National Immunization Survey-Teen

Error Profile for the 2024 NIS-Teen

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Immunization
and Respiratory Diseases

Presented by:

NORC at the University of Chicago

October 2025

Acknowledgments

The development of this report involved contributions from the following individuals:

Zachary H. Seeskin, Benjamin Skalland, F. Jay Breidt, Grace Xie, and Yuhei Koshino, NORC at the University of Chicago

Laurie D. Elam-Evans, Cassandra Pingali, and James A. Singleton, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC

The authors may be contacted with any questions about the report and methodology.

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

List of Abbreviations

ACS: American Community Survey

APR: Adolescent participation rate

CPO: Cell-phone only

CPS ASEC: Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement

HPV UTD: Up-to-date for HPV vaccine series: ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses

IIS: Immunization Information Systems

IISAR: Immunization Information Systems Annual Report

LLO: Landline only

MenACWY: Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

NHIS: National Health Interview Survey

NIS-Child: National Immunization Survey-Child

NIS-Teen: National Immunization Survey-Teen

PEP: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimate Program

PRC: Provider Record Check

PUMS: Public Use Microdata Sample

RDD: Random digit dial

Tdap: Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis vaccine

TSE: Total survey error

UTD: Up-to-date

1. Introduction

Total survey error (TSE) is the difference between a survey estimate and the true value of the corresponding population parameter. TSE is the net effect of sampling error and all forms of nonsampling error, including sample-frame coverage error, error due to survey nonresponse, and errors of measurement (such as reporting, record checking, coding, and other processing errors). TSE excludes conceptual errors committed in deciding what should be measured in the survey and judgmental errors made in interpreting the survey findings or in making public policy based on the survey data.

The main aim of this report is to provide a well-rounded but brief discussion of what is known about TSE for 2024 National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) estimated vaccination coverage at the national level. Recent reports discussed TSE for the 2023 National Immunization Survey-Child (NIS-Child) (NORC 2024a) and the 2023 NIS-Teen (NORC 2024b). The statistics and methodology of the NIS have been described by Smith, Hoaglin, Battaglia et al. (2005) and Wolter, Smith, Khare et al. (2017).

The report is written in two parts. The first part, which appears in Section 2, compares NIS-Teen statistics to corresponding benchmarks derived from censuses or large reference surveys, such as the National Health Interview Survey and the American Community Survey. A large difference between an NIS-Teen statistic and its corresponding benchmark is likely a signal of error in the NIS-Teen or of definitional differences between NIS-Teen and benchmark concepts. A small difference may be a signal of good accuracy in the NIS-Teen or simply an indicator that the NIS-Teen statistic and its benchmark are consistent with one another. This part of the report examines demographic statistics, vaccination coverage estimates, and health insurance statistics.

The second part of the report, set forth in Section 3, focuses attention on the NIS-Teen estimated vaccination coverage. The material presents what is known from special evaluation studies about the component errors and the total error in the vaccination coverage estimates. The section culminates with discussion of the distribution of TSE in the 2024 NIS-Teen and of the change in TSE between the 2023 and 2024 NIS-Teen.

The report closes in Section 4 with a summary of findings and limitations.

Throughout the report, we analyze total survey error for the following vaccines: 1+ Tdap; 1+ MenACWY; and up-to-date (UTD) status for HPV[1] among the total age-eligible population, among females, and among males. Assessments are conducted at the national level (50 states plus the District of Columbia).

[1] ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses.

2. Comparisons of NIS-Teen Data to External Sources

We begin by comparing NIS-Teen demographic distributions (adolescent age, adolescent sex, adolescent race/ethnicity, mother's education, and mother's age) to benchmark distributions derived from the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP) and American Community Survey (ACS). Second, we compare NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates to estimates set forth in the Immunization Information Systems Annual Report (IISAR) for 1 or more doses of Td or Tdap vaccine since age 10 (1+ Td/Tdap). Finally, we compare health insurance distributions derived from the NIS-Teen Health Insurance Module to corresponding benchmark distributions obtained from (i) the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), (ii) the ACS, and (iii) the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

2.1 Demographic Distributions: Comparison of NIS-Teen Distributions to Population Distributions

A direct method of estimating survey error is to compare the survey estimates to benchmark estimates from other data sources, including census data and surveys with high response rates. While high-quality benchmark estimates of national vaccination coverage are not available, we can compare the survey estimates of demographic distributions to those derived from the PEP and ACS data.

To create benchmark demographic distributions for adolescents aged 13-17 years in 2024, we began by obtaining PEP data for 2023 by the combination of state, single year of age (12-16 years in 2023), sex, and race/ethnicity. (These data are made available from the Census Bureau at approximately a one-year lag, and the 2023 estimates were the most recent estimates available at this writing).[2] An adjustment was then made within age groups to remove the institutionalized population because the NIS-Teen target population excludes institutionalized adolescents. The distribution of education level for mothers of adolescents aged 13-17 years was estimated using the combined 2021, 2022, and 2023 one-year ACS Public-Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)[3]; these mother's education distribution estimates were produced within the combination of state and adolescent age, sex, and race/ethnicity and then applied to the overall PEP estimates for each combination to estimate the total number of adolescents by mother's education for each combination. The distribution of mother's age was estimated from one-year 2023 ACS data and applied to the overall PEP estimates to estimate

[2] https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

[3] US Census Bureau. 2023 ACS PUMS Data. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata.html

the total number of adolescents by mother's age. Finally, adjustments were made for mortality and foreign immigration; these steps account for changes in the adolescent population totals in the one-year period between the reference day (July 1, 2023) for the 2023 PEP counts and the midpoint of the reference year (July 1, 2024) for the 2024 NIS-Teen.

We produced 2024 NIS-Teen national-level demographic distribution estimates first using design weights and then using the final weights. The design weights reflect the sample design but do not include any adjustments for sampling-frame noncoverage or interview nonresponse and are not calibrated to population control totals. Final weights are the design weights, with adjustments for noncoverage, nonresponse, and calibration to population control totals. (See the footnotes to Table 2.1 for the demographics used in this calibration.)

Table 2.1 compares 2024 NIS-Teen national-level survey estimates of demographic distributions for adolescents with adequate provider data to benchmark distributions for adolescent age, sex, race/ethnicity, mother's education, and mother's age. The survey distributions of adolescent age, adolescent sex, and mother's age are very close to the population distributions, even when using the design weights.

The design-weighted distribution of adolescent race/ethnicity differs from the population distribution, with larger differences for non-Hispanic White only adolescents (54.9 percent in survey, 49.1 percent in population) and non-Hispanic Black only adolescents (9.7 percent in survey, 13.8 percent in population). These differences are substantially smaller when final weights are used (48.2 percent survey estimate for non-Hispanic White only adolescents, 49.1 percent in population; 13.3 percent survey estimate for non-Hispanic Black only adolescents, 13.8 percent in population). Note that the final-weighted distribution does not exactly match the population distribution because final weights are calibrated to only three race/ethnicity categories – Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black only, and other (including non-Hispanic White only) – and in some geographic areas categories for calibration may be collapsed due to small sample sizes.

Differences between survey estimates and population values are also observed for mother's education. The survey over-represents adolescents whose mothers have a four-year college degree when the design weights are used (48.5 percent in survey, 38.3 percent in population) and under-represents adolescents whose mothers have no high school degree, only a high school degree, or some college. When the final weights are used, the survey still over-represents adolescents whose mothers have a four-year college degree (45.8 percent in survey, 38.3 percent in population) and under-represents adolescents whose mothers have some college (21.9 percent in survey, 29.7 percent in population). (Final survey weights are calibrated to population totals for less than high school, high school, and more than high school, but are not calibrated separately for some college vs. four-year degree.)

Table 2.1: One-Way Demographic Distributions Among Adolescents with Adequate Provider Data vs. Population Controls: NIS-Teen, United States, 2024

		Design Weighted		Final Weighted*	
Demographic	**Population Percentage**	**Survey Estimate**	**Survey Estimate - Population Percentage**	**Survey Distribution**	**Survey Estimate - Population Percentage**
Adolescent Age					
13 years	19.2	19.0 ± 1.1	-0.1 ± 1.1	18.8 ± 1.0	-0.4 ± 1.0
14 years	19.6	20.1 ± 1.1	0.5 ± 1.1	19.9 ± 1.0	0.4 ± 1.0
15 years	20.0	20.5 ± 1.1	0.5 ± 1.1	20.2 ± 1.0	0.3 ± 1.0
16 years	20.7	21.1 ± 1.2	0.4 ± 1.2	21.7 ± 1.1	1.0 ± 1.1
17 years	20.6	19.3 ± 1.1	-1.3 ± 1.1	19.3 ± 1.0	-1.3 ± 1.0
Adolescent Sex					
Male	51.2	52.9 ± 1.4	1.7 ± 1.4	51.2 ± 1.3	0.0 ± 1.3
Female	48.8	47.1 ± 1.4	-1.7 ± 1.4	48.8 ± 1.3	0.0 ± 1.3
Adolescent Race/Ethnicity					
Hispanic	26.3	24.2 ± 1.2	-2.1 ± 1.2	26.3 ± 1.2	0.1 ± 1.2
Non-Hispanic White only	49.1	54.9 ± 1.4	5.8 ± 1.4	48.2 ± 1.2	-1.0 ± 1.2
Non-Hispanic Black only	13.8	9.7 ± 0.9	-4.1 ± 0.9	13.3 ± 1.0	-0.5 ± 1.0
Other	10.8	11.1 ± 0.9	0.4 ± 0.9	12.1 ± 0.8	1.4 ± 0.8
Mother Education					
Less than high school	11.5	9.8 ± 0.9	-1.7 ± 0.9	11.7 ± 0.9	0.2 ± 0.9
High school	20.5	17.0 ± 1.1	-3.6 ± 1.1	20.6 ± 1.1	0.1 ± 1.1
Some college	29.7	24.7 ± 1.2	-5.0 ± 1.2	21.9 ± 1.0	-7.8 ± 1.0
4-year college graduate	38.3	48.5 ± 1.4	10.2 ± 1.4	45.8 ± 1.3	7.5 ± 1.3
Mother Age					
< 35 years	7.1	6.6 ± 0.7	-0.5 ± 0.7	7.3 ± 0.7	0.2 ± 0.7
35-44 years	47.4	44.0 ± 1.4	-3.3 ± 1.4	43.5 ± 1.3	-3.9 ± 1.3
>= 45 years	45.6	49.4 ± 1.4	3.8 ± 1.4	49.2 ± 1.3	3.7 ± 1.3

Note: Excludes U.S. territory samples in Guam and Puerto Rico.
Note: The notation ± signifies 95% confidence intervals.
* Final provider-phase weights are calibrated within each geographic estimation area to marginal totals for adolescent age (13-14 years, 15-17 years), adolescent sex (male, female), adolescent race/ethnicity (Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black only, all other race/ethnicity groups), mother's education (less than high school, high school, more than high school), household telephone status (cell-phone-only, other), and quintile of the estimated propensity to have adequate provider data for the adolescent, given the household interview was completed for the adolescent. Some geographic areas categories for calibration may be collapsed due to small sample sizes.

