

Health and Well-Being of New Hampshire's Children: Differences by Family Income in 2003

Child population (2003)	Total New Hampshire	Percent Low-Income	
		New Hampshire	United States
Population under age 18	306,393	22	39
0 to 5	88,128	24	43
6 to 9	66,741	25	40
10 to 14	94,546	20	38
15 to 17	56,978	19	34

Note: Low-income is < 200% poverty.

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of census population estimates (2003) and the American Community Survey (2002-2004).

Social/economic characteristics (2003)	New Hampshire		United States	
	Low- Income	Higher- Income	Low- Income	Higher- Income
% Living in single-parent families	55	15	51	17
% Without secure parental employment	58	16	54	17
% Living in households without a telephone	2	1	7	1
% Living in households without a vehicle	4	1	14	2
% With difficulty speaking English (ages 5 to 17)	4	1	9	3
% Living with a householder who is a high school dropout	22	5	32	7
% High school dropouts (ages 16 to 19)	14	5	14	5
% Not in school and not working (ages 16 to 19)	11	4	15	5

Note: Estimates are presented for the population under age 18 unless specified otherwise. Note: Low-income is < 200% poverty.

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of the American Community Survey (2002-2004).

Health status (2003)	New Hampshire		United States	
	Low- Income	Higher- Income	Low- Income	Higher- Income
% In excellent or very good health	88	93	75	92
% With an activity limitation	8	4	8	4
% Who are overweight (ages 10 to 17)	20	10	20	12
% Who engage in vigorous physical activity (ages 6 to 17)	70	72	70	76
% Affected by asthma	6	8	9	7

Note: Estimates are presented for the population under age 18 unless specified otherwise. Note: Low-income is < 200% poverty.

Source: Child Trends analysis of the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

Social and cognitive development (2003)	New Hampshire		United States	
	Low- Income	Higher- Income	Low- Income	Higher- Income
% With emotional or behavioral difficulties (ages 3 to 5)	11	7	17	8
% Experiencing depression or anxiety (ages 6 to 17)	9	7	7	5
% At risk of developmental delay (ages 1 to 5)	26	19	28	22
% With a learning disability (ages 6 to 17)	26	15	15	9
% Who are read stories every day (ages 0 to 5)	57	61	40	54
% Who read for pleasure every day (ages 6 to 17)	79	83	81	84
% Who exhibit behavior problems (ages 6 to 17)	11	8	11	6
% Exhibiting positive social competence (ages 6 to 17)	53	62	45	61

Note: Estimates are presented for the population under age 18 unless specified otherwise. Note: Low-income is < 200% poverty.

Source: Child Trends analysis of the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

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Family activities (2003)	New Hampshire		United States	
	Low-Income	Higher-Income	Low-Income	Higher-Income
% Participating in extracurricular activities (ages 6 to 17)	76	92	68	90
% Who volunteered during past year (ages 12 to 17)	52	65	49	68
% Who attend religious services weekly	33	33	55	55

Note: Estimates are presented for the population under age 18 unless specified otherwise. Note: Low-income is < 200% poverty.

Source: Child Trends analysis of the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

Family and neighborhood context (2003)	New Hampshire		United States	
	Low-Income	Higher-Income	Low-Income	Higher-Income
% Who regularly eat meals together with family	56	48	58	48
% Who live with household members who smoke	48	27	37	25
% With a parent in fair/poor mental health	9	2	11	3
% With a close parent-child relationship (ages 6 to 17)	84	87	85	86
% Living in a supportive neighborhood	75	86	73	87
% Living in a safe neighborhood	50	58	47	52

Note: Estimates are presented for the population under age 18 unless specified otherwise. Note: Low-income is < 200% poverty.

Source: Child Trends analysis of the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

Data Sources

The American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, is a nationwide annual survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, housing, social, and economic data each year. The ACS sampled between 800,000 and 900,000 addresses annually from 2000 through 2004. Estimates in this profile are based on multi-year averages of 2002-2004 ACS data. For more information about the ACS, see www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html.

The National Survey of Children's Health

The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, includes information on over 102,000 children under age 18, with roughly 2000 children per state. Households were selected through a random-digit-dial sample, and one child was randomly selected in each household. All measures are based on responses of the parent or guardian in the household who was most knowledgeable about the sampled child's health. Information was collected via a computer-assisted telephone interview. For more information on the NSCH, see www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/slits/nsch.htm.

U.S. Census Population Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau publishes state population estimates each year based on estimated annual changes in births, deaths, and migration. For more information about census population estimates, see www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php.



Variable Definitions

Social/Economic characteristics

Low-income/higher-income: Families with total income of less than 200% of the poverty threshold are classified as low-income. Families with income of 200% or more of the poverty threshold are classified as higher-income.

Living in single-parent families: Children in single-parent families include own children under age 18 living in families or subfamilies headed by a single parent—male or female—without a spouse present in the home. Own children include never-married children under age 18 who are sons or daughters in a family or subfamily, by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Without secure parental employment: Children without secure parental employment include persons under age 18 living in families where parents work less than 35 hours per week, 50 weeks per year. For children living in single-parent families, this means the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the previous year. For children living in married-couple families, this means neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the previous year. Children living with neither parent also are included as not having secure parental employment.

Living in households without a telephone: For children under age 18, telephone service availability is based on the survey respondent's report of telephone service in their home at the time of the interview.

Living in households without a vehicle: For children under age 18, the number of vehicles in the household is determined based on the number of passenger cars, vans, and trucks kept at home and available for use by household members.

Difficulty speaking English: Children ages 5 to 17 who speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than "very well" are classified as having difficulty speaking English. This includes children who speak English "well," "not well," or "not at all." This definition is used by the U.S. Census Bureau based on previous research that assessed the validity of the self-reported English-ability question.

