



National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

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About This Release

Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data From the **2005 National Health Interview Survey** (Released 6/21/06)

In this release, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) updates estimates for 15 selected health measures based on data from the 2005 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and presents estimates from 1997 through 2004 for comparison. The 15 Early Release measures are being published prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from NHIS. The estimates will be updated on a quarterly basis as each new quarter of the NHIS data becomes available.

The 15 measures included are lack of health insurance coverage and type of coverage, usual place to go for medical care, obtaining needed medical care, receipt of influenza vaccination, receipt of pneumococcal vaccination, obesity, leisure-time physical activity, current smoking, alcohol consumption, human immunodeficiency virus testing, general health status, personal care needs, serious psychological distress, diagnosed diabetes, and asthma episodes and current asthma.

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For each selected health measure, a figure is presented showing the trend over time from 1997 through 2005 for the total population, followed by figures and tables showing estimates by age group and sex based on data from the 2005 NHIS. Also, estimates (often adjusted by age, sex, or both) are provided for three race/ethnicity groups (Hispanic; non-Hispanic white, single race; and non-Hispanic black, single race) using data from the 2005 NHIS. Key findings are highlighted with bulleted text. Data tables providing values displayed in the figures are included at the end of each section. In addition to providing age-adjusted estimates for Early Release measures that are also Healthy People 2010 Leading Health Indicators (lack of health insurance coverage, usual place to go for medical care, receipt of influenza vaccination, receipt of pneumococcal vaccination, obesity, leisure-time physical activity, and current smoking), this release provides overall age-adjusted and crude estimates by sex for all indicators (1). The NHIS questions used to define the selected health measures are included in Table I in the Appendix.

Race/ethnicity categories: The race/ethnicity categories for data years beginning in 2003 are defined using the new (1997) standards for the classification of Federal data on race/ethnicity promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (2). Subsequent to the Early Releases based on data through 2002, the categories "non-Hispanic white" and "non-Hispanic black" have been changed to "not Hispanic white, single race" and "not Hispanic black, single race." The term "Hispanic" has been changed to "Hispanic or Latino" and "black" has been changed to "black or African American." However, the text and figures use shorter terms for conciseness. For example, the category "not Hispanic or Latino, white, single race" in the tables is referred to as "non-Hispanic white" in the text. Race/ethnicity-specific estimates for years prior to 2003 released previously were based on the 1977 OMB standards and, therefore, are not strictly comparable with estimates for 2003. However, the changes in the OMB standards have little effect on the health estimates reported here. See Tables XI and XII in *Health, United States, 2003* (3) for a comparison of estimates for cigarette smoking and private health insurance coverage using both the 1977 and 1997 OMB standards. In addition, beginning with the 2003 NHIS (first implemented in the September 2004 Early Release), NHIS editing procedures were changed to maintain consistency with the U.S. Census Bureau procedures for collecting and editing data on race/ethnicity. These changes reflect the elimination of "other race" as a separate race response. This response category is treated as missing, and race is imputed if this was the only race response. In cases where "other race" was mentioned along with one or more OMB race groups,

the "other race" response is dropped, and the OMB race group information is retained. This change is not expected to have a substantial effect on the estimates.

Data source: Data are derived from the three components of NHIS from 1997 through 2005: the Family Core (which collects information on all family members in each household), the Sample Adult Core (which collects information from one randomly selected adult aged 18 years or over in each family), and the Sample Child Core (which collects information on one randomly selected child in each family with a child). Data analyses for the 2005 NHIS were based on 98,307 persons in the Family Core, 31,428 adults in the Sample Adult Core, and 12,523 children in the Sample Child Core. Visit the [NHIS website](#) for more information on the design, content, and use of NHIS.