Comparisons of demographic distributions were made between survey estimates and population values for all two-way combinations of adolescent age, adolescent sex, adolescent race/ethnicity, and mother's education, first using design weights and then using final weights. While final weights are controlled to marginal population totals for these characteristics individually, the weights are not controlled to totals for cross-classifications of these characteristics. Differences between survey estimates and population values for cross-classifications involving the adolescent age, sex, race/ethnicity, and mother's education categories in Table 2.1 are all less than 5 percentage points when final weights are used.

2.2 Comparison of NIS-Teen and IISAR Vaccination Coverage Estimates

This subsection compares NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates to Immunization Information Systems Annual Report (IISAR) data for 2023.[4] The comparison is given for estimates of coverage with 1+ Td/Tdap using the data available from IISAR, recognizing that the findings may not apply to other vaccine series. Note that 1+ Td/Tdap estimates are the only vaccination coverage estimates for the NIS-Teen age range provided by IISAR. Agreement between the vaccination coverage estimates signals consistency between the NIS-Teen and IISAR, and it may signal that both sources provide an accurate measurement of the true vaccination coverage in the age-eligible adolescent population (13- to 17-year-old adolescents).[5] Lack of agreement between the vaccination coverage estimates signals inconsistency and that one or both sources is less accurate.

Our work in this subsection is divided into four parts. First, we describe some definitions we will use in this analysis. Second, we compare the vaccination coverage estimates in NIS-Teen and IISAR visually using scatterplots. Third, we describe two available indicators of IIS[6] quality. We conclude by providing evidence that higher quality IIS according to these indicators tend to have smaller differences in the 1+ Td/Tdap vaccination coverage estimate between NIS-Teen and IISAR.

What is IISAR?

The IISAR is an annual assessment of IIS activity among the 64 immunization program awardees, which include the 50 states, six cities (Chicago, District of Columbia, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, and San Antonio), and eight U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands). To evaluate each awardee's performance, the immunization program manager in the awardee area is

[4] https://www.cdc.gov/iis/about/

[5] Agreement between the two sources does not necessarily mean both sources are accurate. If the two sources have similarly sized errors in the same direction, there can be agreement without accuracy.

[6] IIS are computer databases that aspire to contain information about all of the doses of all vaccines administered to all adolescent residents within a jurisdiction. It is known that different IIS vary in their completeness of both adolescents and the doses they received. https://www.cdc.gov/iis/annual-report-iisar/

asked to complete a self-administered and web-based questionnaire asking for demographic and immunization information about vaccine recipients, public and private provider site participation levels, and information about fulfillment of IIS functional standards. Because the questionnaire is self-administered and web-based, some awardees may report partial data or no data at all.

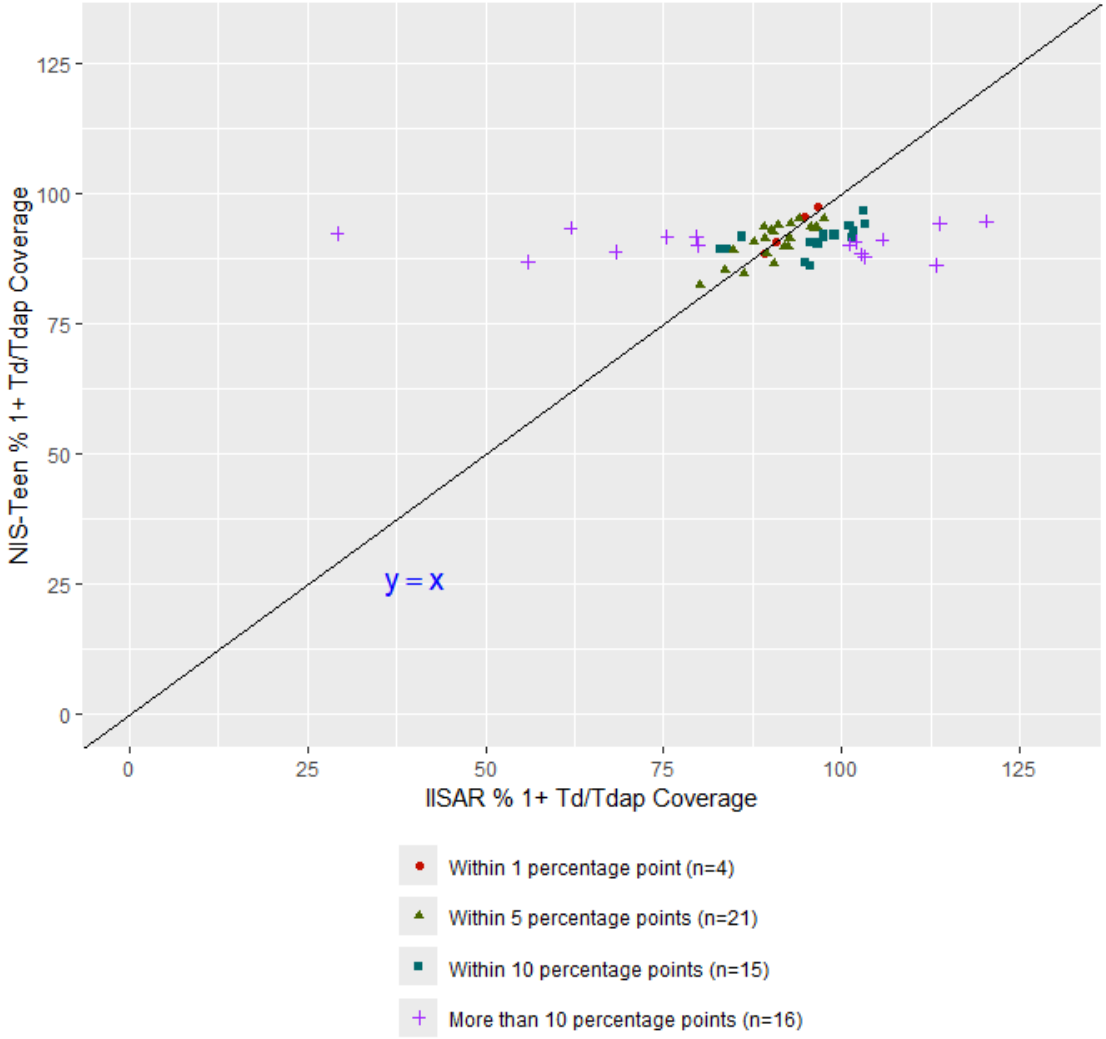
In what follows, we compare 2023 NIS-Teen vaccination estimates to 2023 IISAR vaccination estimates. Because 2024 IISAR vaccination coverage estimates are not available as of this writing, the 2023 comparison will serve as the most current information available about the relative accuracy of the 2024 NIS-Teen.

Visual Comparison of Vaccination Coverage Estimates

Figure 2.1 displays a plot of the NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimate versus the IISAR vaccination coverage estimate for 1+ Td/Tdap for the year 2023. Figure 2.1 includes the 56 core estimation areas used in NIS-Teen; it does not include points corresponding to eight U.S. territories. IISAR vaccination coverage estimates use an IIS count of vaccinated adolescents as the numerator and a U.S. Census count of adolescents living in the area as the denominator; this can result in some IISAR vaccination rates being greater than 100 percent, for example if adolescents in the IIS catchment area have moved away from the area but remain in the IIS.

In Figure 2.1, the straight line through the origin reflects the $y = x$ line. Points above the line represent areas in which the NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimate is greater than the IISAR estimate, and points below the line represent areas in which the IISAR estimate is greater. The line itself represents complete agreement between the estimates. In addition, the color and symbol of each point signifies the magnitude of the difference between the NIS-Teen and IISAR rates. The plot shows a range of levels of agreement between NIS-Teen vaccination coverage and IISAR estimates across areas, including some areas where the NIS-Teen estimates are greater and some where the IISAR estimates are greater.

Figure 2.1: Scatterplot of National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen, in %) vs. Immunization Information Systems (IISAR, in %) Vaccination Coverage Estimates for 1+ Td/Tdap: 56 Estimation Areas, 2023

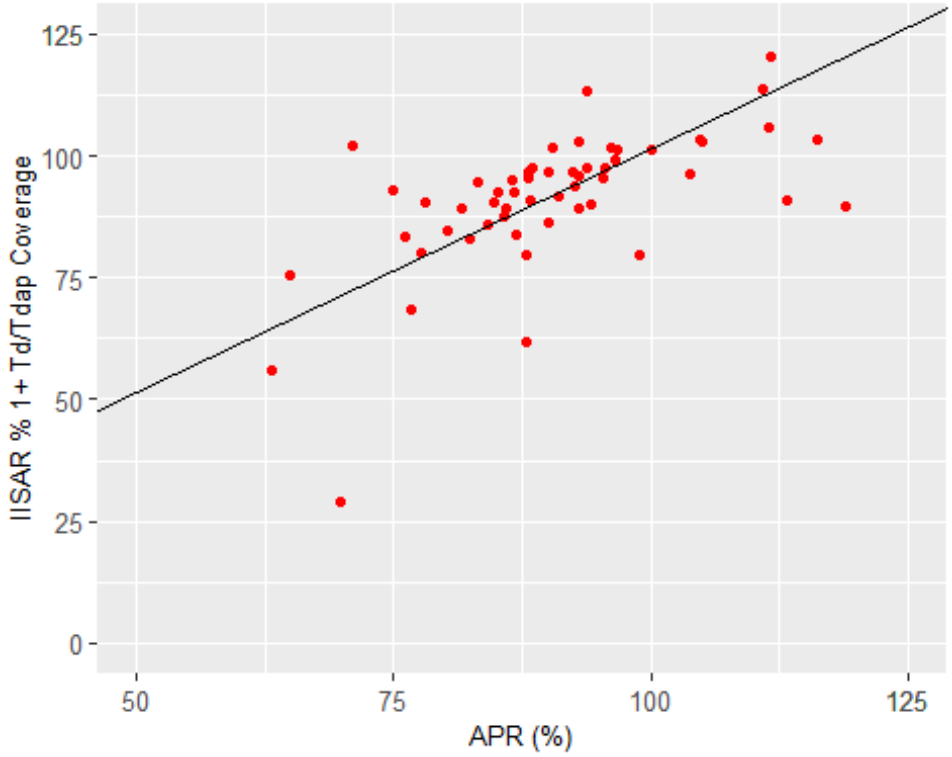


Indicators of IIS Quality

To test the hypothesis that for higher quality IIS data there is greater agreement between NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination estimates, we review two different indicators of IIS quality. First, the adolescent participation rate (APR) is the proportion of adolescents in the area who have two or more doses of any vaccine recorded in the IIS relative to a U.S. Census Bureau count of adolescents living in the area. We hypothesize that a higher APR signals higher quality of the IIS. Note that some APR values are greater than 100 percent; this can occur if adolescents in the IIS catchment area have moved away from the area but remain in the IIS, if there are duplicate adolescent records in the IIS, or if there are inaccuracies in the Census population count.

In Figure 2.2, we plot the IISAR vaccination coverage estimate for 1+ Td/Tdap versus the APR for the year 2023, including the 56 core estimation areas. By studying the relationship, we investigate the hypothesis that a higher APR rate is associated with more complete vaccination histories for adolescents in the IIS and therefore tends to indicate a higher quality IIS vaccination coverage estimate. Note that the IISAR vaccination coverage estimate uses an IIS count of vaccinated adolescents as the numerator but a U.S. Census count of adolescents living in the area as the denominator. Like with the APR, this can result in some IISAR vaccination coverage rate estimates being greater than 100 percent.