Living with a householder who is a high school dropout: Children under age 18 living in households where the household head has not received a high school diploma or an equivalent (such as a GED) are classified as living with a householder who is a high school dropout.

High school dropouts: High school dropouts include people ages 16 to 19 who are not enrolled in school (full- or part-time) and are not high school graduates. Those who have a GED or equivalent are included as high school graduates in this measure.

Not in school and not working: Also referred to as "idle teens" or "disconnected youth," this measure includes people ages 16 to 19 who are not enrolled in school (full- or part-time) and not working (full- or part-time).

Health Status

Excellent or very good health status: Children under age 18 were classified as being in excellent or very good health based on parents' responses to the following question: "In general, how would you describe [your child's] health? Would you say his/her health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?"

Activity limitation: Children under age 18 were classified as having a limiting condition based on parents' affirmative responses to the following question: "Is [your child] limited or prevented in any way in his/her ability to do the things most children of the same age can do?"

Overweight: Children's body mass indices (BMI) were calculated based on parents' reports of children's height and weight. Children ages 10 to 17 with BMIs at or above the 95th percentile for children of their gender and age, according to charts originally developed by the Centers for Disease Control in the 1970s and updated in 2000, are classified as being overweight. For more information, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/bmi/bmi-for-age.htm>.

Vigorous physical activity: Children ages 6 to 17 were classified as engaging in vigorous physical activity if their parents reported that, on 3 or more days during the past week, their child exercised or participated in physical activity for at least 20 minutes that made him/her sweat and breathe hard, such as basketball, soccer, running, swimming laps, fast bicycling, fast dancing, or similar aerobic activities.

Asthma: Children under age 18 were classified as being affected by asthma if parents reported that a doctor or health professional has ever told them that their child has asthma and the child still has asthma, and the child experiences one or more of the following: used medication for asthma in the past year, had moderate or severe difficulties due to asthma, had an asthma attack in the past year, and/or had been hospitalized for asthma in the past year.

Social and cognitive development

Emotional or behavioral difficulties: Children ages 3 to 5 were classified as having a mental health issue if parents reported that, overall, they thought that the child has difficulties with one or more of the following areas: emotions, concentration, behavior, or being able to get along with other children.

Depression or anxiety: Children ages 6 to 17 were classified as having depression or anxiety if a doctor or health professional has told parents that the child has depression or anxiety problems.

Variable Definitions (continued)

Developmental delay: Children ages 1 to 5 were classified as being at moderate or high risk for developmental delay based on a scale comprised of 8 to 9 age-appropriate items. Parents of all children ages 1 up to 5 years are asked the initial question, "Do you have any concerns about [child's] learning, development, or behavior?" If the response is positive, parents respond to a series of questions regarding children's speech and comprehension, motor skills, and behaviors.

Learning disability: Children ages 6 to 17 were classified as having a learning disability if parents reported either that a doctor, health professional, or school official had ever told them that the child has a learning disability.

Read stories: Children under age 6 were classified as being read to frequently if their parent reported that any family member read stories to the child 7 days per week.

Reads for pleasure: For children ages 6 to 17, this measure is based on parents' reports that their child spent any amount of time on an average school day reading for pleasure.

Behavior problems: Parents of children ages 6 to 17 reported how often each of four statements was true for their child during the past month: "He/she argues too much," "He/she bullies or is cruel or mean to others," "He/she is disobedient," and "He/she is stubborn, sullen or irritable." Children for whom two or more of these were "usually" or "always" true were categorized as exhibiting behavior problems.

Positive social competence: Parents of children ages 6 to 17 reported how often each of four statements was true for their child during the past month: "He/she shows respect for teachers and neighbors," "He/she gets along well with other children," "He/she tries to understand other people's feelings," and "he/she tries to resolve conflicts with classmates, family, or friends." Children for whom all four of these were "usually" or "always" true were categorized as exhibiting positive social competence.

Family activities

Extracurricular activities: Children ages 6 to 17 were classified as participating in extracurricular activities if their parents reported that, during the past 12 months, the child was on a sports team or participated in sports lessons after school or on weekends, or was in clubs or organizations after school, or participated in any other organized activities.

Volunteered: Children ages 12 to 17 were classified as having volunteered if their parents reported that, during the past 12 months, the child has been involved in any type of community service or volunteer work at school, church, or in the community.

Attends a religious service: Children under age 18 were classified as attending religious services weekly based on parental reports regarding how often the child attends religious services.

Eats meals together with family: Children under age 18 whose parents reported that all family members who live in the household ate a meal together on six or seven days of the prior week were classified as regularly eating meals together.

Household member smokes: This measure identifies children under age 18 whose parents reported that anyone in the household uses cigarettes, cigars, or pipe tobacco.

Parent mental health: Parents responded to the question, "Would you say that in general your mental and emotional health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?" This measure identifies children under age 18 whose parents responded "fair" or "poor."

Close parent-child relationship: Children age 6 to 17 were classified as having a close parent-child relationship if their parent rated the closeness of their relationship as "very close," rather than "somewhat," "not very," or "not close at all."

Supportive neighborhood: Parents indicated whether they agreed with four statements: "People in this neighborhood help each other out;" "We watch out for each other's children in this neighborhood;" "There are people I can count on in this neighborhood;" and "If my child were outside playing and got hurt or scared, there are adults nearby who I trust to help my child." Each response was scored on a scale of 1 (definitely agree) to 4 (definitely disagree). Average scores of less than 2.25 were categorized as supportive neighborhoods for children under age 18.

Safe neighborhood: Parents reported whether they "always," "usually," "sometimes," or "never" feel their children are safe in the community or neighborhood. Children under age 18 were classified as living in a supportive neighborhood if parents reported "always."