Transition to the 2000 census-based weights: Estimates were calculated by using the NHIS sample weights, which were calibrated to 2000 census-based totals for sex, age, and race/ethnicity of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population. In Early Release reports released before September 2003, the weights for the 1997–2002 NHIS data were derived from 1990 census-based postcensal population estimates. Beginning with the 2003 data, NHIS has transitioned to weights derived from 2000 census-based population estimates. The impact of this transition was assessed for data from the 2000–2002 NHIS by comparing estimates using the 1990 census-based weights with those using the 2000 census-based weights. The results are presented in Tables II and III in the Appendix. Although the changes for all selected measures are no more than 1 percentage point, the 2000–2002 estimates for all selected measures have been recalculated in this report using weights derived from the 2000 census.

Estimation procedure: NCHS creates weights for each calendar quarter of the NHIS sample. The NHIS data weighting procedure has been described in more detail elsewhere ([view/download PDF](#)). Because the estimates for 2005 are being released prior to final data editing and final weighting, they should be considered preliminary and may differ slightly from estimates that will be made later using the final 2005 data files. In this report, except for health insurance coverage, estimates from the 1997–2004 NHIS were derived from the final data files for those years. However, as mentioned previously, estimates for 2000–2002 were recalculated in this report using the 2000 census-based weights that were not included in the final files. See "Health Insurance Coverage" (section 1) in this release for details on special data editing for health insurance variables. For NHIS announcements

and more detailed information, check the [NHIS website](#).

Point estimates and estimates of their variances were calculated using the SUDAAN software package to account for the complex sample design of NHIS. The Taylor series linearization method was chosen for variance estimation. All estimates shown meet the NCHS standard of having less than or equal to 30% relative standard error. Point estimates in some figures and tables are accompanied by 95% confidence intervals. Beginning with the June 2006 release, confidence intervals are shown to two decimal places to improve precision of further calculations. Differences between percentages or rates were evaluated using two-sided significance tests at the 0.05 level. Terms such as "higher than" and "less than" indicate a statistically significant difference. Terms such as "similar" and "no difference" indicate that the statistics being compared were not significantly different. Lack of comments regarding the difference between any two statistics does not necessarily suggest that the difference was tested and found to be not significant. Direct standardization was used to calculate age-sex-adjusted percentages for three race/ethnicity groups using the 2000 projected U.S. standard population (4). For the prevalence of obesity, only age-adjusted sex-specific percentages are presented because the race/ethnicity pattern in obesity prevalence differs by sex. Similarly, only sex-adjusted age-specific prevalences are presented for the asthma measures because the race/ethnicity patterns in asthma episodes and current asthma differ by age. The age groups used for standardization varied depending upon the impact of age on the specific measure. Rates presented are crude rates unless otherwise stated.

Health insurance: Additional estimates for health insurance can be found in the Early Release Program's second quarterly report, *Health Insurance Coverage: Estimates from the 2005 National Health Interview Survey* (5). Two additional questions were added to the health insurance section of NHIS beginning in quarter 3 of 2004 to reduce potential errors in reporting Medicare and Medicaid status. Persons aged 65 years and over not reporting Medicare coverage were asked explicitly about Medicare coverage. Persons under age 65 years with no reported coverage were asked explicitly about Medicaid coverage. For this report, estimates that exclude the two additional questions are labeled "Method 1," and estimates that include the additional questions are labeled "Method 2." Estimates for years 1997–2003 in this report are generated using Method 1. Estimates for 2004 are presented using Method 2 in figures and both Method 1 and Method 2 in tables. Estimates for 2005 are calculated using Method 2. Statements about trends or comparisons for 1997 through 2003 are based on

estimates calculated using Method 1. Comparisons between 2004 and 2005 are calculated using Method 2. Statements assessing trends that encompass years both prior to and after 2004 take both methodologies into account. Conclusions regarding trends are not made in cases where using one method yields a different result than the same trend analysis using the other method. It should be noted that although both methods may yield the same conclusion, the extent of the increasing or decreasing trend may be larger using one method compared with the other method.