Figure 2.2: Scatterplot of Immunization Information Systems Annual Report (IISAR, in %) Vaccination Coverage Estimate for 1+ Td/Tdap vs. Adolescent Participation Rate (APR, in %): 56 Estimation Areas, 2023



We fit a linear regression model to the points in Figure 2.2, and the corresponding fit is represented by the solid line depicted in the figure. The association of APR with the IISAR vaccination coverage estimate is positive and strongly statistically significant. The Pearson correlation is 0.732 with a 95% confidence interval of [0.581, 0.834].

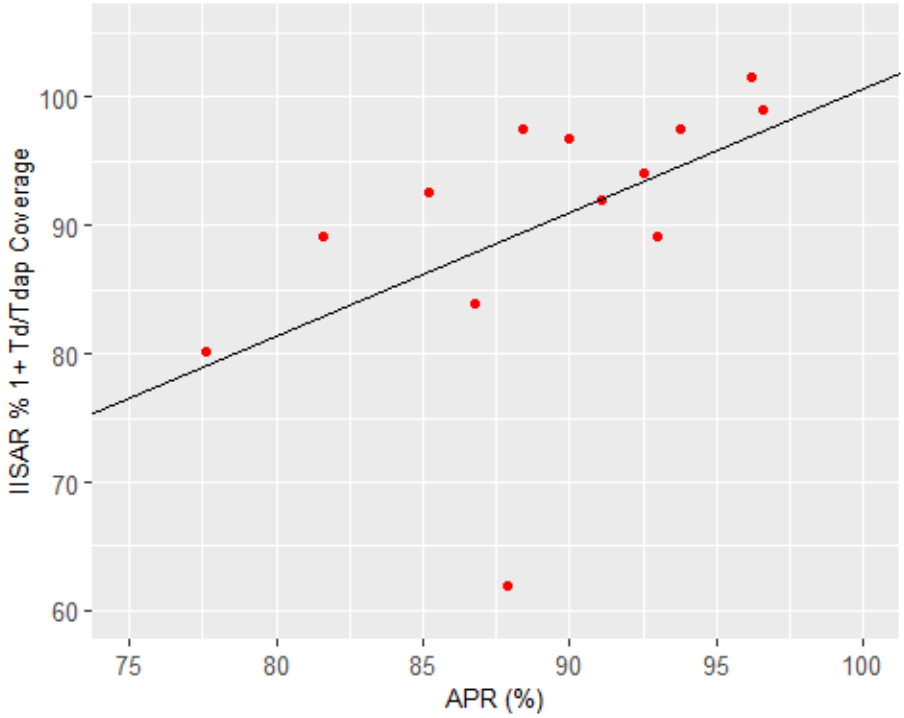
We conclude that APR is positively associated with IISAR vaccination coverage estimates, which may suggest that a higher APR tends to reflect a higher quality IIS. We also note that having an APR value greater than 100 percent is an indicator of population over-coverage of the IIS—that is, there are more adolescents in the IIS than there are currently living in the area. An APR over 100 percent may therefore indicate the IISAR vaccination coverage estimate is too high.

As a second indicator of IIS quality, we consider whether the IIS mandates reporting of vaccinations to the IIS by vaccination providers. Out of the 56 areas, information provided by CDC in May 2025 indicated that 18 areas mandated reporting of vaccinations for all providers.[7]

Among these 18 areas with mandated reporting of vaccinations for all providers, there were 13 with an APR less than 100 percent.

Within these 13 areas, we note that a higher APR may indicate higher quality IIS data for the purposes of evaluating NIS-Teen estimates. Figure 2.3 presents a scatterplot of the IISAR vaccination coverage estimate for 1+ Td/Tdap versus the APR for the year 2023 among these 13 areas. In these areas, we find a positive relationship (*p*-value 0.074) between the IISAR vaccination coverage estimate and the APR, with a Pearson correlation of 0.511 with a 95% confidence interval of [-0.055, 0.829]. If we assume that a higher IISAR vaccination coverage estimate indicates that the IIS is more likely to have complete vaccination histories, this provides evidence that a higher APR is associated with higher IIS quality among these 13 areas.

Figure 2.3: Scatterplot of Immunization Information Systems Annual Report (IISAR, in %) Vaccination Coverage Estimate for 1+ Td/Tdap vs. Adolescent Participation Rate (APR, in %): 13 Estimation Areas Meeting IIS Quality Criteria, 2023

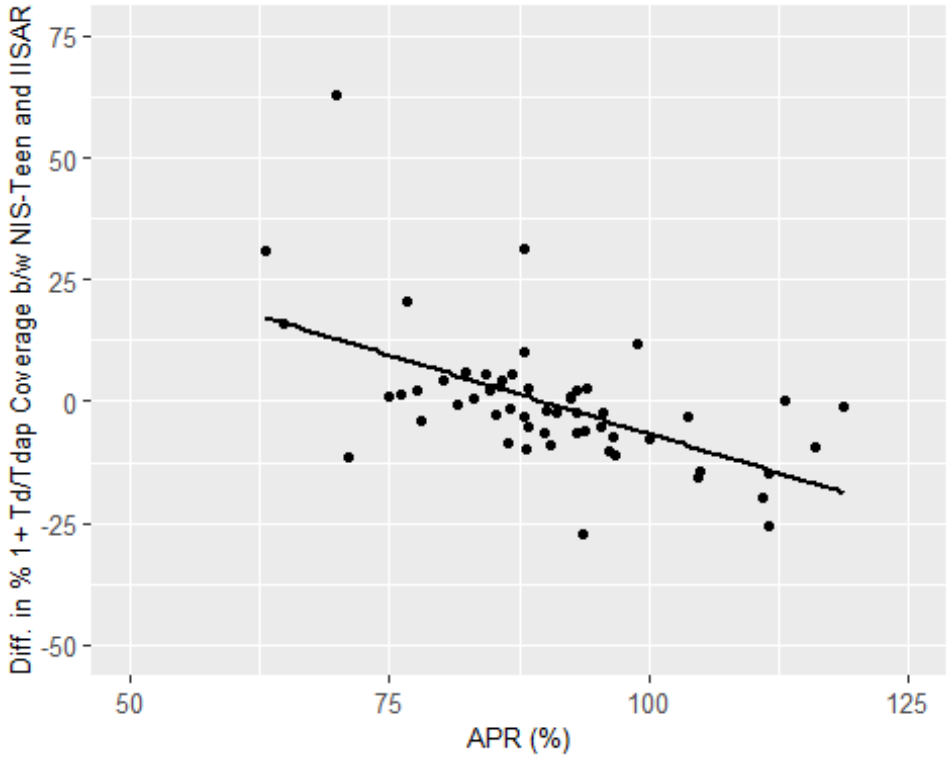


[7] We also examined whether regulations in the area required providers to obtain an individual's explicit permission prior to reporting vaccinations to the IIS. Requiring explicit permission may result in less reporting of vaccinations and therefore lower IIS data quality. There are 6 areas requiring this explicit permission. The 18 areas with mandatory provider reporting could be further limited by removing areas requiring explicit permission to report to the IIS. However, none of the 6 areas requiring explicit permission are among the 18 areas with mandated provider reporting.

Examination of the Difference Between NIS-Teen and IISAR Vaccination Coverage Estimates

We examined the level of agreement between NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination coverage estimates first by looking at the relationship between the APR and difference in vaccination coverage estimates across all 56 estimation areas. Under the hypothesis that increasing quality of state IIS data as indicated by the APR is associated with increasing agreement between the NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination coverage estimates, we calculated the difference between the 1+ Td/Tdap coverage estimates in NIS-Teen and IISAR and fit a simple linear regression model relating the difference to the APR. Figure 2.4 presents the scatterplot of the difference versus the APR for the set of all 56 estimation areas in 2023, and the straight line depicted in the figure is the regression line. The APR has a strong and statistically significant relationship with the difference. The coefficient on the APR is negative (-0.953 percentage points with a 95% confidence interval of [-1.214, -0.692]), which implies that the difference declines with increasing APR. As the APR, as an indicator of IIS data quality, increases from below 70 percent towards 100 percent, IISAR vaccination estimates tend to converge towards NIS-Teen vaccination estimates, thus supporting the correlation and accuracy of both estimates.

Figure 2.4: Scatterplot of the Difference in Vaccination Coverage Estimate (Percentage Points, National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) Minus Immunization Information Systems Annual Report (IISAR)) vs. Adolescent Participation Rate (APR, in %): 56 Estimation Areas, 2023

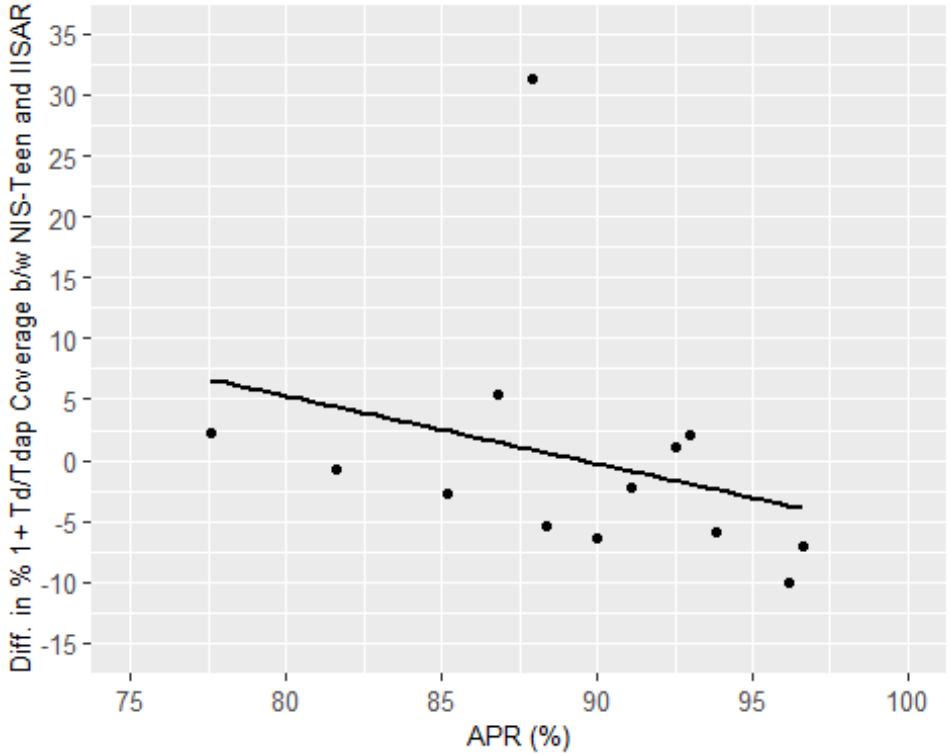


We next focused on the 13 areas that met the criteria for higher quality IISAR estimates, i.e., those with mandated reporting to the IIS by vaccination providers and an APR of less than 100 percent. Figure 2.5 presents a similar scatterplot to Figure 2.4 with the difference between the NIS-Teen and IISAR 1+ Td/Tdap vaccination coverage estimate on the vertical axis and the APR on the horizontal axis. The average difference between the NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination coverage estimate is +0.1 percentage points, and the median difference is -2.2 percentage points. For the area that is an outlier in Figure 2.3, Figure 2.5 shows that the NIS-Teen estimate is 31.3 percentage points higher than the IISAR estimate. However, the remainder of the estimates are all within 10 percentage points with differences ranging from -10.0 percentage points to +5.4 percentage points. Aside from the one outlier, this indicates greater agreement among NIS and IISAR estimates in these areas than found when examining all areas in Figure 2.4.

