



NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY: Release of 2019 Early Release Program Estimates

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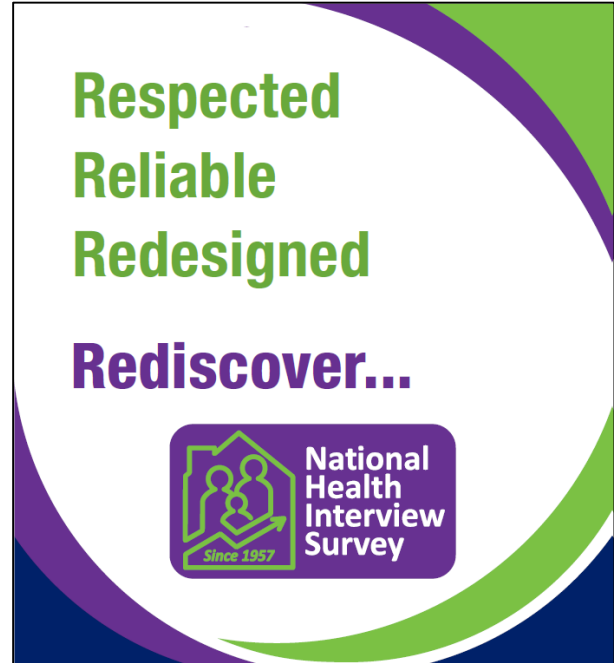
Data Scientist, Division of Health Interview Statistics

NCHS Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting

September 18, 2020

Goals of the 2019 NHIS Questionnaire Redesign

- Improve the relevance of covered health topics, better meeting the needs of DHHS and other data users
- Harmonize overlapping content with other federal health surveys
- Reduce respondent burden and improve data quality
- Shorten questionnaire and reduce variation in interview times
- Eliminate or reduce content better covered by other methods
- Establish a long-term structure of periodic content



September 2020 – A Momentous Month for NHIS

- Sept 9: Early release of estimates from July-December 2019 and January-March 2020
- Sept 23: Release of 2019 public use data files and related documentation
- Sept 23: Release of 4 NCHS Data Briefs on symptoms of anxiety and depression and on mental health treatment
- Sept 30: Release of NCHS Data Brief on reasons for being uninsured in the United States for adults 18-64



NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Upcoming Webinar

Mental Health in the United States: New Estimates From the National Center for Health Statistics

Join NCHS experts for a discussion of the latest mental health estimates from the 2019 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

Webinar topics include:

- Overview of the expanded mental health content in the redesigned 2019 NHIS
- Latest NHIS data on anxiety, depression, and mental health treatment
- Recent COVID-19 experimental data on mental health from the Household Pulse Survey

For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/nhis-webinar.htm.

11/20/2014



DATE

Wednesday
September 23, 2020



TIME

2:00–3:00 PM [EST]

REGISTER HERE



NHIS Early Release (ER) Program

- **Purpose:** To position the NHIS for the surveillance of sentinel health events
- **Vision:** Release less-than-annual estimates of a small set of key health indicators within just a few months of data collection
- First product released in April 2001
- Provides analytic reports and tables and preliminary microdata on an expedited schedule
- Early Release products are developed prior to final processing and weighting to provide early access to the most recent information

NHIS Early Release (ER) Program, 2019 and beyond

- **Available every three months:**
 - Updated data query tool with quarterly estimates for 18 key health indicators
 - Web tables with quarterly health insurance estimates
 - Preliminary microdata files (in the RDC)
- **Available every six months:**
 - Updated data query tool with half-year estimates for the 18 key indicators by key demographics
 - A report on health insurance coverage
 - A report on wireless substitution

Early Release Indicators for Redesigned NHIS

Health Insurance Coverage (18-64 years)

- Lack of health insurance
- Public health plan coverage
- Private health insurance coverage

Health Status

- Disability status
- Workdays missed due to health
- Diagnosed hypertension
- Asthma episode
- Regularly experience chronic pain
- Regularly felt worried, nervous, or anxious
- Regularly felt depressed

Health Behaviors

- Current cigarette smoking
- Current electronic cigarette use

Health Care Access

- Did not get needed medical care due to cost
- Did not take medication as prescribed to reduce costs
- Did not get needed mental health care due to cost

Health Care Service Utilization

- Doctor visit
- Hospital emergency department visit
- Influenza vaccination
- Blood pressure check
- Counseled by a mental health professional
- Dental exam or cleaning