Although the 2005 estimates based on Method 1 are not presented in the tables or figures, these estimates were calculated to assess the effect of adopting Method 2 in their calculation. For 2005, the estimates (weighted) for persons without health insurance coverage decreased from 9.9% to 8.9% for persons under 18 years old, from 19.1% to 18.9% for adults aged 18–64 years, and from 1.9% to 0.8% for persons 65 years and over with the use of Method 2. The estimates for public coverage increased from 29.4% to 30.3% for children under 18 years old, from 11.4% to 11.6% for adults 18–64 years, and from 90.0% to 96.1% for persons 65 years and over with the use of Method 2. However, these differences between the estimates were only statistically significant for persons aged 65 years and over. There is no impact of the two additional questions on the estimates for private coverage. Additional information on the impact of these two questions on health insurance estimates can be found in *Impact of Medicare and Medicaid probe questions on health insurance estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2004* (6).

Future plans for Early Release of NHIS estimates: The NCHS Early Release Program updates and releases estimates about 6 months after NHIS data collection has been completed for each quarter (5,7). These releases are tentatively scheduled for March, June, September, and December. New measures may be added as work continues and in response to changing data needs. Feedback on the Early Release mechanism and on the estimates is welcome ([e-mail](#)). Announcements about Early Releases, other new data releases, publications, or corrections related to NHIS will be sent to members of the HISUSERS Listserv. To join, visit the [CDC website](#).

Suggested Citation

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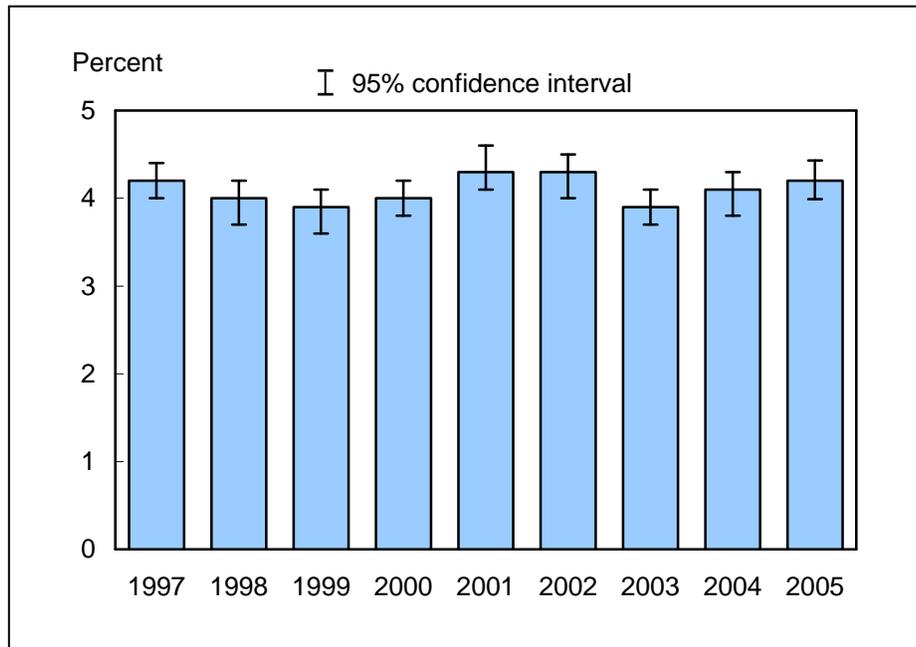
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Figure 15.1. Percentage of persons of all ages who experienced an asthma episode in the past 12 months: United States, 1997–2005