Like Figure 2.4, Figure 2.5 also examines the relationship between the difference in NIS-Teen and IISAR estimates and the APR. The regression line demonstrates a decreasing trend between the APR and the difference between the NIS-Teen and IISAR estimates in these 13 areas. The slope of the regression line is negative, but not statistically different from zero (-0.556 percentage points with a 95% confidence interval of [-1.737, 0.624]). The scatterplot shows that as APR climbs towards 100 percent, the difference between the NIS-Teen and the IISAR vaccination coverage estimate becomes negative—that is, areas with higher APR tend to have NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates lower than the corresponding IISAR estimates.

Summarizing, we have found that when focusing on areas with potentially higher quality IISAR estimates (as indicated by mandated reporting policies and APR values that are less than 100 percent), there is a greater level of agreement between NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination coverage estimates than found across all areas, with 12 out of 13 estimates within 10 percentage points. We also found that among these areas, areas with a high APR tend to have an NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimate that is lower than the corresponding IISAR estimate, although the estimate of the slope of the regression line is not statistically different from 0.

Figure 2.5: Scatterplot of the Difference in Vaccination Coverage Estimate (Percentage Points, National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS-Teen) Minus Immunization Information Systems Annual Report (IISAR)) vs. Adolescent Participation Rate (APR, in %): 13 Estimation Areas Meeting IIS Quality Criteria, 2023



2.3 Comparison of Adolescents by Type of Health Insurance Coverage

In this subsection, we compare NIS-Teen health insurance estimates to those from the ACS, the CPS ASEC, and the NHIS. We discuss the percentages of adolescents with any private insurance coverage, any public insurance coverage, and no insurance coverage, with a comparison in Table 2.2. Before reviewing the results presented in the table, we provide an overview of each data source.

Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, the ACS is an ongoing survey that provides essential information about the population of the United States on an annual basis, including statistics related to social, housing, economic, and demographic characteristics of the population. Estimates in Table 2.2 contain information on health insurance status for the adolescent population aged 13-17 years based on the 2023 ACS at the national level, the most recently available ACS data as of this writing. ACS interviews are conducted throughout the calendar year, and the ACS instrument assesses health insurance status as of the date of the interview.

CPS ASEC is conducted in March of every year. While CPS is a monthly household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics and designed mainly

for measuring employment and unemployment, CPS ASEC provides additional detailed statistics related to household income, poverty, health insurance status, and other topics. The CPS ASEC asks current health insurance coverage status as of the time of the interview. Based on data from the March 2023 and 2024 CPS ASEC, national-level estimates of the health insurance distribution in 2023 and 2024 among adolescents aged 13-17 years are shown in Table 2.2.

The NHIS is a cross-sectional household interview survey, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, that covers the civilian noninstitutionalized population in the United States. The objective of the NHIS is to monitor the health status of the U.S. population. In addition to collecting variables related to health status, the survey collects many demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of household members. In the NHIS, health insurance status is assessed as of the time of the interview. NHIS national-level estimates of the health insurance distribution for adolescents aged 13-17 years are shown in Table 2.2 for 2023 only, as 2023 is the most recently available NHIS data.

In reviewing Table 2.2, we find the NIS-Teen estimate of the proportion of adolescents with private insurance to be larger than those from the ACS and NHIS for 2023, while the NIS-Teen estimate is smaller than the CPS ASEC estimate for 2023 and 2024. We find the estimates for public health insurance in NIS-Teen to be larger than the corresponding estimates from ACS, CPS ASEC, and NHIS in 2023 and also larger than the CPS ASEC estimate in 2024. Finally, we find NIS-Teen estimates of the size of the uninsured population are lower than corresponding estimates from ACS, CPS ASEC, and NHIS in 2023 and also lower than the CPS ASEC estimate for 2024. The differences in estimates between the NIS-Teen and the other three sources could be due to differential error in the NIS-Teen relative to the other sources (due to differential sample-frame coverage error, nonresponse error, or measurement error), or to definitional differences (questionnaire differences) in how health insurance status is measured.

Table 2.2: Comparison of Alternative Estimates of Health Insurance Coverage Among Adolescents ages 13-17 Years: NIS-Teen, ACS, CPS ASEC, and NHIS for 2023 and NIS-Teen and CPS ASEC for 2024

Type of Health Insurance Coverage	2023				2024	
	ACS	CPS ASEC	NHIS	NIS-Teen[a]	CPS ASEC	NIS-Teen[a]
Any private[b]	60.8%	63.1%	57.3%	61.7%	63.2%	61.1%
Any public[c]	39.3%	35.8%	40.4%	43.6%	34.8%	43.1%
Uninsured[d]	5.8%	6.0%	4.4%	3.8%	6.6%	5.2%

NIS-Teen: National Immunization Survey-Teen.
ACS: American Community Survey. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata.html
CPS ASEC: Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement. https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-asec.html
NHIS: National Health Interview Survey. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/data-questionnaires-documentation.htm
[a] NIS-Teen estimates were produced among adolescents with adequate provider data using the final NIS-Teen survey weights, which are adjusted for noncoverage and nonresponse and calibrated to demographic population control totals.
[b] Private: Includes coverage provided through an employer or union or purchased directly from an insurance company that helps pay for both doctor visits and hospital stays.
[c] Public: Includes Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, Indian Health Service, TRICARE, Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services, and Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
[d] Uninsured: Adolescents are defined as uninsured if they do not have private insurance that helps pay for both doctor visits and hospital stays and do not have any other form of health insurance.

3. Assessment of Total Survey Error for NIS-Teen Vaccination Coverage Estimates

In this part of the report, we assess the total survey error in NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates using the framework developed and implemented in Molinari et al. (2011) and Wolter et al. (2017). We decompose the total survey error (TSE) into components of sampling and nonsampling error and then assemble the best information available about the magnitude of each component error from specialized evaluation studies. We view each component error as a random variable subject to a conditional distribution, given the outcome of the NIS-Teen. The mean of the conditional distribution is estimated from numerical evidence obtained in the corresponding evaluation study. The variance of the distribution, reflecting both variability in the evaluation survey samples and other uncertainties in our knowledge about the component error, is estimated from internal evidence within the evaluation study and possibly additional professional judgment. After assembling the best available information about each of the component errors, we combine the information to produce a total survey error distribution, using a Monte Carlo method.

Before proceeding to consider the component errors, we introduce some notation that will be helpful in this section. Let μ_0 denote the true but unknown vaccination coverage in the age-eligible population of adolescents, and let $\hat{\mu}$ denote the NIS-Teen estimate of vaccination coverage. The TSE in the vaccination coverage estimate is then given by

$$\boldsymbol{q_0 = \hat{\mu} - \mu_0} \ . \qquad (1)$$

We use a three-stage model for TSE, where Stage 1 represents error due to the sampling-frame's under-coverage of the population of age-eligible adolescents, Stage 2 represents error due to nonresponse among sampled units, and Stage 3 represents measurement error among the responding units. The model for the first stage (sampling-frame coverage) is

$$\boldsymbol{\mu_0 = (1 - p_{1A})\mu_1 + p_{1A}\mu_{1A}} \ , \qquad (2)$$

where μ_1 is the true vaccination coverage for the age-eligible adolescents covered by the sampling frame, μ_{1A} is the true vaccination coverage for the age-eligible adolescents not covered by the sampling frame, and p_{1A} is the proportion of the age-eligible population not covered by the sampling frame. The model at the second stage (response) is

$$\boldsymbol{\mu_1 = (1 - p_{2A})\mu_2 + p_{2A}\mu_{2A}} \ , \qquad (3)$$

where μ_2 is the true vaccination coverage for adolescents who respond to NIS-Teen, μ_{2A} is the true vaccination coverage for adolescents who do not respond, and p_{2A} is the proportion of adolescents who do not respond. Finally, the model at the third stage (measurement) is

$$\boldsymbol{\mu_2 = (1 - p_{3A})\mu_3 + p_{3A}\mu_{3A}} \ , \qquad (4)$$

where μ_3 is the true vaccination coverage of adolescents for whom accurate response is given to the survey, μ_{3A} is the true vaccination coverage of adolescents for whom inaccurate response is given to the survey, and p_{3A} is the proportion of adolescents for whom inaccurate response is given.

Combining all three stages together, the true vaccination coverage can be written as

$$\boldsymbol{\mu_0 = (1 - p_{1A})[(1 - p_{2A})\{(1 - p_{3A})\mu_3 + p_{3A}\mu_{3A}\} + p_{2A}\mu_{2A}] + p_{1A}\mu_{1A}} \ . \qquad (5)$$

We can also write the TSE as

$$\boldsymbol{q_0 = q_1 + q_2 + q_3} \ , \qquad (6)$$

where $q_1 = \mu_1 - \mu_0$ is the error due to noncoverage, $q_2 = \mu_2 - \mu_1$ is the error due to nonresponse, and $q_3 = \hat{\mu} - \mu_2$ is the error due to inaccurate reporting by survey respondents.

The seven parameters on the right side of (5) are $\boldsymbol{\phi} = (\mu_{1A}, \mu_{2A}, \mu_{3A}, \mu_3, p_{1A}, p_{2A}, p_{3A})'$. Estimates of the values of these seven parameters, based on the analyses to be presented in Sections 3.2 through 3.4 below, are denoted by $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} = (\hat{\mu}_{1A}, \hat{\mu}_{2A}, \hat{\mu}_{3A}, \hat{\mu}_3, \hat{p}_{1A}, \hat{p}_{2A}, \hat{p}_{3A})'$. Let $\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$ denote the estimated variance-covariance matrix of $\boldsymbol{\phi}$. We assume the seven parameters are independently distributed and that $\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} = \mathrm{diag}\left(\hat{\sigma}^2_{\mu 1A}, \hat{\sigma}^2_{\mu 2A}, \hat{\sigma}^2_{\mu 3A}, \hat{\sigma}^2_{\mu 3}, \hat{\sigma}^2_{p1A}, \hat{\sigma}^2_{p2A}, \hat{\sigma}^2_{p3A}\right)$, where each $\hat{\sigma}^2$ is our estimate of the variance of the corresponding parameter.

We assume our knowledge about logit transformations of the true parameters, $\boldsymbol{\phi}$, can be acceptably represented by a multivariate normal probability distribution, with parameters $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}$.

We assess TSE by making random draws of $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ from its distribution. For each draw, we use equation (5) to produce a draw from the distribution of the true vaccination coverage in the overall age-eligible population (say, μ_0^*) and we compute $q^* = \hat{\mu} - \mu_0^*$ as a draw from the distribution of TSE. We obtain the distribution of TSE using 10,000 such draws.