Telephone Ownership

- Adults living in wireless-only households

The September 9, 2020 Early Release

Key Health Indicators

- ❖ Interactive quarterly estimates from the January-December 2019 NHIS and January-March 2020 NHIS
- ❖ Interactive biannual estimates from the January-December 2019 NHIS
- Tables of quarterly and annual estimates from the 2019 NHIS

Health Insurance Coverage

- Early release of estimates from the 2019 NHIS (report)
- Tables of quarterly estimates from the January-December 2019 NHIS
- Tables of quarterly estimates from the January-March 2020 NHIS

Wireless Substitution

- Early release of estimates from the July-December 2019 NHIS (report)

Other

- ❖ Preliminary evaluation of the impact of the 2019 NHIS questionnaire redesign and weighting adjustments on Early Release Program estimates (working paper)
- Preliminary microdata files

Interactive Early Release Data Query Systems:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/releases.htm>

The logo for Quarterly Estimates features a green bar chart with five bars of increasing height. A green magnifying glass is positioned over the chart, with its handle extending to the right. The word "Quarterly" is written in a purple, sans-serif font above the word "Estimates", which is also in a purple, sans-serif font.

Quarterly
Estimates

The logo for Biannual Estimates features a green bar chart with five bars of increasing height. A green magnifying glass is positioned over the chart, with its handle extending to the right. The word "Biannual" is written in a purple, sans-serif font above the word "Estimates", which is also in a purple, sans-serif font.

Biannual
Estimates

Working Paper

- To examine whether differences observed between 2018 and 2019 may be due to:
 - Changes from the questionnaire design
 - Changes in the weighting approach
 - Real change

National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
Early Release Program



**Preliminary Evaluation of the Impact of the
2019 National Health Interview Survey
Questionnaire Redesign and
Weighting Adjustments on
Early Release Program Estimates**

Division of Health Interview Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics
Hyattsville, Maryland

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Updated September 2020

Working Paper

- **Changes related to the questionnaire redesign**
 - Question wording
 - Context effects
 - Increased use of self-response
- **Evaluated by comparing estimates from a split sample in Q4/2018**

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Working Paper

- **Changes in the weighting approach**
 - Nonresponse adjustment now includes paradata
 - Calibration now includes educational attainment, region, and urban/rural variables
- **Evaluated by weighting 2019 data using the old and new approach**