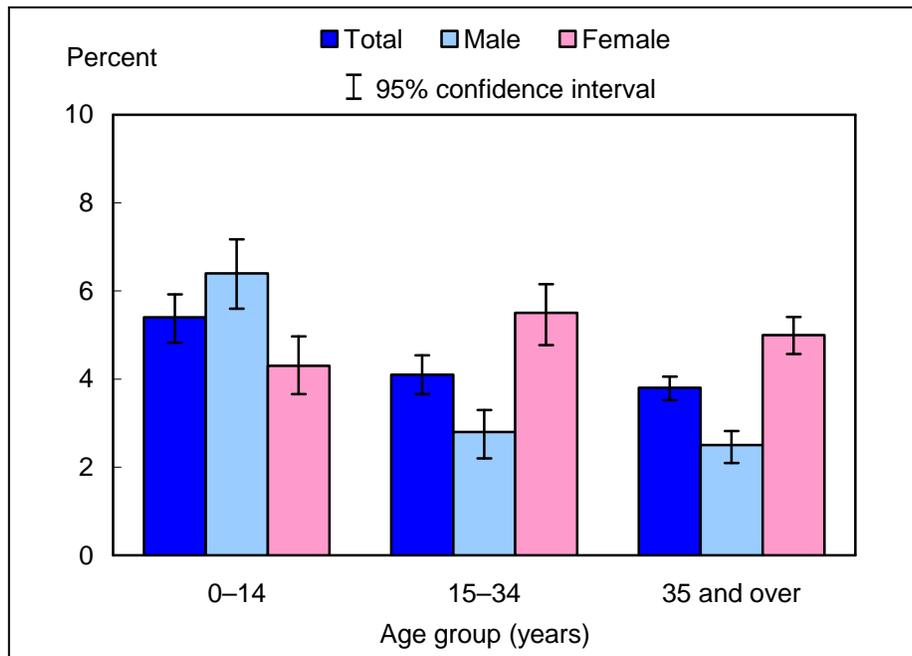
NOTES: Information on an episode of asthma or asthma attack during the past 12 months is self-reported by adults aged 18 years and over. For children under age 18 years, the information is collected from an adult family member, usually a parent, who is knowledgeable about the child's health. The analyses excluded people with unknown asthma episode status (about 0.3% of respondents each year). Beginning with the 2003 data, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) transitioned to weights derived from the 2000 census. In this Early Release, estimates for 2000–2002 were recalculated using weights derived from the 2000 census. See "About This Release" and Table III in the Appendix for more details.

DATA SOURCE: Combined Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components of the 1997–2005 NHIS. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

■ In 2005, the percentage of persons of all ages who experienced an asthma episode in the past 12 months was 4.2% (95% confidence interval = 3.99–4.43%), which was not significantly different from the 2004 estimate of 4.1%.

■ The annual percentage of persons of all ages who experienced an asthma episode in the past 12 months was 4.2% in 1997, 4.0% in 1998, 3.9% in 1999, 4.0% in 2000, 4.3% in 2001, 4.3% in 2002, 3.9% in 2003, 4.1% in 2004, and 4.2% in 2005.

Figure 15.2. Percentage of persons of all ages who experienced an asthma episode in the past 12 months, by age group and sex: United States, 2005



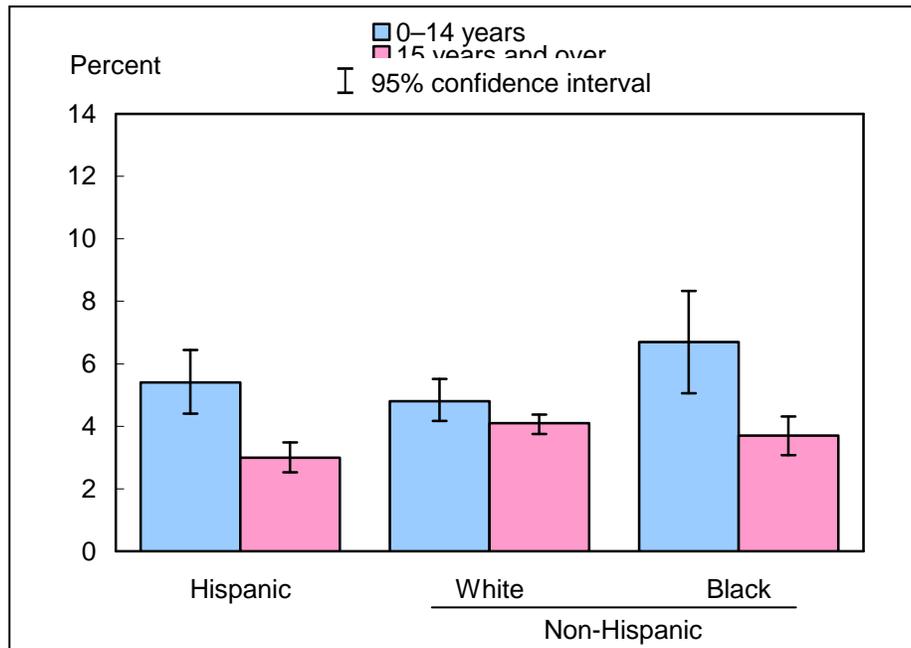
NOTES: Information on an episode of asthma or asthma attack during the past 12 months is self-reported by adults aged 18 years and over. For children under age 18 years, the information is collected from an adult family member, usually a parent, who is knowledgeable about the child's health. The analyses excluded 67 persons (0.2%) with unknown asthma episode status.