Having established our model and notation, we now consider *sampling-frame coverage error* in NIS-Teen, which arises because the sampling frame omits direct representation of the landline-only (LLO) and phoneless populations. Second, we consider *nonresponse error* in the NIS-Teen, which comes about due to nonresponse in the random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey of households, to failure of the parental respondent to give consent to contact the adolescent's immunization providers, and to missing vaccination histories in the provider record check given consent. Third, we consider *response* or *measurement error* in the provider reporting of vaccination histories. This component of error has also been referred to as under-ascertainment of vaccination histories. Fourth, we consider error in the NIS-Teen due to sampling, i.e., error because the survey observes only about 1 out of 1,310 adolescents in the age-eligible population. Fifth, we combine the foregoing component error distributions, resulting in the TSE distribution of the vaccination coverage estimate for the 2024 NIS-Teen. Finally, we close this section by examining the change in the TSE from the 2023 NIS-Teen to the 2024 NIS-Teen using the bridging cohort method first described in Yankey, Hill, Elam-Evans et al. (2015).

3.1 Sampling-Frame Coverage Error

Sampling-frame coverage errors arise in a survey when the sampling frame does not include the entire target population. In 2018, the NIS-Teen began using a single-frame cell-phone RDD design, which omits direct representation of adolescents in LLO and phoneless households. To account for the excluded population groups, the NIS-Teen weighting methodology adjusts the weights by raking the weights to select demographic characteristics of the population of adolescents aged 13-17 years. The assumption embedded in this procedure is that, after controlling for these characteristics, the vaccination coverage in the population not represented on the sampling frame equals the coverage in the population represented on the frame. However, it is possible that estimated vaccination coverage of adolescents in the omitted domains differs from the vaccination coverage of adolescents in the included domains, which may introduce bias into the estimator of the vaccination coverage.

In this subsection, we attempt to measure the bias in the estimated vaccination coverage introduced by sampling-frame coverage error. Table 3.1 displays the proportion of adolescents aged 13-17 years in the population by telephone status by year for 2012-2023 based on estimates from the NHIS, as 2023 is the most recently available year of NHIS data. The proportion of adolescents in cell-phone-only (CPO) households is increasing throughout this period, and the proportion in dual-user households is decreasing. The estimated proportion in cell-phone households (i.e., CPO and dual-user combined), was relatively steady until 2018, before increasing from 95.5% in 2018 to 98.1% in 2019 and most recently to 99.3% in 2023. As a result, the estimated proportion of uncovered households decreased from 4.5% in 2018 to 0.7% in 2023.

Table 3.1: Percentage of Age-Eligible Adolescents in the Population by Telephone Status by Year: NIS-Teen, United States, 2012-2023

Year	Cell-Phone-Only	Dual-User	Landline-Only	Phoneless
2012	36.2	58.6	3.5	1.7
2013	40.5	55.3	2.4	1.8
2014	44.8	50.5	3.0	1.7
2015	49.3	47.0	2.1	1.7
2016	55.2	41.2	1.9	1.7
2017	55.7	40.4	1.7	2.2
2018	56.9	38.5	2.2	2.3
2019	63.2	34.8	0.8	1.1
2020	65.0	33.7	0.7	0.7
2021	72.3	27.0	0.1	0.6
2022	74.9	24.4	0.3	0.4
2023	80.0	19.3	0.3	0.5

Source: Produced using the methods of Blumberg, Ganesh, Luke, and Gonzales (2013) applied to data from the 2012-2023 National Health Interview Survey sponsored by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/index.htm).

The 2024 NIS-Teen did not directly measure LLO or phoneless adolescents, and to assess vaccination coverage in these domains and determine whether they differ from estimates in the combined cell-phone domain, we must turn to other sources. Specifically, the 2012-2017 NIS-Teen samples directly represented LLO adolescents and thus permit comparison of their vaccination coverage estimates to the corresponding estimates of adolescents in cell-phone households. Table 3.2 displays the vaccination coverage estimates for 2017, the closest such year to 2024. We observe that vaccination coverage estimates are generally higher in the cell-phone domain than in the LLO domain, yet none of the differences are statistically significant.

Table 3.2: Vaccination Coverage Estimates and Standard Errors of Select Vaccines and Vaccine Series for the Cell-Phone and Landline-Only Domains: NIS-Teen, United States, 2017

	Cell-Phone Domain		Landline-Only Domain		Difference	
Variance/Series	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
1+ Tdap	88.7	0.46	86.9	3.79	1.9	3.8
1+ MenACWY	85.3	0.48	73.4	6.69	11.8	6.7
HPV UTD^	48.7	0.66	40.3	7.29	8.5	7.3
HPV UTD among females	53.1	0.97	55.0	9.70	-1.9	9.8
HPV UTD among males	44.5	0.88	31.6	10.13	12.8	10.2

$* \ p \leq 0.05$.
^ Up-to-date (UTD): ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses.

Since NIS-Teen has never included direct sampling of phoneless adolescents, we study vaccination coverage in the phoneless domain using estimates from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey-Provider Record Check (NHIS-PRC).[8] Table 3.3 shows the vaccination coverage estimates for select vaccines and vaccine series for adolescents from the cell-phone domain versus those who are in the phoneless domain. Caution must be taken due to the very small sample size in the phoneless domain, but estimated differences in vaccination coverage estimates between the cell-phone domain and the phoneless domain are small relative to the standard errors of the differences.

[8] 2012 was the last, and therefore most recent, year for which the NHIS-PRC was conducted, and thus for which a direct measurement was obtained of the vaccination status of phoneless adolescents.

Table 3.3: Vaccination Coverage Estimates and Standard Errors of Select Vaccines and Vaccine Series for Adolescents 13-17 Years in the Cell-Phone and Phoneless Domains: National Health Interview Survey-Provider Record Check, United States, 2012

	Cell-Phone Domain		Phoneless Domain		Difference	
Vaccine	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error	Estimate	Standard Error
1+ Tdap	80.5	0.84	80.9	10.92	-0.4	11.0
1+ MenACWY	71.8	0.98	77.5	10.10	-5.7	10.1
1+ HPV among females[a]	51.7	1.49	41.3	13.06	10.4	13.1

$* \ p \leq 0.05.$

[a] Estimates for HPV vaccination with respect to the current recommendations are not available from the National Health Interview Survey-Provider Record Check and are not available for males or for the overall adolescent population; the estimates for HPV in table can be presented only for 1+ HPV vaccination among females.

The foregoing tables can be translated into an assessment of sampling-frame coverage error in 2024 NIS-Teen estimated vaccination coverage. We can also write the true vaccination coverage estimate as

$$\boldsymbol{\mu_0 = \mu_1 - q_1}\ , \qquad (7)$$

where $q_1 = p_{1A}(\mu_1 - \mu_{1A})$ equates to sampling-frame coverage error. To fully assess the distribution of total survey error in the NIS-Teen, we will require estimated parameters $\hat{p}_{1A}$, $\hat{\mu}_{1A}$, and $\hat{\mu}_1$, and their standard errors, which we will present in Section 3.5. Here we simply observe that $\hat{p}_{1A}$ will be obtained from the landline-only and phoneless columns on the right side of Table 3.1 for 2023 (the most recent year available), and $\hat{\mu}_{1A}$ will be obtained from the results of the 2024 NIS-Teen and the Difference columns on the right side of Tables 3.2 and 3.3. The estimate of vaccination coverage in the sampling-frame covered population, $\hat{\mu}_1$, will be obtained from the results of the 2024 NIS-Teen and from Sections 3.2 and 3.3 on nonresponse error and measurement error.

As a preliminary assessment of the effect of sampling-frame coverage error, we can estimate the true vaccination coverage estimate ignoring the effects of nonresponse and measurement error. In this circumstance, the NIS-Teen vaccination estimate is μ_1. Table 3.4 presents estimates of q_1 and of the true vaccination estimate, μ_0. For all five vaccination coverage estimates, we estimate that sampling-frame coverage error is 0.1 percentage points or less and the estimated error is less than the standard error of μ_0.

Table 3.4: Preliminary Assessment of Sampling-Frame Coverage Error and Mean True Vaccination Coverage Estimate (in %): National Immunization Survey-Teen, United States, 2024

Vaccine	$\hat{\mu}_1$ (2024 NIS-Teen % Vaccination Coverage Estimate)	$\hat{q}_1$[a]	$\hat{\mu}_0$(Mean of μ_0, the True 2024 % Vaccination Coverage)	Standard Error of μ_0
1+ Tdap	91.3	0.0	91.3	0.4
1+ MenACWY	90.1	0.0	90.1	0.4
HPV UTD*	62.9	0.1	62.8	0.6
HPV UTD among females	64.3	0.0	64.3	0.9
HPV UTD among males	61.6	0.1	61.5	0.9

* Up-to-date (UTD): ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses.

[a] The estimated sampling-frame coverage error, $\hat{q}_1$, is obtained by combining information in Table 3.2 about the landline-only population in 2017 with information in Table 3.3 about the phoneless population in 2012.

3.2 Nonresponse Error

There are two types of nonresponse error impacting NIS-Teen, unit nonresponse error due to not obtaining responses (or completed interviews) for all adolescents sampled and item nonresponse error due to missing questionnaire items among survey respondents. In this subsection, we focus on survey error due to unit nonresponse.

Components of Nonresponse in NIS-Teen

Unit nonresponse error in NIS-Teen estimates of vaccination coverage is the error arising because completed interviews and vaccination histories are not obtained for all adolescents sampled. Unit nonresponse arises at four steps in the survey process, as follows: (1) failure to resolve the selected telephone number as an occupied household or some other known entity, (2) failure to screen the household for the presence of an age-eligible adolescent, (3) failure to complete the telephone interview of an eligible household, and (4) failure to obtain consent to contact the adolescent's vaccination providers or failure to obtain sufficient information from providers to determine the adolescent's vaccination status, given consent. We do not observe the vaccination statuses of adolescents for whom either the household interview is missing or the provider record check is missing. This subsection assesses the extent of nonresponse error in the 2024 NIS-Teen estimates of vaccination coverage for three different vaccines: 1+ Tdap, 1+ MenACWY, and HPV UTD, with HPV analyzed for the overall population of adolescents and separately for males and females.

Weight Adjustment for Nonresponse Error

NIS-Teen addresses error due to nonresponse by using weight adjustments that correct for known differences between adolescents in responding and nonresponding households based on observable characteristics. Specifically, weighting cells are defined based on sample frame information known for both respondents and nonrespondents, and weights are adjusted by a factor inversely proportional to the response rate within each cell. Calibration of the weights to demographic population totals also serves to adjust for differences between the responding sample and the population. The NIS-Teen weighting methodology is described in detail in Wolter, Smith, Khare et al. (2017).

The weighting adjustment method assumes that nonresponse is a *missing at random* process (Rubin, 1976), or that the conditional distribution of vaccination coverage on the characteristics used to form the weighting cells and calibration dimensions is the same whether or not the data are missing. This assumption, while widely used for weighting adjustments, is generally untestable since we do not observe vaccination status for the nonrespondents. Thus, further methods are needed to assess the extent of nonresponse error after conducting weighting adjustments.

