CDC

About This Early Release

Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data From the
January–September 2011 National Health Interview Survey
(Released 03/21/12)

In this release, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) updates estimates for 15 selected health measures based on data from the January–September 2011 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and presents estimates from 1997 through 2010 for comparison. The 15 Early Release measures are being published prior to final data editing and final weighting, to provide access to the most recent information from NHIS. The estimates will be updated as each new quarter of NHIS data becomes available.

Two additional reports are published through the Early Release Program. *Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey* (1) is published quarterly and provides additional estimates of health insurance coverage. *Wireless Substitution: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey* (2) is published in May and December and provides selected estimates of telephone coverage. In addition to these reports, preliminary microdata files containing selected NHIS variables are produced as part of the Early Release Program. For the 2011 NHIS, these files will be made available three times: in about September 2011, December 2011, and March 2012. NHIS data users can analyze these files through the NCHS Research Data Center without having to wait for the final annual NHIS microdata files to be released.

The 15 measures included in the present report are lack of health insurance coverage and type of coverage, having a usual place to go for medical care, obtaining needed medical care, receipt of influenza vaccination, receipt of pneumococcal vaccination, obesity, leisure-time physical activity, current smoking, alcohol consumption, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing, general

health status, personal care needs, serious psychological distress, diagnosed diabetes, and asthma episodes and current asthma.

For each selected health measure, a figure is presented showing the trend over time from 1997 through September 2011 for the total population, followed by figures and tables showing estimates by age group and sex, based on data from the January–September 2011 NHIS. Also, estimates (adjusted by age, sex, or both, where appropriate) are provided for three race/ethnicity groups (Hispanic; non-Hispanic white, single race; and non-Hispanic black, single race) using data from the January–September 2011 NHIS. Key findings are highlighted by bullets, and data tables containing the values displayed in the figures are included at the end of each section. In addition to providing age-adjusted estimates for Early Release measures that are also directly related to Healthy People 2020 (3) Leading Health Indicators (i.e., lack of health insurance coverage, obesity, leisure-time physical activity, and current smoking), this release provides overall age-adjusted and crude estimates by sex for all indicators.

The NHIS questions used to define the selected health measures are provided in an Appendix. "Technical Notes" at the end of the report provide details on data source, transition to weights based on the 2000 U.S. census, implementation of a new sample design, estimation procedures, significance testing, adjustment for age and sex, race/ethnicity categories, health insurance, influenza vaccination, and HIV testing.