DATA SOURCE: Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components of the 2005 National Health Interview Survey. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

■ For both sexes combined, the percentage of persons who had an asthma episode in the past 12 months was higher among children under age 15 years than among persons aged 15–34 years and 35 years and over. This age difference was seen among males, but not among females.

■ For children under age 15 years, the percentage of persons who had an asthma episode in the past 12 months was higher among boys than among girls. However, for age groups 15–34 years and 35 years and over, the percentage was higher among females than among males.

Figure 15.3. Sex-adjusted percentage of persons of all ages who experienced an asthma episode in the past 12 months, by age group and race/ethnicity: United States, 2005

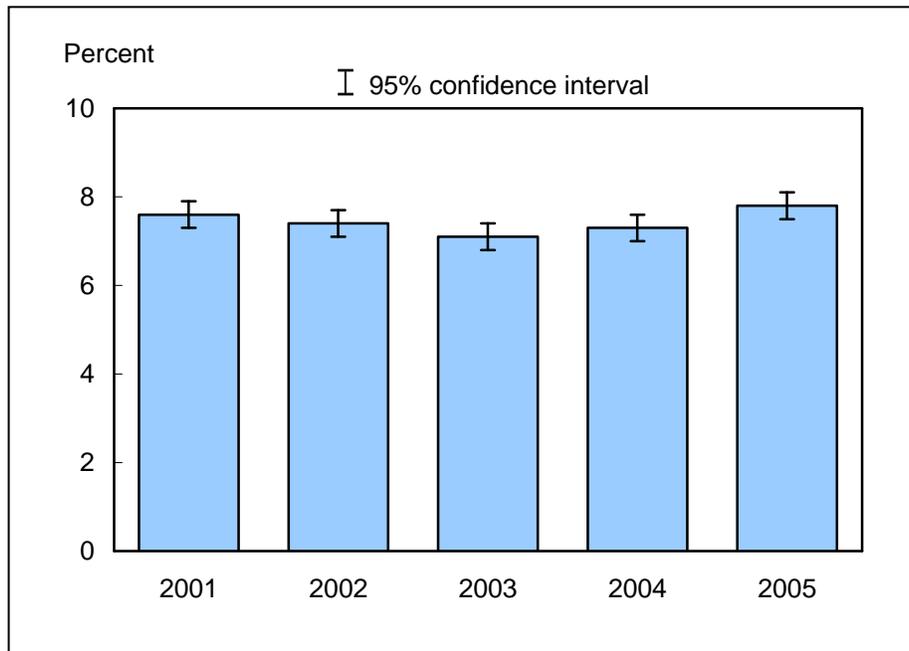


NOTES: Information on an episode of asthma or asthma attack during the past 12 months is self-reported by adults aged 18 years and over. For children under age 18 years, the information is collected from an adult family member, usually a parent, who is knowledgeable about the child's health. The analyses excluded 67 persons (0.2%) with unknown asthma episode status.

DATA SOURCE: Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components of the 2005 National Health Interview Survey. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

- For children under age 15 years, the sex-adjusted percentage of persons who had an asthma episode in the past 12 months was higher among non-Hispanic black children than among non-Hispanic white children.
- For persons aged 15 years and over, the sex-adjusted percentage of persons who had an asthma episode in the past 12 months was higher among non-Hispanic white persons than among Hispanic persons.