Assessment of Nonresponse Error

To inform our TSE models, an estimate of the proportion of adolescents with adequate provider data among adolescents in households corresponding to the sampled telephone numbers is needed. The 2024 NIS-Teen realization rate[9] of adolescents with adequate provider data was 3.0 percent with a standard error of 0.03 percentage points. Dividing the realization rate by the sampling-frame coverage rate estimated in Section 3.1 yields an estimate of the proportion of adolescents with adequate provider data among those covered by the sampling frame of 3.1 percent, or 96.9 percent without adequate provider data, with a standard error of 0.2 percentage points. These two numbers (96.9% with a standard error of 0.2 percentage points) serve as model inputs $\hat{p}_{2A}$ and $\hat{\sigma}_{p2A}$ for the TSE analysis.

We now assess the extent of nonresponse error both before conducting nonresponse weighting adjustments as well as the residual error after accounting for such adjustments. It is common in TSE analyses to compare estimates derived from the survey under study, NIS-Teen in this instance, with those from leading reference surveys (Biemer, 2010). A reasonable benchmark for the 2024 NIS-Teen is data available from the 2023 NHIS[10], because it provides representation of the same population of adolescents as the NIS-Teen, is known to be a premier health survey of the general population in the United States, is conducted using face-to-face

[9] The realization rate (Skalland, 2011) is calculated as the ratio of the unadjusted survey estimate of the size of the target population to an external estimate of the true size of the target population and can be interpreted as the product of the coverage rate of the sampling frame and the response rate.
[10] The 2023 NHIS was the most recently available year of NHIS data at the time of this analysis.

interviewing methods, and has a relatively high response rate, with the final response rate for the Sample Child component in 2023 being 44.9%.[11]

Comparing NIS-Teen estimates to those based on the 2023 NHIS enables estimation of nonresponse error. If nonresponse error is minimal in the NHIS, then the comparison to the NIS-Teen can be taken as a measure of nonresponse error in the NIS-Teen. To ensure comparability to the population covered by the NIS-Teen, we examine NHIS adolescents who are in the corresponding age range and have a working cell-phone in the family.

While the NHIS only includes household reports of vaccination for a small number of vaccine series, we can compare indirect vaccination coverage estimates derived from the NHIS to the direct vaccination coverage estimates derived from NIS-Teen provider reports. We take advantage of the range of variables that are common to both the 2024 NIS-Teen and the 2023 NHIS and produce estimates of nonresponse error for the following vaccination series: 1+ Tdap, 1+ MenACWY, and HPV UTD. Specifically, we estimate logistic regression models for vaccination status in the NIS-Teen with variables common to both surveys as independent variables. We then use the fitted models to produce multiple imputations of vaccination status for the NHIS case set, using the 2023 NHIS Public Use File.[12] Then, we estimate vaccination coverage using the NHIS data after pooling the survey-weighted estimates across the multiply-imputed datasets. We treat the estimates based on imputations of the NHIS as the true vaccination coverage among the population covered by the NIS-Teen sampling frame and estimate nonresponse error in the NIS-Teen estimates by taking the difference between the NIS-Teen and the NHIS estimates.

We note that a common method for nonresponse analysis is to apply modeling, including logistic regression, to develop predictions or imputations of key variables among nonrespondents to develop full-response key estimates and compare to estimates based on respondents alone (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). The method we employ in this study extends this concept to applying predictions or imputations to a reference survey. The final report of the NCES/NISS Task Force on Nonresponse Bias Analysis (National Institute of Statistical Sciences, 2009) recommends conducting multiple imputation when employing such methods to account for the uncertainty in estimates of nonresponse error due to missing data.

Table 3.5 compares the estimates of vaccination coverage based on the NHIS-imputed data and NIS-Teen provider-reported data. Two NIS-Teen estimates are presented, one based on applying design weights and another based on applying the final weights that reflect adjustments for noncoverage and nonresponse. Presenting both sets of estimates shows how the NIS-Teen estimates, before and after weighting adjustments, compare to the estimates based on NHIS imputations. The table further shows the percentage point difference between the NHIS-based estimate and the NIS-Teen estimate based on design weights. It includes a t-

[11] See p. 26 of https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Dataset_Documentation/NHIS/2023/srvydesc-508.pdf
[12] https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/data-questionnaires-documentation.htm

statistic for testing the difference between the two vaccination coverage estimates, accounting for the uncertainty in both estimates.

The NIS-Teen estimates based on design weights are 1.4 percentage points higher than the estimates based on NHIS imputations for 1+ Tdap, 0.7 percentage points higher for 1+ MenACWY, and 1.8 percentage points lower for HPV UTD. None of these differences are statistically significant (*p*-values of 0.21, 0.48, and 0.30 respectively), accounting for uncertainty in both the NHIS and NIS-Teen estimates. When examining HPV estimates by sex, the NIS-Teen estimates based on design weights are 2.2 percentage points lower for females (*p*-value 0.38) and 1.3 percentage points lower for males (*p*-value 0.56). For our TSE model, we estimate $\hat{\mu}_{2A}$ and $\hat{\sigma}_{2A}$ by first taking the difference in estimates between (b) the respondent set and (a) the full-response set and then using our estimate of $\hat{p}_{2A}$ described previously to derive $\hat{\mu}_{2A}$ as an estimate of the vaccination coverage among nonrespondents.

The NIS-Teen estimates based on final weights are 0.9 percentage points higher than the estimates based on NHIS imputations for 1+ Tdap, 0.3 percentage points higher for 1+ MenACWY, and 3.0 percentage points lower for HPV UTD. Examining HPV UTD estimates by sex, NIS-Teen estimates are 3.2 percentage points lower for females and 2.9 percentage points lower for males. There are differences for HPV UTD estimates, and the overall difference for both sex groups combined is statistically significant at the 10% level. When viewing the estimates based on NHIS imputations (a) as the full-response estimate of vaccination coverage, we find modest evidence of nonresponse bias for HPV UTD, but not for 1+ Tdap nor 1+ MenACWY. For all estimates, the large standard errors and insignificant results from statistical tests reflect uncertainty in our knowledge about the extent of nonresponse error.

One caveat is that the findings depend on the fit of the models used for imputation and the assumption that the conditional distributions of the NHIS case and NIS-Teen case vaccination status on the model variables are the same. The goodness-of-fit for the imputation models is not strong (pseudo-$R^2 \leq 0.10$), resulting in large standard errors for estimates based on NHIS imputations. This fact further illuminates the extent of uncertainty in our estimates of nonresponse error.

Table 3.5: Estimated Parameters of Nonresponse Error in Vaccination Coverage Estimates (in %) – Comparison of Estimates Derived from the 2024 NIS-Teen the 2023 NHIS

Estimates of Vaccination Coverage and Differences by Data Source and Weighting Method	1+ Tdap	1+ MenACWY	HPV UTD*	HPV UTD among Females	HPV UTD among Males
(a) Estimate Based on NHIS Imputations	90.4	89.8	65.9	67.5	64.4
Standard Error	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.2	2.0
(b) NIS-Teen Estimate (Design Weighted)	91.8	90.6	64.2	65.3	63.1
Standard Error	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.9
(c) NIS-Teen Estimate (Final Weighted)	91.3	90.1	62.9	64.3	61.6
Standard Error	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.9
(d) Difference, (b) - (a)	1.4	0.7	-1.8	-2.2	-1.3
Standard Error of Difference	1.1	1.1	1.7	2.4	2.2
t-statistic	1.25	0.71	-1.05	-0.88	-0.58
p-value (2-sided)	0.21	0.48	0.30	0.38	0.56
(e) Difference, (c) - (a)	0.9	0.3	-3.0	-3.2	-2.9
Standard Error of Difference	1.1	1.1	1.7	2.4	2.2
t-statistic	0.80	0.31	-1.83	-1.34	-1.29
p-value (2-sided)	0.42	0.76	0.07	0.18	0.20

* Up-to-date (UTD): ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses.

3.3 Measurement Error

In this subsection, we assess one source of measurement error in the NIS-Teen: provider under-reporting of the adolescent's vaccination status. Throughout, we assume if a provider reported a vaccination for a given adolescent, it was actually given. We consider an adolescent to have under-reported vaccination status if the adolescent is truly up-to-date for the vaccine but the adolescent is classified as not up-to-date based on the vaccination history reported by the adolescent's provider(s). That is, adolescents with under-reporting are up-to-date but are reported as not up-to-date; adolescents without under-reporting either are both truly up-to-date and reported as up-to-date or are truly not up-to-date and are reported as not up-to-date. All adolescents with under-reporting are, by definition, truly up-to-date.

To assess under-reporting in provider-reported vaccination histories, we rely on projects sponsored by CDC in which the NIS-Teen sample of adolescents in selected geographic estimation areas was matched to the state or local IIS. For each of these projects, the NIS-Teen interview requested parental consent to contact both the adolescent's vaccination providers and the local IIS. Adolescents for whom consent was obtained were matched to their respective IIS

databases. Then, for the set of matched adolescents, we compared each adolescent's vaccination status based on the provider report(s) to the adolescent's vaccination status when both the provider(s) and the IIS reports are included in a combined vaccination history.

We take the combined history to offer the best available information about the adolescent's true vaccination status, and we view the NIS-Teen provider-reported history to be possibly subject to an under-reporting mechanism. This mechanism, often called under-ascertainment, can arise if some but not all of the adolescent's providers were nominated by the household respondent, if the nominated provider's contact information was reported incorrectly by the household respondent, if not all of the nominated providers responded to the mailed Immunization History Questionnaire, or if respondent providers did not have or report complete vaccination records.

From the match studies, we estimated the proportion of adolescents with under-reported vaccination status. For each given vaccine, we determined the subset of matched adolescents for whom measured vaccination status (i.e., up-to-date or not up-to-date) from the combined (provider and IIS) vaccination history was equivalent to the vaccination status from the NIS-Teen provider-reported vaccination history alone. Then we made the reasonable assumption that equivalency of the measured vaccination statuses is a sign of accurate reporting in the NIS-Teen Provider Record Check. In other words, if the IIS did not add information about vaccination status beyond that already embodied within the NIS-Teen provider-reported data, then we took the NIS-Teen data to be accurate (not under-reported). If the adolescent was up-to-date based on the combined (provider and IIS) vaccination history but not up-to-date based on the NIS-Teen vaccination history alone, then we classified the adolescent as having an under-reported vaccination status in the NIS-Teen. Among the adolescents with adequate NIS-Teen provider data that were in the IIS and had two or more doses in the IIS, we estimated the NIS-Teen under-reporting rate for the vaccine as the design-weighted proportion classified as having under-reported vaccination status for the vaccine.

Recent sources of information for assessing under-reporting in the NIS-Teen are the match projects completed in 2017 and 2019. In 2017, match projects were conducted in 20 jurisdictions: Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York City, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. In 2019, match projects were conducted in eight jurisdictions: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New York City, Vermont, and Washington. Because only a subset of jurisdictions participated in match projects, we estimated the standard error of the estimated under-reporting rate by treating each selected IIS as a cluster sampled from the population of IIS in the United States.

Table 3.6 presents the estimated under-reporting error for the vaccines and vaccine series under study.

