

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

September 2005

Site of the Month

If you are interested in obtaining state data on child or adolescent health, consider the Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health Web site at: <<http://www.childhealthdata.org>>, which features data from the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) and the National Survey for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN). For this newsletter I will select one of these datasets, the NSCH; describe the survey; select a child well-being indicator; and report the results.

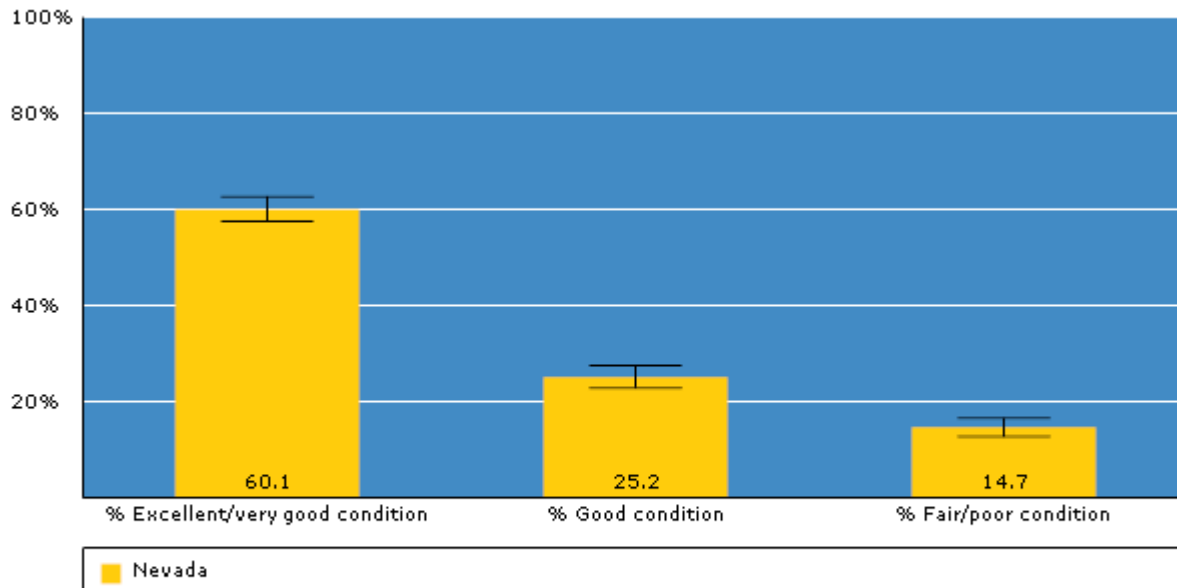
Conducted during 2003-2004, the NSCH, funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was a random survey of 102,353 children ages 0-17. Its purpose was fourfold:

- ◆ “To estimate national and state-level prevalence for a variety of physical, emotional, and behavioral child health indicators in combination with information on the child's family context and neighborhood environment.”
- ◆ “To generate information about children, their families, and neighborhoods to help guide policymakers, advocates, and researchers”
- ◆ “To provide baseline estimates for federal and state Title V Maternal and Child Health performance measures, MCHB companion objectives for Healthy People 2010, and data for each state's 5-year Title V needs assessment.”
- ◆ “To complement the 2001 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs by providing data on the health of the general child population.”

At the Data Resource Center Web site, I clicked on Learn about Survey to be able to summarize the information that I gave you in the previous paragraph. Next I clicked on Search Data, then on Child Health Measures, and Selected Criteria (geographic area: Nevada and topic: Physical and Dental Health). When asked to choose a question, I selected indicator 1.2: What is the overall condition of your children's teeth?

Results to the query were displayed in a table showing that 60.1 percent of Nevada parents considered the condition of their child's teeth excellent or very good, 25.2 percent good, and 14.7 fair or poor. Below the table, the same results were illustrated in a bar graph (I copied the graph and pasted it on the next page). You are also given the option of comparing Nevada to other states. For this exercise I chose Arizona, whose data do not differ much from Nevada's (62.0, 24.3, and 13.8 percents, respectively). Additionally, for some indicators, information can be obtained for subgroups, such as race/ethnicity, household income, gender, age (three groups), insurance type, and special health-care needs status.

Overall condition of teeth — children/youth ages 1-17 Nevada



Citation format: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (2005). *National Survey of Children's Health*, Data Resource Center on Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved mm/dd/yy from www.nschdata.org

As you can probably tell, the data-query process is simple. I hope you find the Web site useful.

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