Figure 15.4. Prevalence of current asthma among persons of all ages: United States, 2001–2005

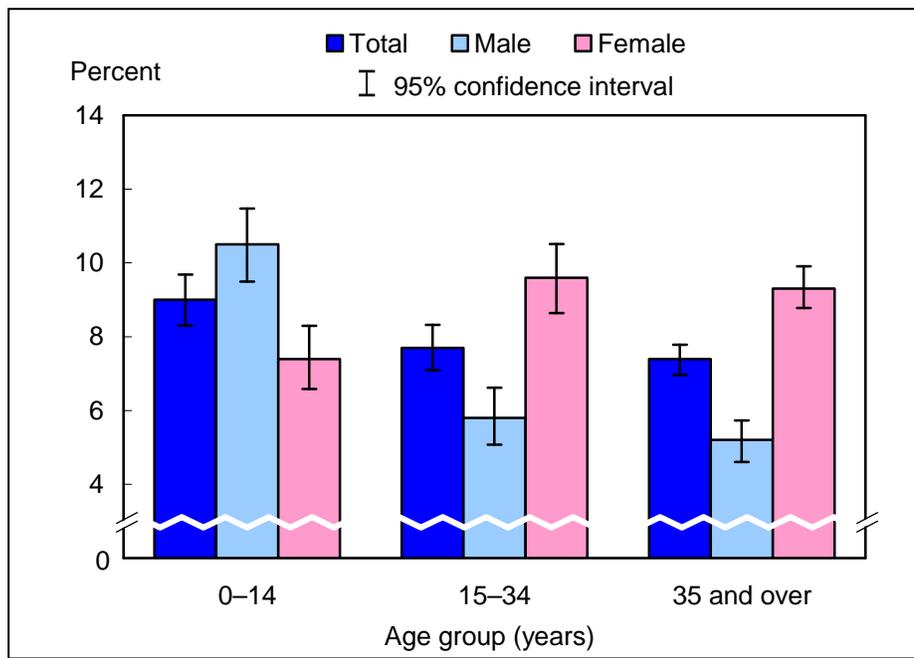


NOTES: Beginning in 2001, respondents were asked about current asthma in addition to the question regarding asthma episodes. Information on current asthma is self-reported by adults aged 18 years and over. For children under age 18 years, the information is collected from an adult family member, usually a parent, who is knowledgeable about the child's health. The analyses excluded people with unknown current asthma status (about 0.3% of respondents each year). Beginning with the 2003 data, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) transitioned to weights derived from the 2000 census. In this Early Release, estimates for 2001–02 were recalculated using weights derived from the 2000 census. See "About This Release" and Table III in the Appendix for more details.

DATA SOURCE: Combined Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components of the 2001–2005 NHIS. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

- In 2005, 7.8% (95% confidence interval = 7.50–8.10%) of persons of all ages currently had asthma, which was higher than the 2004 estimate of 7.3%.
- The annual prevalence of current asthma among persons of all ages was 7.6% in 2001, 7.4% in 2002, 7.1% in 2003, 7.3% in 2004, and 7.8% in 2005.

Figure 15.5. Prevalence of current asthma among persons of all ages, by age group and sex: United States, 2005



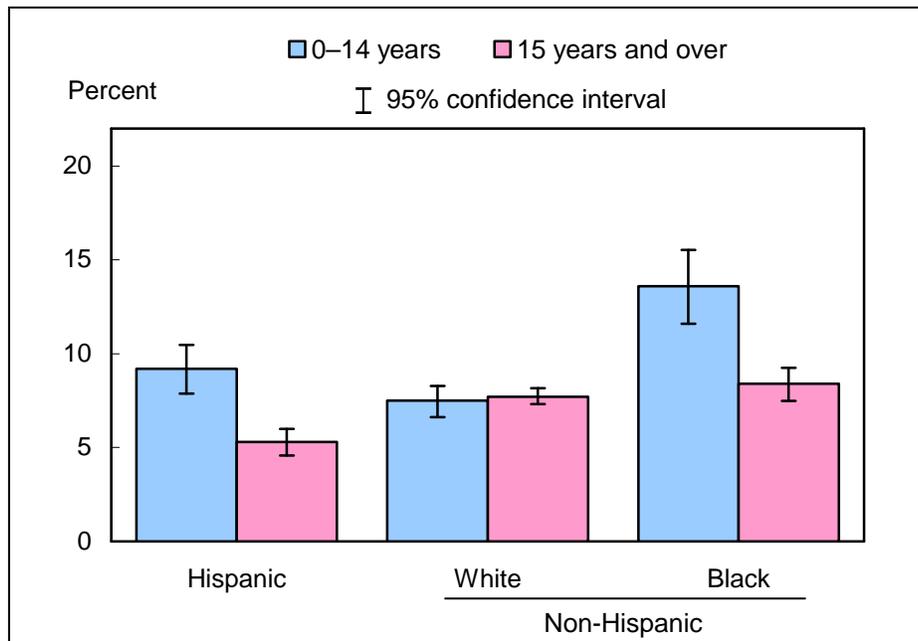
NOTES: Information on current asthma is self-reported by adults aged 18 years and over. For children under age 18 years, the information is collected from an adult family member, usually a parent, who is knowledgeable about the child's health. The analyses excluded 81 persons (0.2%) with unknown current asthma status.