Table 3.6: Estimated Under-Reporting Error by Vaccine: NIS-Teen, United States, 2017 and 2019

Vaccine	Under-Reporting Error	
	Estimate (percentage points)	Standard Error (percentage points)
1+ Tdap	4.7	0.33
1+ MenACWY	4.1	0.33
HPV UTD*	2.5	0.25
HPV UTD among females	2.3	0.33
HPV UTD among males	2.5	0.38

Note: National-level under-reporting in NIS-Teen provider-reported vaccination status was estimated using data from the 2017 and 2019 IIS-NIS Match Projects. Among adolescents with adequate provider data found in the IIS database with two or more IIS doses, those classified as up-to-date based on the combined IIS-NIS vaccination history but not up-to-date based on the NIS-Teen vaccination history alone were considered to have under-reported NIS-Teen vaccination status.
* Up-to-date (UTD): ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months - 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses

3.4 Sampling Error

Sampling error arises from the fact that we observe only a random sample of the adolescent population, not the entire population. Table 3.7 presents estimated vaccination coverage and corresponding standard errors for 2024 NIS-Teen at the national level. We calculated the standard errors using the Taylor series method, first for the design-weighted vaccination coverage estimate and then for the final-weighted vaccination coverage estimate. The design weights reflect the sample design but do not include adjustments for noncoverage, nonresponse, nor calibration to population control totals. Final weights are the design weights, with adjustments for noncoverage, nonresponse, and calibration to population control totals.

The national-level standard errors for these five vaccination coverage estimates are small, ranging from approximately 0.4 to 0.9 percentage points.

Table 3.7: Vaccination Coverage Estimates and Standard Errors Using Design Weights and Final Weights: NIS-Teen, United States, 2024

	Design Weight		Final Weight	
Vaccine	**Estimate (%)**	**Standard Error (percentage points)**	**Estimate (%)**	**Standard Error (percentage points)**
1+ Tdap	91.8	0.4	91.3	0.4
1+ MenACWY	90.6	0.4	90.1	0.4
HPV UTD*	64.2	0.7	62.9	0.6
HPV UTD among females	65.3	1.0	64.3	0.9
HPV UTD among males	63.1	0.9	61.6	0.9

Note: Excludes U.S. territory samples in Guam and Puerto Rico.
* Up-to-date (UTD): ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses

3.5 Total Survey Error Distribution

This subsection consolidates the component assessments of sampling-frame coverage error (Section 3.1), nonresponse error (Section 3.2), measurement error (Section 3.3), and sampling error (Section 3.4) to develop our estimates of TSE for estimated vaccination coverage corresponding to 1+ Tdap, 1+ MenACWY, and HPV UTD, both overall and separately for males and females. The subsection culminates with the presentation of total survey error distributions, constructed using the methodology described in Molinari, Wolter, Skalland et al. (2011) and Wolter, Pineau, Skalland et al. (2017). For each estimate, we review the distribution of total survey error across 10,000 Monte Carlo simulations, treating the mean of the distribution as the point estimate of total error and the interval between the 2.5th percentile and the 97.5th percentile as the 95% credible interval of total error.

At the beginning of Section 3, we presented our TSE model and its seven parameters. Table 3.8 contains the values of these seven parameters and their standard errors we used in the model for TSE in the 2024 NIS-Teen. These values arise from the analyses described in Sections 3.2 through 3.4 above.[13] We assume the logit transformations of the inputs are normally distributed and independent (i.e., no covariance between inputs).

[13] $\hat{\mu}_{1A}$ and $\hat{\mu}_{2A}$, which were estimated based on the NHIS-PRC and models built from NIS-Teen vaccination data, respectively, have been adjusted upwards to account for provider under-reporting error in those surveys, assuming the same level of under-reporting error as was estimated in Section 3.4.

Table 3.8: Total Survey Error Model Inputs by Stages: NIS-Teen, United States, 2024

Parameter	1+ Tdap	1+ MenACWY	HPV UTD*	HPV UTD among Females	HPV UTD among Males
Stage 1: Sampling-Frame Coverage Error					
$\hat{p}_{1A}$	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
$\hat{\sigma}_{p1A}$	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
$\hat{\mu}_{1A}$	93.1%	90.7%	54.3%	61.2%	50.2%
$\hat{\sigma}_{\mu 1A}$	6.7%	7.0%	8.3%	9.0%	9.0%
Stage 2: Nonresponse Error					
$\hat{p}_{2A}$	96.9%	96.9%	96.9%	96.9%	96.9%
$\hat{\sigma}_{p2A}$	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
$\hat{\mu}_{2A}$	95.1%	93.9%	68.4%	69.9%	67.1%
$\hat{\sigma}_{\mu 2A}$	1.1%	1.1%	1.6%	2.3%	2.1%
Stage 3: Measurement Error					
$\hat{p}_{3A}$	4.7%	4.1%	2.5%	2.3%	2.6%
$\hat{\sigma}_{p3A}$	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
$\hat{\mu}_{3A}$	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
$\hat{\sigma}_{\mu 3A}$	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
$\hat{\mu}_{3}$	96.4%	94.5%	65.8%	66.9%	64.8%
$\hat{\sigma}_{\mu 3}$	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	1.1%	1.0%

* Up-to-date (UTD): ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses.

Table 3.9 presents the means and 95% credible intervals of total survey error distributions and component error distributions based on 10,000 Monte Carlo draws from the input (or component) error distributions and application of the TSE model set forth in equations (1) - (6). The means of the estimated TSE distributions are -3.7 percentage points for 1+ Tdap, -3.7 percentage points for 1+ MenACWY, -5.4 percentage points for HPV UTD, -5.4 percentage points for HPV UTD among females, and -5.3 percentage points for HPV UTD among males. These results suggest that the 2024 NIS-Teen may have somewhat underestimated the true vaccination coverage for 1+ Tdap, 1+ MenACWY, HPV UTD, HPV UTD among females, and HPV UTD among males. The largest estimated component of error in absolute value for all these series is measurement error, i.e., provider under-reporting error. Nonresponse error estimates are also moderate in absolute value for the 1+ Tdap and HPV UTD estimates, though the 95% credible intervals for nonresponse error include 0 for all series.

Table 3.9: Mean and 95% Credible Interval for the Estimated TSE Distribution and Component Error Distributions: NIS-Teen, United States, 2024

Vaccine or Series	Component	Mean TSE (percentage points)	95% Credible Interval (percentage points)
1+ Tdap	TSE (final weighted)	-3.7	(-5.5, -1.1)*
	TSE (design weighted)	-3.2	(-5.0, -0.6)*
	Noncoverage error	0.0	(0.0, 0.2)
	Nonresponse error	1.5	(-0.7, 4.1)
	Measurement error	-4.7	(-5.6, -3.6)*
	Sampling error	0.1	(-1.1, 1.3)
1+ MenACWY	TSE (final weighted)	-3.7	(-5.4, -1.4)*
	TSE (design weighted)	-3.2	(-5.0, -1.0)*
	Noncoverage error	0.0	(0.0, 0.2)
	Nonresponse error	0.8	(-1.3, 3.2)
	Measurement error	-4.1	(-5.0, -3.0)*
	Sampling error	0.0	(-1.1, 1.3)
HPV UTD^	TSE (final weighted)	-5.4	(-8.4, -2.4)*
	TSE (design weighted)	-4.1	(-7.1, -1.1)*
	Noncoverage error	0.1	(0.0, 0.2)
	Nonresponse error	-1.7	(-5.0, 1.6)
	Measurement error	-2.5	(-3.8, -1.0)*
	Sampling error	0.0	(-1.4, 1.5)
HPV UTD among females	TSE (final weighted)	-5.4	(-9.7, -0.8)*
	TSE (design weighted)	-4.3	(-8.6, 0.2)
	Noncoverage error	0.1	(-0.1, 0.2)
	Nonresponse error	-2.1	(-6.8, 2.8)
	Measurement error	-2.3	(-4.3, -0.2)*
	Sampling error	0.0	(-2.1, 2.1)
HPV UTD among males	TSE (final weighted)	-5.3	(-9.2, -1.2)*
	TSE (design weighted)	-3.7	(-7.6, 0.3)
	Noncoverage error	0.1	(0.0, 0.3)
	Nonresponse error	-1.2	(-5.5, 3.2)
	Measurement error	-2.6	(-4.5, -0.7)*
	Sampling error	0.0	(-2.0, 2.0)

* 95% credible interval does not include 0.
^ Up-to-date (UTD): ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses.

3.6 Assessment of the Change in Bias Using the Bridging Cohort Method

In the previous subsection, we assessed TSE in the 2024 NIS-Teen estimated vaccination coverage, while in the current subsection, we assess the change in TSE between vaccination coverage estimates produced from the 2023 and 2024 NIS-Teen samples. Change is measured using the bridging cohort method first described in Yankey, Hill, Elam-Evans et al. (2015).

Each survey quarter includes adolescents born within 21 quarterly birth cohorts. Every pair of adjacent survey quarters spans 22 quarterly birth cohorts, of which 20 are in common and 2 are not in common. In turn, every survey year includes adolescents born within 24 quarterly birth cohorts. Every pair of adjacent survey years spans 28 quarterly birth cohorts, of which 20 are in common and 8 are not in common. We shall call the common quarters the *bridging cohort*, and for 2023 and 2024, the bridging cohort extends from adolescents born in Q1 2006 through adolescents born in Q4 2010.

Consider a vaccination series with coverage estimated from the bridging cohort as of a given adolescent age, such as 13 years. Two estimates are possible, one using the sample of adolescents in the bridging cohort within the 2023 NIS-Teen sample and the second using the corresponding sample of adolescents within the 2024 NIS-Teen sample. Ideally, the two estimators should exhibit the same mean value. A large difference between the two estimates may signal a change in the expectation of the estimator from one survey year to the next, which could result from a change in the distribution of sampling-frame coverage error, nonresponse error, or measurement error. Differences may also result simply from the effects of random sampling error.

Table 3.10 presents the two estimated vaccination estimates for adolescents as of 13 years of age for the 2023-2024 bridging cohort. The columns on the right side of the table reveal the differences between the 2023 and 2024 estimates for the bridging cohort, the estimated standard errors of the differences, and the *p*-values associated with statistical tests of the hypothesis that the expectations of the two estimators are the same. Summarizing, we do not observe any statistically significant differences between the 2023 and 2024 vaccination coverage estimates for the 2023-2024 bridging cohort. That is, there is no statistical evidence of a change in mean TSE between 2023 and 2024.

Table 3.10: Difference in Estimates* for the Bridging Birth Cohort: NIS-Teen, United States, 2023 vs. 2024

	2023		2024		Difference		
Description	**Estimate**	**Standard Error**	**Estimate**	**Standard Error**	**Estimate**	**Standard Error**	***p*-value for Test of No Difference**
1+ Tdap since age 10 by 13 years	84.2	0.73	83.3	0.54	-1.0	0.90	0.285
1+ MenACWY by 13 years	81.7	0.87	81.6	0.55	-0.2	1.04	0.884
HPV UTD[&] by 13 years	37.3	1.27	37.6	0.66	0.4	1.43	0.790
HPV UTD by 13 years among females	38.6	1.49	39.6	0.96	1.0	1.77	0.565
HPV UTD by 13 years among males	36.0	2.06	35.8	0.90	-0.2	2.25	0.915

* Estimates were computed among adolescents with adequate provider data, excluding U.S. territories. The bridging birth cohort used for this analysis includes adolescents born between January 2006 and December 2010. Final provider-phase weights for 2023 were ratio-adjusted within each monthly birth cohort such that their sum within monthly birth cohort equals the sum of the final provider-phase weights for 2024 within the corresponding monthly birth cohort.

