

Table 36. Emergency department visits within the past 12 months among adults aged 18 and over, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2017

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table_036.

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

Characteristic	One or more emergency department visits				Two or more emergency department visits			
	1997	2000	2010	2017	1997	2000	2010	2017
	Percent of adults with emergency department visits ¹							
18 years and over, age-adjusted ^{2,3}	19.6	20.2	21.4	18.6	6.7	6.9	7.8	6.5
18 years and over, crude ²	19.6	20.1	21.3	18.7	6.7	6.8	7.7	6.5
Age								
18–44 years	20.7	20.5	22.0	17.9	6.8	7.0	8.4	6.4
18–24 years	26.3	25.7	25.4	19.2	9.1	8.8	9.6	6.7
25–44 years	19.0	18.8	20.7	17.4	6.2	6.4	8.0	6.2
45–64 years	16.2	17.6	19.2	17.8	5.6	5.6	6.7	6.2
45–54 years	15.7	17.9	18.6	17.1	5.5	5.8	6.6	6.2
55–64 years	16.9	17.0	19.8	18.4	5.7	5.3	6.8	6.3
65 years and over	22.0	23.7	23.7	22.1	8.1	8.6	7.7	7.2
65–74 years	20.3	21.6	20.7	18.5	7.1	7.4	6.4	6.1
75 years and over	24.3	26.2	27.4	27.6	9.3	10.0	9.4	8.9
Sex ³								
Male	19.1	18.7	18.5	16.3	5.9	5.7	6.0	5.0
Female	20.2	21.6	24.3	20.9	7.5	7.9	9.6	7.9
Race ^{3,4}								
White only	19.0	19.4	20.7	17.9	6.2	6.4	7.2	6.1
Black or African American only	25.9	26.5	28.6	25.3	11.1	10.8	12.6	10.1
American Indian or Alaska Native only	24.8	30.3	22.6	27.2	13.1	*12.6	*11.8	11.0
Asian only	11.6	13.6	13.3	11.7	*2.9	*3.8	3.3	2.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander only	---	*	*	*	---	*	*	*
2 or more races	---	32.5	29.7	22.7	---	11.3	11.1	9.4
American Indian or Alaska Native; White	---	33.9	31.1	26.9	---	*9.4	*15.2	12.4
Hispanic origin and race ^{3,4}								
Hispanic or Latino	19.2	18.3	19.8	17.7	7.4	7.0	6.9	6.4
Mexican	17.8	17.4	18.1	16.1	6.4	7.1	6.1	5.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	19.7	20.6	21.9	18.9	6.7	6.9	8.1	6.6
White only	19.1	19.8	21.1	18.1	6.2	6.4	7.4	6.1
Black or African American only	25.9	26.5	29.0	25.5	11.0	10.8	12.7	10.3
Percent of poverty level ^{3,5}								
Below 100%	28.1	29.0	30.6	28.6	12.8	13.3	14.9	13.1
100%–199%	23.8	23.9	25.6	25.2	9.3	9.6	10.5	9.7
200%–399%	18.3	19.8	20.4	18.3	5.9	6.3	6.8	6.2
400% or more	15.9	16.8	17.0	13.6	3.9	4.5	4.7	3.6