DATA SOURCE: Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components of the 2005 National Health Interview Survey. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

- For both sexes combined, the prevalence of current asthma was higher among children 0–14 years old than among persons aged 15–34 years and 35 years and over. This pattern was seen among males, but not females.

- For children under age 15 years, the prevalence of current asthma was higher among boys than among girls. However, for age groups 15–34 years and 35 years and over, the prevalence of current asthma was higher among females than among males.

Figure 15.6. Sex-adjusted prevalence of current asthma among persons of all ages, by age group and race/ethnicity: United States, 2005



NOTES: Information on current asthma is self-reported by adults aged 18 years and over. For children under age 18 years, the information is collected from an adult family member, usually a parent, who is knowledgeable about the child's health. The analyses excluded 81 persons (0.2%) with unknown current asthma status.

DATA SOURCE: Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components of the 2005 National Health Interview Survey. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

- For children under age 15 years, the sex-adjusted prevalence of current asthma was higher among non-Hispanic black children than among Hispanic or non-Hispanic white children.
- Among the six age-specific race/ethnicity groups, the sex-adjusted prevalence of current asthma was highest among non-Hispanic black children under age 15 years (13.6%).

Data tables for figures 15.1–15.6:

Data for figure 15.1. Percentage of persons of all ages who experienced an asthma episode in the past 12 months: United States, 1997–2005

Year	Percent (95% confidence interval)	
	Crude ¹	Age-adjusted ²
1997	4.2 (4.0-4.4)	4.2 (3.9-4.4)
1998	4.0 (3.7-4.2)	3.9 (3.7-4.2)
1999	3.9 (3.6-4.1)	3.9 (3.6-4.1)
2000	4.0 (3.8-4.2)	4.0 (3.8-4.2)
2001	4.3 (4.1-4.6)	4.3 (4.1-4.5)
2002	4.3 (4.0-4.5)	4.3 (4.0-4.5)
2003	3.9 (3.7-4.1)	3.9 (3.7-4.1)
2004	4.1 (3.8-4.3)	4.1 (3.8-4.3)
2005	4.2 (3.99-4.43)	4.2 (4.00-4.44)

¹Crude estimates are presented in the figure.

²Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. standard population using three age groups: 0–14 years, 15–34 years, and 35 years and over.

NOTES: Beginning with the 2003 data, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) transitioned to weights derived from the 2000 census. In this Early Release, estimates for 2000–2002 were recalculated using weights derived from the 2000 census. See “About This Release” and Table III in the Appendix for more details.

DATA SOURCE: NHIS, 1997–2005. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

Data table for figure 15.2. Percentage of persons of all ages who experienced an asthma episode in the past 12 months, by age group and sex: United States, 2005

Age and sex	Percent	95% confidence interval
0–14 years		
Total	5.4	4.83-5.92
Male	6.4	5.60-7.17
Female	4.3	3.66-4.97
15–34 years		
Total	4.1	3.66-4.54
Male	2.8	2.20-3.30
Female	5.5	4.77-6.15
35 years and over		
Total	3.8	3.52-4.06
Male	2.5	2.10-2.82
Female	5.0	4.57-5.41
All ages: crude¹		
Total	4.2	3.99-4.43
Male	3.4	3.11-3.69
Female	5.0	4.67-5.30
All ages: age-adjusted²		
Total	4.2	4.00-4.44
Male	3.4	3.09-3.67
Female	5.0	4.66-5.29

¹Crude estimates are presented in the figure.

²Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. standard population using three age groups: 0–14 years, 15–34 years, and 35 years and over.

DATA SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2005. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

Data table for figure 15.3. Sex-adjusted percentage of persons of all ages who experienced an asthma episode in the past 12 months, by age group and race/ethnicity: United States, 2005

Age and race/ethnicity	Percent ¹	95% confidence interval
0–14 years		
Hispanic or Latino	5.4	4.40-6.44
Not Hispanic or Latino:		
White, single race	4.8	4.17-5.52
Black, single race	6.7	5.06-8.33
15 years and over		
Hispanic or Latino	3.0	2.53-3.49
Not Hispanic or Latino:		
White, single race	4.1	3.75-4.37
Black, single race	3.7	3.08-4.31

¹Estimates are sex adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. standard population.

DATA SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2005. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

Data for figure 15.4. Prevalence of current asthma among persons of all ages: United States, 2001–2005

Year	Percent (95% confidence interval)	
	Crude ¹	Age-adjusted ²
2001	7.6 (7.3-7.9)	7.6 (7.3-7.9)
2002	7.4 (7.1-7.7)	7.4 (7.1-7.7)
2003	7.1 (6.8-7.4)	7.1 (6.8-7.4)
2004	7.3 (7.0-7.6)	7.3 (7.1-7.7)
2005	7.8 (7.50-8.10)	7.8 (7.51-8.11)

¹Crude estimates are presented in the figure.

²Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. standard population using three age groups: 0–14 years, 15–34 years, and 35 years and over.

NOTES: Beginning in 2001, respondents were asked about current asthma in addition to the question regarding asthma episodes. Beginning with 2003 data, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) transitioned to weights derived from the 2000 census. In this Early Release, estimates for 2000–2002 were recalculated using weights derived from the 2000 census. See “About This Release” and Table III in the Appendix for more details.

DATA SOURCE: NHIS, 2001–05. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

Data table for figure 15.5. Prevalence of current asthma among persons of all ages, by age group and sex: United States, 2005

Age and sex	Percent	95% confidence interval
0–14 years		
Total	9.0	8.30-9.68
Male	10.5	9.49-11.47
Female	7.4	6.58-8.29
15–34 years		
Total	7.7	7.09-8.32
Male	5.8	5.07-6.62
Female	9.6	8.64-10.51
35 years and over		
Total	7.4	6.96-7.78
Male	5.2	4.61-5.73
Female	9.3	8.78-9.91
All ages: crude¹		
Total	7.8	7.50-8.10
Male	6.5	6.11-6.93
Female	9.0	8.61-9.44
All ages: age-adjusted²		
Total	7.8	7.51-8.11
Male	6.5	6.09-6.90
Female	9.0	8.59-9.41

¹Crude estimates are presented in the figure.

²Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. standard population using three age groups: 0–14 years, 15–34 years, and 35 years and over.

DATA SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2005. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

Data table for figure 15.6. Sex-adjusted prevalence of current asthma among persons of all ages, by age group and race/ethnicity: United States, 2005

Age and race/ethnicity	Percent ¹	95% confidence interval
0–14 years		
Hispanic or Latino	9.2	7.88-10.47
Not Hispanic or Latino:		
White, single race	7.5	6.62-8.28
Black, single race	13.6	11.60-15.54
15 years and over		
Hispanic or Latino	5.3	4.59-5.99
Not Hispanic or Latino:		
White, single race	7.7	7.32-8.17
Black, single race	8.4	7.49-9.26

¹Estimates are sex adjusted to the 2000 projected U.S. standard population.

DATA SOURCE: National Health Interview Survey, 2005. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.