[&] Up-to-date (UTD): ≥3 doses, or ≥2 doses if 1st dose before age 15 and at least 5 months minus 4 days between 1st and 2nd doses

4. Summary

We profiled the sources of error in 2024 NIS-Teen statistics at the national level (excluding U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico) for the total age-eligible population of adolescents. We compared NIS-Teen statistics to corresponding values from benchmark surveys and other external sources (Section 2) and assessed component and total error in vaccination coverage estimates through a series of specialized evaluation studies (Section 3). Wherever possible, we used 2024 sources and studies to assess error in the 2024 NIS-Teen. Where 2024 sources were not available, we reported information from prior year sources as the best information available for understanding error in the 2024 NIS-Teen.

In Section 2, we compared NIS-Teen demographic distributions (age, sex, race/ethnicity, mother's education, mother's age) to values that have been established as benchmarks derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's PEP and ACS data. When using design weights that have not been calibrated to external population totals, demographic distributions as estimated by the survey are generally close to the benchmark distributions. Before calibration, the NIS-Teen somewhat over-represented non-Hispanic White-only adolescents, under-represented non-Hispanic Black adolescents, and over-represented adolescents whose mothers are college graduates. When using final weights that have been calibrated to external population totals, the differences between survey estimates and population values narrowed, but the 2024 NIS-Teen still over-represented adolescents whose mothers are college graduates and under-represented adolescents whose mothers have some college but not a four-year degree.

We compared NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates to IISAR vaccination coverage estimates and found that there is great variation in the level of agreement. We first determined that the adolescent participation rate (APR) is a reasonable indicator of the quality of the corresponding IIS database. We learned that the difference between NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination coverage estimates declines as the APR rate increases towards 100 percent (i.e., as the quality of the IIS increases). We also examined 13 areas that potentially have higher quality IIS data based on their IIS policies and adolescent participation rate. Among these 13 areas, we found greater agreement between NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination coverage estimates than in the overall comparison that included all 56 areas—12 out of 13 areas have a difference between NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination coverage estimates of less than 10 percentage points. However, we also found that among these 13 areas, areas with higher APR tended to have NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates lower than the corresponding IISAR estimates, although the estimate of the slope of the trend for this relationship was not statistically significant.

We compared NIS-Teen health insurance distributions to distributions produced by the ACS, CPS ASEC, and NHIS. The surveys use somewhat different definitions of insurance status. Nevertheless, we found the four distributions to be broadly similar, but with some modest differences. The NIS-Teen estimate of percent of adolescents with any public insurance was

higher than the corresponding estimates from ACS, CPS ASEC, and NHIS, and the NIS-Teen estimate of uninsured adolescents was lower than the estimates from the benchmark surveys.

In Section 3 of the report, we evaluated NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates with respect to sample-frame coverage error, nonresponse error, measurement error, sampling error, and total survey error. We also assessed the change in total survey error from 2023 to 2024.

The NIS-Teen cell-phone RDD sampling frame fails to include the LLO and phoneless populations, and we assessed vaccination coverage estimates in the former using data collected in the 2017 NIS-Teen and in the latter using data collected in the 2012 NHIS PRC. The vaccination coverage estimates in the LLO population tended to be less than the vaccination coverage estimates in the population included in the sampling-frame, and the results were somewhat mixed with regard to the phoneless population. Because the sampling-frame uncovered population is so small relative to the covered population, however, we found mean sampling-frame coverage error to be 0.1 percentage points or less for each of the vaccine series examined.

We compared the 2023 NHIS and 2024 NIS-Teen to assess nonresponse error in the 2024 NIS-Teen. The NHIS does not offer direct estimates of vaccination coverage. Instead, we used a model-based technique to impute NHIS vaccination status and then compared the resulting NHIS vaccination coverage estimates (treated as vaccination coverage estimates void of nonresponse error) to NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates, with the difference treated as nonresponse error in the NIS-Teen. Incorporating all sources of missing data, including (1) nonresolution of telephone numbers, (2) nonresponse to the screener, (3) failure to complete the interview, (4) non-consent to contact providers, and (5) nonresponse from providers, we estimated that for over 95% of the age-eligible sample of households, the household failed to respond to the NIS-Teen, the household responded but did not grant consent to obtain vaccination data from the adolescent's vaccination providers, or consent was granted but an adequate provider-reported vaccination history for the adolescent was not obtained. We estimated mean nonresponse error in vaccination coverage estimates to be between +0.5 and +1.5 percentage points for 1+ Tdap and 1+ MenACWY and near -2 percentage points (design-weighted) for HPV. However, results were not statistically significant for any of the vaccine series examined.

We used 20 IIS-NIS match studies conducted in 2017 and eight additional match studies conducted in 2019 to assess measurement error, or under-ascertainment, in the NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates. In this work, the standard of truth for a given child is taken to be the synthesis of the NIS-Teen and IIS vaccination histories. We found measurement error was by far the largest component of error in NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates. We found measurement error depressed observed vaccination coverage estimates by about two to five percentage points, and these findings were statistically significant. Under-ascertainment of adolescent vaccination history may arise due to the failure of the household respondent to nominate all of the adolescent's vaccination providers, failure of the nominated vaccination

providers to respond, or failure of the responding providers to report all of the vaccinations that the adolescent has received.

We combined all the component errors and assessed the distribution of total survey error in the NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimates, using a Monte Carlo technique. For the 1+ Tdap vaccination coverage estimate, we found the mean of the TSE distribution to be -3.7 percentage points with a 95% credible interval of (-5.5, -1.1) percentage points. That is, the NIS-Teen vaccination coverage estimate was on average about 3.7 percentage points too low. For the 1+ MenACWY vaccination coverage estimate, we found the mean of the TSE distribution to be -3.7 percentage points with a 95% credible interval of (-5.4, -1.4) percentage points, and for the HPV UTD vaccination coverage estimate, we found the mean of the TSE distribution to be -5.4 percentage points with a credible interval of (-8.4, -2.4) percentage points. Again, under-ascertainment of the provider-reported vaccination history dominated total survey error. Estimates of nonresponse error have wider 95% credible intervals reflecting that those estimates have larger uncertainty than other error components.

Finally, using the bridging cohort method, we assessed a change in bias between 2023 and 2024 NIS-Teen by comparing vaccination coverage estimates for adolescents born between the first quarter of 2006 and the fourth quarter of 2010 available from both survey years. In conducting comparisons for five key vaccination coverage estimates, we found no statistically significant differences and no evidence of a change in mean TSE between 2023 and 2024.

Our results for the 2024 NIS-Teen are subject to various limitations. The comparisons to benchmark distributions in Section 2 are imperfect because the benchmark source usually uses somewhat different concepts or definitions than the NIS-Teen. Our comparison of NIS-Teen and IISAR vaccination coverage estimates is limited to 1+ Tdap, and the findings may not apply to other vaccine series. In Section 3, the results are based on input distributions for the component errors as estimated using our best available information from external sources and studies, but these inputs may not be accurate. While large-sample theory motivates our choice of the normal family of distributions, we have not validated this choice. Two key external sources of information on component errors are the NHIS and state or local IIS. The NHIS is based on a smaller sample size than the NIS-Teen, its NHIS Provider Record Check (used in the study of sampling-frame coverage error) is likely subject to many of the same measurement issues as the NIS-Teen Provider Record Check, and it is subject to its own nonresponse and sampling-frame coverage errors. To study nonresponse error in the NIS-Teen, we utilized imputed vaccination statuses in the NHIS rather than provider-reported statuses, because the NHIS Provider Record Check was terminated in 2013. IIS may underestimate vaccination coverage to some extent (e.g., to miss some resident children and some vaccine doses within included children), and completeness may vary substantially from one state or local area to the next. Our results are based on work with IIS in only 22 areas across 28 studies. Our results are also based on an assumption of independence of the component errors and this assumption might not be accurate. We conducted the TSE analysis for selected national-level vaccination coverage estimates, and the results do not necessarily extend to other vaccines, states or estimation areas, or socio-demographic domains.

References

Biemer, P. P. (2010). Total survey error: Design, implementation, and evaluation. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *74*(5), 817-848.

Blumberg, S.J., Ganesh, N., Luke J.V., and Gonzales G. (2013). Wireless substitution: State-level estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2012. National health statistics reports; no 70. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr070.pdf

Cohen, R.A., Terlizzi, E.P., Martinez, M.E. (2018). Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2018. National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

Molinari, N.M., Wolter, K., Skalland, B., Montgomery, R., Khare, M., Smith, P.J., Barron, M.L., Copeland, K., Santos, K., and Singleton, J.A. (2011). Quantifying bias in a health survey: Modeling total survey error in the National Immunization Survey. *Statistics in Medicine*, 30, 505-514.

National Institute of Statistical Sciences. (2009). NCES/NISS task force on nonresponse bias analysis: Final report. NISS, Research Triangle Park, NC.

NORC at the University of Chicago. (2024a). Error Profile for the 2023 NIS-Child. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Online Report. https://www.cdc.gov/childvaxview/media/pdfs/2024/09/Error-Profile-2023-NIS-Child.pdf

NORC at the University of Chicago. (2024b). Error Profile for the 2023 NIS-Teen. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Online Report. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/teenvaxview/downloads/Error-Profile-2023-NIS-Teen.pdf

Rubin, D. B. (1976). Inference and missing data. *Biometrika*, *63*(3), 581-592.

Skalland, B. (2011). An alternative to the response rate for measuring a survey's realization of the target population. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *75*(1), 89-98.

Smith, P.J., Hoaglin, D.C., Battaglia, M.P., Khare, M., and Barker, L.E. (2005). Statistical methodology of the National Immunization Survey, 1994-2002. Vital and Health Statistics 2(138). National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

U.S. Census Bureau (2019). 2017 National Survey of Children's Health: Nonresponse Bias Analysis. Suitland, MD.

Wolter, K.M., Pineau, V.J., Skalland, B., Zeng, W., Singleton, J.A., Khare, M., Zhao, Z., Yankey, D., and Smith, P.J. (2017). Total survey error assessment for sociodemographic subgroups in the 2012 U.S. National Immunization Survey. In *Total Survey Error in Practice*, edited by Biemer, P.P., de Leeuw, E., Eckman, S., Edwards, B., Kreuter, F., Lyberg, L.E., Tucker, N.C., and West, B.T. John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, New Jersey.

Wolter, K. M., Smith, P.J., Khare, M, Welch, B., Copeland, K. R., Pineau, V. J., and Davis, N. (2017). Statistical methodology of the National Immunization Survey, 2005-2014. Vital and Health Statistics 1(61). National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD.

Yankey, D., Hill, H.A., Elam-Evans, L.D., Khare, M., Singleton, J.A., Pineau, V., and Wolter, K. (2015). Estimating change in telephone survey bias in an era of declining response rates and transition to wireless telephones – evidence from the National Immunization Survey (NIS), 1995-2013. Presented at the annual conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Hollywood, FL.