

**Table 36. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among children under age 18, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2018**

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2019.htm#Table-036>

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Under 18 years			Under 6 years			6–17 years		
	1997	2010	2018	1997	2010	2018	1997	2010	2018
	Percent of children with one or more emergency department visits <sup>1</sup>								
All children <sup>2</sup> .....	19.9	22.1	19.6	24.3	27.8	23.9	17.7	19.1	17.6
Sex									
Male .....	21.5	23.3	21.1	25.2	29.3	27.8	19.6	20.1	17.8
Female .....	18.3	20.9	18.1	23.3	26.3	19.5	15.7	18.2	17.4
Race <sup>3</sup>									
White only .....	19.4	21.2	18.4	22.6	26.6	22.3	17.8	18.4	16.5
Black or African American only .....	24.0	27.6	26.3	33.1	34.0	31.3	19.4	24.2	24.0
American Indian or Alaska Native only .....	*24.1	20.9	35.6	*24.3	*35.4	*	*24.0	*	36.1
Asian only .....	12.6	15.0	12.2	20.8	18.4	21.5	8.6	13.3	8.2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only .....	---	*	*	---	*	*	---	*	*
2 or more races .....	---	27.2	21.8	---	34.9	25.8	---	21.6	19.6
Hispanic origin and race <sup>3</sup>									
Hispanic or Latino .....	21.1	23.6	20.7	25.7	30.2	26.5	18.1	19.4	18.0
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	19.7	21.7	19.2	24.0	27.0	22.9	17.6	19.0	17.5
White only .....	19.2	20.4	17.7	22.2	25.1	21.4	17.7	18.2	16.0
Black or African American only .....	23.6	27.2	26.6	32.7	34.4	31.6	19.2	23.3	24.3
Percent of poverty level <sup>4</sup>									
Below 100% .....	25.1	30.6	26.0	29.5	35.4	31.8	22.2	27.6	22.8
100%–199% .....	22.0	25.7	23.7	28.0	31.6	25.8	19.0	22.3	22.6
200%–399% .....	18.0	18.4	18.5	21.4	22.7	24.4	16.4	16.4	15.8
400% or more .....	16.3	15.9	14.0	19.1	21.7	16.5	15.1	13.3	13.0
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level <sup>3,4</sup>									
Hispanic or Latino:									
Below 100% .....	21.9	27.0	21.4	25.0	32.0	30.1	19.6	23.4	17.4
100%–199% .....	20.8	23.3	23.3	28.8	31.6	25.5	15.6	18.0	22.2
200%–399% .....	21.4	19.5	16.6	24.6	25.2	26.3	19.6	16.1	12.3
400% or more .....	17.7	21.4	20.3	*20.2	28.6	22.8	16.4	18.0	18.9
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White only:									
Below 100% .....	25.5	33.7	26.6	27.2	37.4	29.3	24.4	31.6	24.9
100%–199% .....	22.3	26.3	21.9	25.8	29.2	24.7	20.7	24.7	20.3
200%–399% .....	17.8	17.6	18.6	20.9	21.2	23.7	16.3	15.9	16.3
400% or more .....	16.5	15.5	13.6	19.0	21.0	15.9	15.4	13.2	12.7
Black or African American only:									
Below 100% .....	29.3	32.4	34.1	39.5	41.6	39.1	23.0	26.6	30.7
100%–199% .....	22.5	27.5	27.5	31.7	34.5	*	18.5	23.7	25.2
200%–399% .....	18.5	22.3	21.8	23.9	24.6	23.9	16.3	21.4	21.0
400% or more .....	16.1	18.9	15.9	*18.8	*24.1	*	15.2	16.1	16.1

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 36. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among children under age 18, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2018—Con.**

