

Table 16. Respondent-assessed fair-poor health status, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1991–2017

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table_016.

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

Characteristic	1991 ¹	1997	2000	2007	2010	2016	2017
	Percent of persons with fair or poor health ²						
All ages, age-adjusted ^{3,4}	10.4	9.2	9.0	9.5	9.6	9.0	9.0
All ages, crude ⁴	10.0	8.9	8.9	9.8	10.1	9.9	10.0
Age							
Under 18 years	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.6
Under 6 years	2.7	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.2	1.3
6–17 years	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.7	2.2	1.8	1.7
18–44 years	6.1	5.3	5.1	5.9	6.3	6.1	5.9
18–24 years	4.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.9	3.9	4.1
25–44 years	6.4	5.9	5.7	6.8	7.2	6.9	6.6
45–54 years	13.4	11.7	11.9	13.3	13.3	13.4	13.3
55–64 years	20.7	18.2	17.9	17.9	19.4	17.7	18.7
65 years and over	29.0	26.7	26.9	26.8	24.4	21.6	21.7
65–74 years	26.0	23.1	22.5	23.4	21.2	18.8	18.2
75 years and over	33.6	31.5	32.1	30.7	28.3	25.7	26.9
Sex ³							
Male	10.0	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.2	8.7	8.7
Female	10.8	9.7	9.3	9.9	10.0	9.2	9.2
Race ^{3,5}							
White only	9.6	8.3	8.2	8.8	8.8	8.3	8.2
Black or African American only	16.8	15.8	14.6	14.2	14.9	13.5	13.4
American Indian or Alaska Native only	18.3	17.3	17.2	17.1	17.8	17.6	14.2
Asian only	7.8	7.8	7.4	7.1	8.1	6.9	8.2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	---	---	*	*	*	12.7	15.3
2 or more races	---	---	16.2	16.8	15.6	12.6	15.2
Black or African American; White	---	---	*14.5	*16.6	*16.7	8.5	16.4
American Indian or Alaska Native; White	---	---	18.7	19.2	19.0	15.6	17.3
Hispanic origin and race ^{3,5}							
Hispanic or Latino	15.6	13.0	12.8	13.0	13.1	12.4	12.0
Mexican	17.0	13.1	12.8	13.2	13.7	12.7	12.9
Not Hispanic or Latino	10.0	8.9	8.7	9.1	9.2	8.5	8.6
White only	9.1	8.0	7.9	8.3	8.2	7.6	7.7
Black or African American only	16.8	15.8	14.6	14.1	14.9	13.4	13.3
Percent of poverty level ^{3,6}							
Below 100%	22.8	20.8	19.6	21.0	20.9	20.6	21.4
100%–199%	14.7	13.9	14.1	15.3	15.2	15.0	14.2
200%–399%	7.9	8.2	8.4	9.0	8.3	8.1	8.7
400% or more	4.9	4.1	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.2	4.2
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level ^{3,5,6}							
Hispanic or Latino:							
Below 100%	23.6	19.9	18.7	21.0	19.2	20.4	20.0
100%–199%	18.0	13.5	15.3	15.1	15.6	14.1	14.0
200%–399%	10.3	10.0	10.3	10.5	10.3	9.5	9.9
400% or more	6.6	5.7	5.5	7.2	6.4	6.5	5.7

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Characteristic	1991 ¹	1997	2000	2007	2010	2016	2017
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level ^{3,5,6}							
Percent of persons with fair or poor health ²							
Not Hispanic or Latino:							
White only:							
Below 100%	21.9	19.7	18.8	20.9	20.9	19.7	21.8
100%–199%	14.0	13.3	13.4	15.2	14.8	15.4	14.6
200%–399%	7.5	7.7	7.9	8.4	7.7	7.7	8.2
400% or more	4.7	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.9
Black or African American only:							
Below 100%	25.8	25.3	23.8	22.6	23.9	23.2	24.0
100%–199%	17.0	19.2	18.2	17.7	18.3	17.1	16.6
200%–399%	12.0	12.2	11.7	11.3	11.2	9.9	9.9
400% or more	5.9	6.1	7.3	7.2	6.8	6.9	6.0
Level of difficulty ^{3,7}							
18 years and over:							
A lot of difficulty or cannot do at all	---	---	---	---	47.3	52.1	48.0
Some difficulty	---	---	---	---	17.1	15.5	14.9
No difficulty	---	---	---	---	5.2	5.5	4.8
Geographic region ³							
Northeast	8.3	8.0	7.6	8.4	7.9	7.9	8.3
Midwest	9.1	8.1	8.0	8.6	9.0	8.6	8.1
South	13.1	10.8	10.7	11.0	11.1	10.1	9.9
West	9.7	8.8	8.8	9.0	9.2	8.4	8.9
Location of residence ^{3,8}							
Within MSA	9.9	8.7	8.5	9.0	9.2	8.6	8.6
Outside MSA	11.9	11.1	11.1	12.0	11.9	11.4	11.5

Table 16. Respondent-assessed fair-poor health status, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1991–2017

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-- Data not available.

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

¹Data prior to 1997 are not strictly comparable with data for later years due to the 1997 questionnaire redesign. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

²Based on family respondent answering the following question about his or her health or the health of a family member: "Would you say [person's] health in general is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?" See Appendix II, Health status, respondent-assessed.

³Estimates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using six age groups: under 18 years, 18–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. The disability measure is age-adjusted using the five adult age groups: 18–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 75 years and over. Age-adjusted estimates in this table may differ from other age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

⁴Includes all other races not shown separately and unknown disability status.

⁵The race groups white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The five single-race categories and multiple-race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes persons who reported more than one racial group. Prior to 1999, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards with four racial groups, and the Asian only category included Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race, or if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race were treated as missing, and then race was imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all persons with a race response of other race were of Hispanic origin. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race.

⁶Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Missing family income data were imputed for 1991 and beyond. See Appendix II, Family income; Poverty; Table VII.

⁷Functional limitation is defined by the reported level of difficulty in six functioning domains: seeing (even if wearing glasses), hearing (even if wearing hearing aids), mobility (walking or climbing stairs), communication (understanding or being understood by others), cognition (remembering or concentrating), and self-care (such as washing all over or dressing). Respondents with answers to one or more of the six questions were included in one of three mutually exclusive categories. Those responding "A lot of difficulty" or "Cannot do at all/unable to do" to at least one question were classified in the "A lot of difficulty/cannot do" category. Of the remaining, those responding "Some difficulty" to at least one question were classified in the "Some difficulty" category, and those responding "No difficulty" to at least one question were classified in the "No difficulty" category. Those responding "Don't know" or "Refused" to all six questions were excluded. During 2010–2017, 1%–8% of respondents were missing data and excluded. See Appendix II, Functional limitation.

⁸MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2016 data, MSA status is determined using 2010 Census data and the 2010 standards for defining MSAs. For more information, including the definition prior to 2016, see Appendix II, Metropolitan statistical area (MSA) for the applicable standards.

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

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, family core and sample adult questionnaires. Data for level of difficulty are from the 2010 Quality of Life and 2011–2017 Functioning and Disability questionnaires, family core. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).