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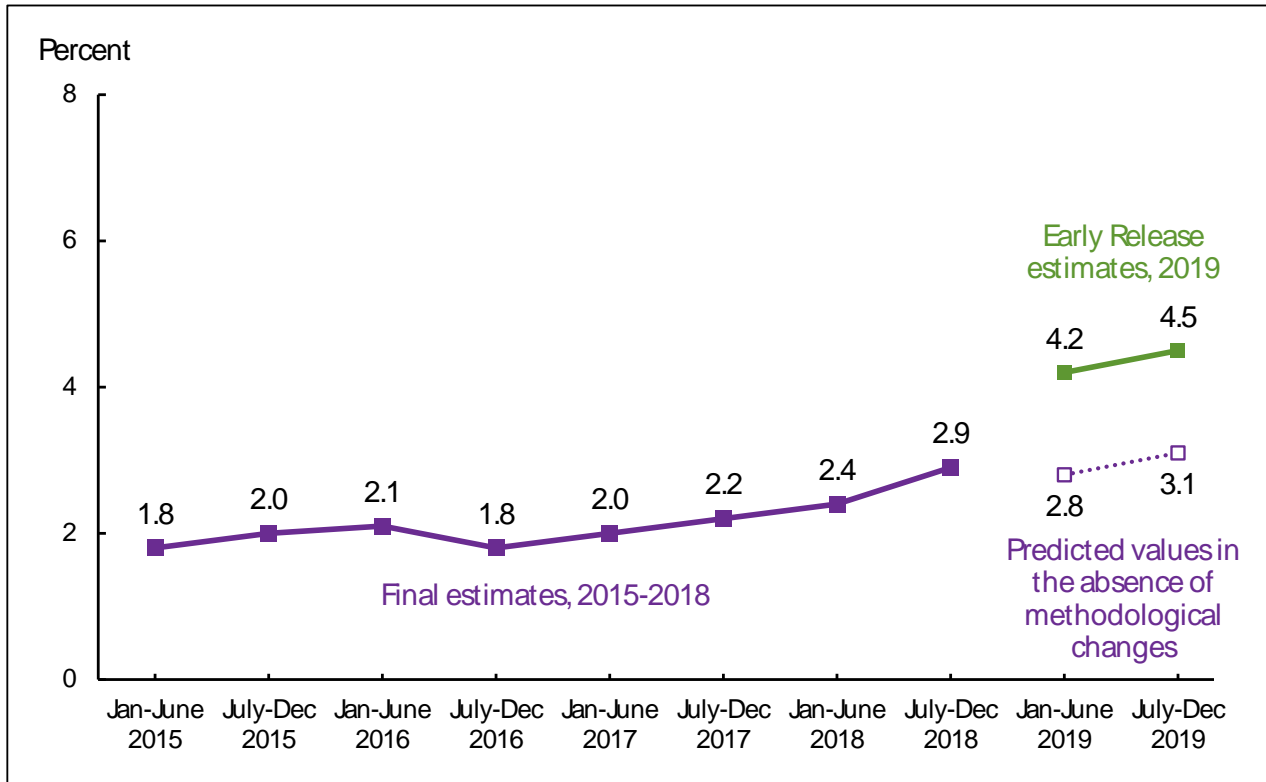
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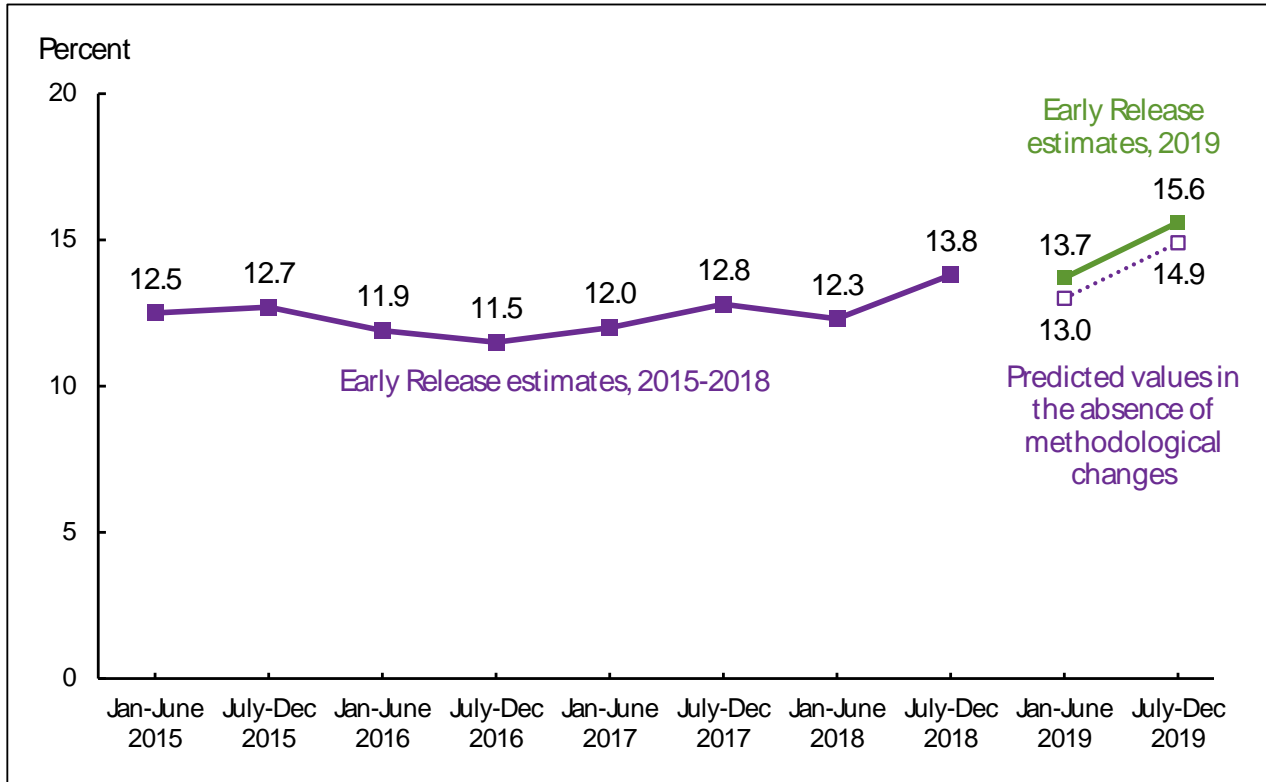
Updated September 2020

Percentage of adults who did not get needed mental health care in the past 12 months due to cost



