through personal household interviews. The results of NHIS provide data to track health status, health care access, and progress toward achieving national health objectives.
Who provides the data set?	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.
How are the data gathered?	Data are obtained using a health questionnaire through a personal household interview. Interviewers obtain information on health history and demographic characteristics, including age, household income, and race and ethnicity from respondents, or from a knowledgeable household adult for children age 17 years and younger.
What documentation is available describing data collection procedures?	See http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm for detailed survey documentation by survey year.
What types of data relevant for children’s environmental health indicators are available from this database?	Relevant data include health history (e.g., asthma, mental health, childhood illnesses), smoking in residences (for selected years), demographic information, and health care use and access information.
What is the spatial representation of the database (national or other)?	NHIS sampling procedures provide nationally representative data, and may also be analyzed by four broad geographic regions: North, Midwest, South and West. Analysis of data for any other smaller geographic areas (state, etc.) is possible only by special arrangement with the NCHS Research Data Center.
Are raw data (individual measurements or survey responses) available?	Data for each year of the NHIS are available for download and analysis (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/nhis_questionnaires.htm). Annual reports from the NHIS are also available (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/nhis_products.htm) as are interactive data tables (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hdi.htm). The files available for download generally contain individual responses to the survey questions; however, for some questions the responses are categorized. Some survey responses are not publicly released.
How are database files obtained?	Raw data: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm .
Are there any known data quality or data analysis concerns?	Data are self-reported, or (for individuals age 17 years and younger) reported by a knowledgeable household adult, usually a parent. Responses to some demographic questions (race/ethnicity, income) are statistically imputed for survey participants lacking a reported response.
What documentation is available describing quality assurance procedures?	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_130.pdf provides a summary of quality assurance procedures.
For what years are data available?	Data from the NHIS are available from 1957–present. Availability of data addressing particular issues varies based on when questions were added to the NHIS. The survey is redesigned on a regular basis; many questions of interest for children’s environmental health indicators were modified or first asked with the redesign that was implemented in 1997. For environmental tobacco smoke (regular smoking in the home), comparable data are available for 1994, 2005, and 2010.

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What is the frequency of data collection?	Continuous throughout the year.
What is the frequency of data release?	Annually.
Are the data comparable across time and space?	Survey design and administration are consistent across locations and from year to year. Many questions were revised or added in 1997, so data for prior years may not be comparable to data from 1997 to present.
Can the data be stratified by race/ethnicity, income, and location (region, state, county or other geographic unit)?	Data can be stratified by race, ethnicity, income, and region (four regions only).