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2019.htm#Table-036>

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Under 18 years			Under 6 years			6–17 years		
	1997	2010	2018	1997	2010	2018	1997	2010	2018
Health insurance status at time of interview <sup>5</sup>									
Percent of children with one or more emergency department visits <sup>1</sup>									
Insured .....	19.8	22.3	19.7	24.4	28.1	24.1	17.5	19.2	17.6
Private .....	17.5	17.1	15.6	20.9	21.8	19.9	15.9	14.9	13.7
Medicaid .....	28.2	30.0	26.1	33.0	35.5	29.6	24.1	26.4	24.1
Uninsured .....	20.2	19.4	18.1	23.0	24.0	19.5	18.9	17.6	17.7
Health insurance status prior to interview <sup>5</sup>									
Insured continuously all 12 months .....	19.6	22.2	19.4	24.1	28.1	23.7	17.3	19.1	17.3
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months .....	24.0	23.7	28.0	27.1	28.0	28.9	21.9	21.3	27.6
Uninsured more than 12 months .....	18.4	17.6	10.8	19.3	*21.3	*	18.1	16.7	*
Percent of poverty level and health insurance status prior to interview <sup>4,5</sup>									
Below 100%:									
Insured continuously all 12 months .....	26.3	31.7	26.6	30.9	36.3	32.0	22.8	28.7	23.5
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months .....	26.5	30.3	33.0	29.7	34.7	*	24.4	27.5	*
Uninsured more than 12 months .....	17.5	*19.6	*	*16.0	*	*	18.0	*16.0	*
100%–199%:									
Insured continuously all 12 months .....	21.8	26.2	23.4	28.0	32.4	25.1	18.6	22.4	22.5
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months .....	24.5	28.4	33.1	29.7	30.9	*	21.0	27.0	32.4
Uninsured more than 12 months .....	19.5	17.6	*	*22.5	*	*	18.6	*17.2	*
200%–399%:									
Insured continuously all 12 months .....	17.7	18.4	18.3	21.2	22.8	24.6	16.1	16.3	15.4
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months .....	21.1	16.2	20.8	*19.5	*22.7	27.8	22.1	*12.6	17.3
Uninsured more than 12 months .....	19.2	*17.4	*	*22.7	*	*	17.6	*18.7	*
400% or more:									
Insured continuously all 12 months .....	16.2	16.1	13.8	18.9	22.0	16.4	15.1	13.5	12.6
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months .....	*19.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Uninsured more than 12 months .....	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Geographic region									
Northeast .....	18.5	22.3	19.0	20.7	27.8	21.5	17.4	19.6	17.8
Midwest .....	19.5	23.3	19.8	26.0	28.8	25.0	16.4	20.7	17.4
South .....	21.8	23.4	21.3	25.6	30.4	26.1	19.9	19.5	19.0
West .....	18.5	19.1	17.3	23.5	23.3	20.9	15.9	16.8	15.6
Location of residence <sup>6</sup>									
Within MSA .....	19.7	21.8	19.2	23.9	27.7	23.8	17.4	18.6	16.9
Outside MSA .....	20.8	24.2	22.9	26.2	28.6	24.0	18.6	22.1	22.5

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 36. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among children under age 18, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2018—Con.**

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[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	Under 18 years			Under 6 years			6–17 years		
	1997	2010	2018	1997	2010	2018	1997	2010	2018
	Percent of children with two or more emergency department visits <sup>1</sup>								
All children <sup>2</sup> .....	7.1	8.4	7.6	9.6	10.8	9.3	5.8	7.2	6.8
Sex									
Male .....	7.3	8.5	8.5	9.9	11.3	11.7	6.0	7.0	6.8
Female .....	6.9	8.3	6.6	9.4	10.3	6.5	5.7	7.3	6.7
Race <sup>3</sup>									
White only .....	6.6	7.6	6.9	8.4	10.1	8.1	5.7	6.3	6.3
Black or African American only .....	9.6	12.6	10.6	14.9	15.7	14.7	6.9	11.0	8.7
American Indian or Alaska Native only .....	*	*	19.3	*	*	*	*	*	21.8
Asian only .....	*5.7	7.3	4.7	*12.9	*	*	*	*7.1	2.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only .....	---	*	*	---	*	*	---	*	*
2 or more races .....	---	10.3	8.3	---	*11.7	10.3	---	*9.2	7.2
Hispanic origin and race <sup>3</sup>									
Hispanic or Latino .....	8.9	8.6	9.0	11.8	11.7	12.5	7.0	6.6	7.3
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	6.8	8.4	7.1	9.2	10.5	8.1	5.7	7.3	6.6
White only .....	6.2	7.4	6.2	7.8	9.3	6.5	5.5	6.4	6.1
Black or African American only .....	9.3	12.3	10.9	14.6	15.8	15.7	6.8	10.4	8.6
Percent of poverty level <sup>4</sup>									
Below 100% .....	11.1	13.4	12.6	14.5	15.3	17.2	8.9	12.1	10.1
100%–199% .....	8.3	10.3	9.6	12.2	13.4	10.2	6.3	8.4	9.3
200%–399% .....	6.2	6.3	6.9	7.4	7.3	8.7	5.6	5.9	6.1
400% or more .....	4.0	5.0	3.8	5.0	7.3	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.8
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level <sup>3,4</sup>									
Hispanic or Latino:									
Below 100% .....	10.4	9.9	11.2	13.9	10.9	17.6	8.0	9.2	8.3
100%–199% .....	8.2	9.4	9.4	12.0	15.4	9.9	5.7	5.5	9.2
200%–399% .....	8.5	5.9	6.6	10.0	*8.0	12.6	*7.6	*4.6	3.9
400% or more .....	*5.0	*6.5	*	*	*	*	*	*5.2	*
Not Hispanic or Latino:									
White only:									
Below 100% .....	10.7	14.0	11.4	12.2	15.5	12.3	9.8	13.1	10.9
100%–199% .....	8.0	10.4	8.5	11.2	12.3	*	6.4	9.4	8.3
200%–399% .....	6.0	5.7	7.2	6.7	*6.5	7.5	5.6	5.4	7.1
400% or more .....	3.7	5.0	3.4	4.6	7.6	3.0	3.3	3.9	3.6
Black or African American only:									
Below 100% .....	12.7	16.1	16.5	19.1	22.1	22.2	8.8	12.4	12.6
100%–199% .....	9.2	12.4	11.4	*13.5	*14.6	*	*7.2	11.1	9.4
200%–399% .....	5.8	9.9	6.9	*8.9	*10.2	*	*4.5	*9.8	*
400% or more .....	*	*3.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