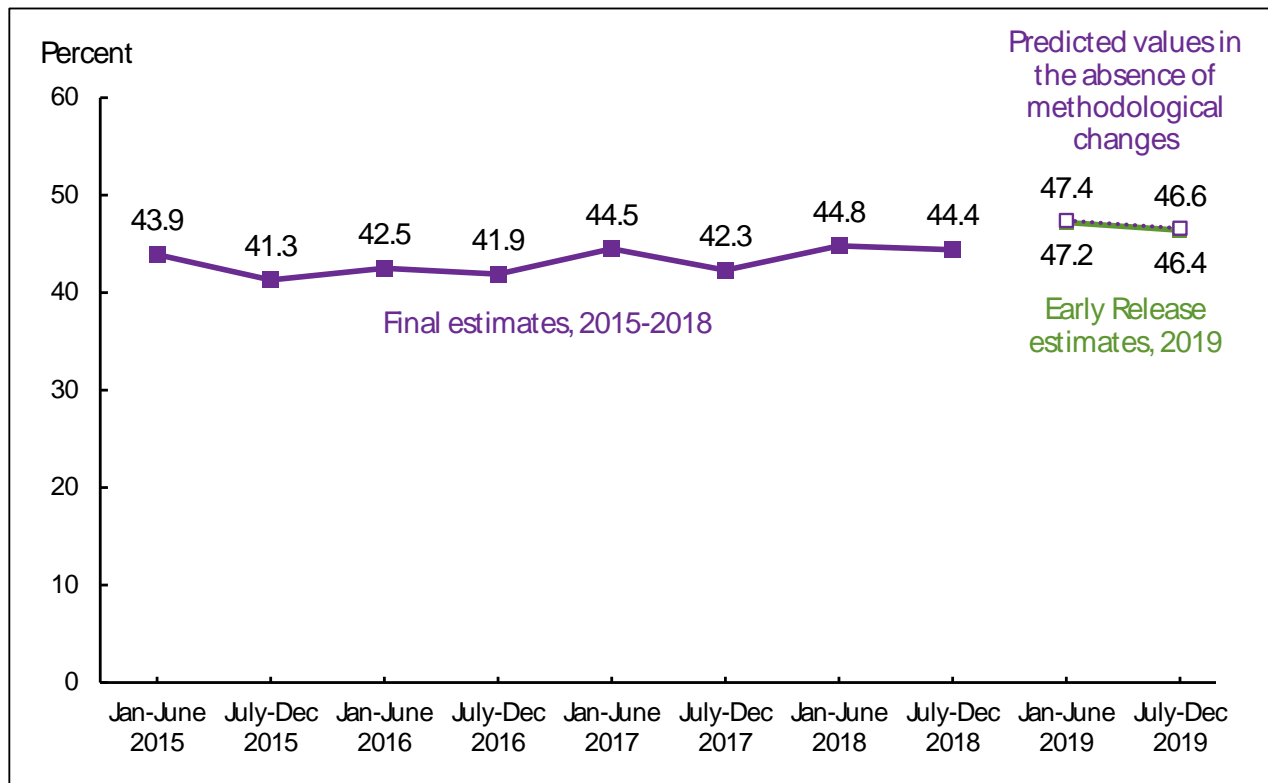
SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey.

Percentage of adults aged 18-64 who lacked health insurance at the time of interview



SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey.

Percentage of adults who had an influenza vaccination in the past year



SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey.

Working Paper Results

- **Questionnaire design effects**
 - 4 indicators
- **Weighting effects**
 - 4 indicators
- **Both**
 - 2 indicators
- **No impacts**
 - 6 indicators
- **Large but not significant effects**
 - 3 indicators

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National Health Interview Survey and the Pandemic

- **Personal visits halted on March 19**
- **Telephone contacts only from March 19 to June 30**
 - No impact on March response rates (~60%)
 - Interviewers now spending time searching for phone numbers
 - Response rates declined in April (~41%)
 - Response rates rose slightly in May and June (~44%)
 - Respondents were older and more likely to be college educated, own their home, and suburban

National Health Interview Survey and the Pandemic

- **Personal visits in limited areas resumed July 1**
- **Telephone first approach**
 - July response rates increased slightly (~47%)
- **NHIS data collection changed again for August – December**
 - Personal visits in all areas permitted, but still telephone first
 - Production sample size cut in half
 - Interviewers are attempting to recontact 2019 sample adults by telephone

2020 National Health Interview Survey

Four different surveys, same questionnaire

- 1) Normal operations (January-March)
- 2) Telephone only (April-June)
- 3) Telephone first with reduced sample size (July-December)
- 4) Sample adult followback survey (August-December)

Questions to ponder

- What are the most important things to consider before combining these datasets?
- Should we combine the followback data with the production data? If so, how?
- Should we incorporate additional nonresponse and calibration approaches?
- Should we release preliminary ER estimates before we have all the answers?