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Characteristic	One or more emergency department visits				Two or more emergency department visits			
	1997	2000	2010	2017	1997	2000	2010	2017
Percent of adults with emergency department visits ¹								
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level ^{3,4,5}								
Hispanic or Latino:								
Below 100%	22.1	22.4	23.6	20.8	9.8	9.7	11.5	8.9
100%–199%	19.2	18.1	19.9	20.6	8.1	6.7	6.3	7.3
200%–399%	18.5	17.3	18.1	14.6	6.0	7.4	5.2	4.8
400% or more	14.6	16.4	18.8	16.1	*3.8	*4.3	*5.5	5.4
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White only:								
Below 100%	29.5	30.1	33.3	32.0	13.0	13.9	15.5	13.7
100%–199%	24.3	25.5	26.8	27.8	9.1	10.4	11.2	10.9
200%–399%	18.1	20.1	20.3	18.4	5.8	6.3	6.5	6.4
400% or more	15.8	16.3	16.9	13.4	3.8	4.1	4.9	3.7
Black or African American only:								
Below 100%	34.6	35.4	36.9	33.2	17.5	17.4	20.2	18.3
100%–199%	29.2	28.5	33.5	30.7	12.8	12.2	15.9	12.3
200%–399%	20.8	23.2	25.7	24.1	8.1	8.0	10.2	8.2
400% or more	18.2	22.6	18.8	16.2	5.9	8.8	*4.0	3.7
Health insurance status at the time of interview ^{6,7}								
18–64 years:								
Insured	18.8	19.5	20.8	17.6	6.1	6.4	7.5	6.1
Private	16.9	17.6	17.4	14.1	4.7	5.1	5.2	4.0
Medicaid	37.6	42.2	40.2	32.6	19.7	21.0	21.1	15.7
Uninsured	20.0	19.3	21.3	19.1	7.5	6.9	8.9	7.4
Health insurance status prior to interview ^{6,7}								
18–64 years:								
Insured continuously all 12 months	18.3	19.0	20.2	17.1	5.8	6.1	7.1	5.9
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months	25.5	28.2	26.0	25.5	9.4	10.3	12.5	9.9
Uninsured more than 12 months	18.9	17.3	20.6	16.5	7.1	6.4	8.1	6.4
Percent of poverty level and health insurance status prior to interview ^{5,6,7}								
18–64 years:								
Below 100%:								
Insured continuously all 12 months	30.2	31.6	35.2	29.8	14.7	15.4	18.3	13.8
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months	34.1	43.7	34.2	35.3	16.1	18.1	16.5	16.7
Uninsured more than 12 months	20.8	20.5	23.4	19.0	8.1	9.1	11.7	10.5
100%–199%:								
Insured continuously all 12 months	24.5	25.5	26.1	25.8	8.9	10.2	10.8	10.0
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months	28.7	27.7	29.7	31.3	12.3	11.7	15.6	12.9
Uninsured more than 12 months	19.0	17.4	21.2	17.8	8.3	6.4	7.8	6.1
200%–399%:								
Insured continuously all 12 months	17.5	19.5	19.6	17.5	5.3	6.3	6.0	6.0
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months	21.6	24.6	25.4	19.2	6.6	7.3	12.2	7.5
Uninsured more than 12 months	16.8	15.6	17.6	14.0	5.9	4.5	5.7	*
400% or more:								
Insured continuously all 12 months	14.9	15.5	15.9	11.7	3.7	3.7	4.5	3.1
Uninsured for any period up to 12 months	18.0	20.1	12.5	20.4	*3.1	6.4	*	5.2
Uninsured more than 12 months	19.1	15.8	19.4	12.1	*	*5.2	*	*

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

Characteristic	One or more emergency department visits				Two or more emergency department visits			
	1997	2000	2010	2017	1997	2000	2010	2017
Level of difficulty ^{3,8}		Percent of adults with emergency department visits ¹						
A lot of difficulty or cannot do at all	---	---	43.2	42.3	---	---	25.2	24.6
Some difficulty	---	---	26.6	23.4	---	---	11.0	8.7
No difficulty	---	---	17.1	14.4	---	---	4.5	3.6
Geographic region ³								
Northeast	19.5	20.0	22.6	18.2	6.9	6.2	8.4	6.3
Midwest	19.3	20.1	22.3	20.3	6.2	6.9	8.2	6.5
South	20.9	21.2	22.1	19.0	7.3	7.6	8.0	7.1
West	17.7	18.6	18.9	16.9	6.0	6.3	6.7	5.7
Location of residence ^{3,9}								
Within MSA	19.1	19.6	20.8	18.2	6.4	6.6	7.5	6.3
Outside MSA	21.5	22.5	25.5	21.5	7.8	7.8	9.8	8.0

* 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).
 --- Data not available.

¹See Appendix II, Emergency department or emergency room visit.

²Includes all other races not shown separately, unknown health insurance status, and unknown disability status.

³Estimates are for persons aged 18 and over and are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using five 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.

⁴The 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.

⁵Percent 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 1997 and beyond. See Appendix II, Family income; Poverty; Table VII.

⁶Estimates for persons aged 18–64 are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using three age groups: 18–44 years, 45–54 years, and 55–64 years. 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.

⁷Health insurance categories are mutually exclusive. Persons who reported both Medicaid and private coverage are classified as having private coverage. Starting with 1997 data, state-sponsored health plan coverage is included as Medicaid coverage. Starting with 1999 data, coverage by the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is included as Medicaid coverage. In addition to private and Medicaid, the insured category also includes military plans, other government-sponsored health plans, and Medicare. Persons not covered by private insurance, Medicaid, CHIP, state-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plans (starting in 1997), Medicare, or military plans are considered to have no health insurance coverage. Persons with only Indian Health Service coverage are considered to have no health insurance coverage. See Appendix II, Health insurance coverage.

⁸Functional 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.

⁹MSA 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 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).