See footnotes at end of table.

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	1997	2010	2018	1997	2010	2018	1997	2010	2018
Health insurance status at time of interview <sup>5</sup>									
Percent of children with two or more emergency department visits <sup>1</sup>									
Insured .....	7.0	8.5	7.6	9.6	11.0	9.5	5.7	7.1	6.6
Private .....	5.2	5.5	5.2	6.8	7.4	6.7	4.5	4.6	4.5
Medicaid .....	13.1	12.8	11.3	16.2	15.3	13.4	10.4	11.2	10.2
Uninsured .....	7.7	8.0	8.4	9.8	*8.5	*	6.8	7.8	9.4
Health insurance status prior to interview <sup>5</sup>									
Insured continuously all 12 months .....	6.9	8.4	7.3	9.4	10.8	9.1	5.7	7.1	6.5
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months .....	8.5	10.1	13.1	11.5	13.3	15.4	6.6	8.4	12.1
Uninsured more than 12 months .....	6.8	7.8	*	*8.6	*	*	6.2	*7.9	*
Geographic region									
Northeast .....	6.2	7.8	6.4	7.6	10.3	6.2	5.4	6.6	6.5
Midwest .....	6.6	9.1	7.0	10.4	11.4	8.6	4.8	8.0	6.2
South .....	8.0	9.1	8.8	10.1	12.9	12.1	6.9	7.1	7.3
West .....	7.1	7.2	6.9	10.0	7.6	7.4	5.6	7.0	6.7
Location of residence <sup>6</sup>									
Within MSA .....	7.2	8.3	7.3	9.6	10.6	9.3	5.9	7.0	6.4
Outside MSA .....	6.8	9.3	9.4	9.7	12.2	9.0	5.6	7.9	9.6

\* Estimates are considered unreliable. Starting with 2016 data, the reliability of survey percentage estimates is assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Before 2016 data, the reliability of estimates was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSEs). Data preceded by an asterisk have an RSE of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%. For more information, see Appendix II, Data presentation standards for proportions; Relative standard error (RSE).

--- Data not available.

<sup>1</sup> Respondents were asked, “During the past 12 months, how many times has your child gone to a hospital emergency room about his or her own health? (This includes emergency room visits that resulted in a hospital admission.)” See Appendix II, Emergency department or emergency room visit.

<sup>2</sup> Includes all other races not shown separately and unknown health insurance status.

<sup>3</sup> The race groups white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 “Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity” and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The five single- and multiple-race categories shown follow the 1997 standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes persons who reported more than one racial group. Before 1999, data were tabulated with four racial groups according to the 1977 standards, and the Asian only category included Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Estimates for single-race categories before 1999 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race are treated as missing, and then race is imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all persons with a race response of other race are of Hispanic origin. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race.

<sup>4</sup> Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Missing family income data are imputed for 1997 and beyond. See Appendix II, Family income; Poverty; Table VII.

<sup>5</sup> Health insurance categories are mutually exclusive. Persons who reported both Medicaid and private coverage are classified as having private coverage. Starting with 1997 data, state-sponsored health plan coverage is included as Medicaid coverage. Starting with 1999 data, coverage by the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is included as Medicaid coverage. In addition to private and Medicaid, the insured category includes military plans, other government-sponsored health plans, and Medicare. Persons not covered by private insurance, Medicaid, CHIP, state-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plans (starting in 1997), Medicare, or military plans are considered to have no health insurance coverage. Persons with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered to have no health insurance coverage. See Appendix II, Health insurance coverage.

<sup>6</sup> MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2016 data, MSA status is determined using 2010 Census data and the 2010 standards for defining MSAs. For more information, including the definition applied before 2016, see Appendix II, Metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

NOTE: Standard errors and data for additional years are available in the Excel spreadsheet version of this table on the *Health, United States* website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/index.htm>.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, Family Core and Sample Child questionnaires. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).