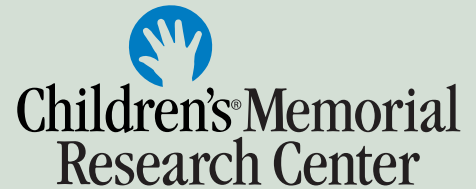


Illinois Health Survey: Access to health services for Chicago youth



VOLUME 1 • NOVEMBER 2009

Overview

The Child Health Data Lab is pleased to present findings from the pilot of the Illinois Health Survey (IHS). The IHS builds on the success of the Illinois County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (ICBRFS), which gathers data about Illinois adults every three years. IHS expands ICBRFS by including a large sample of youth, ages 0-17. For the pilot, Chicago families were surveyed.

Several key institutions in Illinois are working together to develop the IHS with the goal of substantially expanding and improving the data available on the health status of Illinois youth.

The people of Illinois and Chicago, and their representatives in government, seek to assure that their children have the best possible chance at good health and long life. Every month, policies are implemented and new ones are considered, all with the goal of providing this assurance.

Yet this work is not as strong as it could be. When State and local authorities craft policy to maintain and enhance the health of children

and adolescents, they must do so with sharply limited information. This means, in essence, that policies are often based on "best guesses," rather than hard facts.

In response to similar lack of data, several states have begun performing broad-based health interview surveys of their populations to more accurately identify health risks and to more fully explore ways to address threats to health. These surveys are designed to provide information that meets the needs of policy makers — these surveys strive to provide data that are (a) local, (b) timely, (c) accurate, (d) adequately descriptive and (e) informative at each intervention level (state, community, family, individual).

The current newsletter reports findings from a pilot of IHS conducted in Chicago in the fall of 2008. The pilot is the first step in implementing the survey across all of Illinois. We ask for collaborative support from youth-serving organizations and agencies to make the statewide Illinois Health Survey a reality.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND MEDICAID

FIGURE 1: Health insurance status of Chicago children ages 0-17

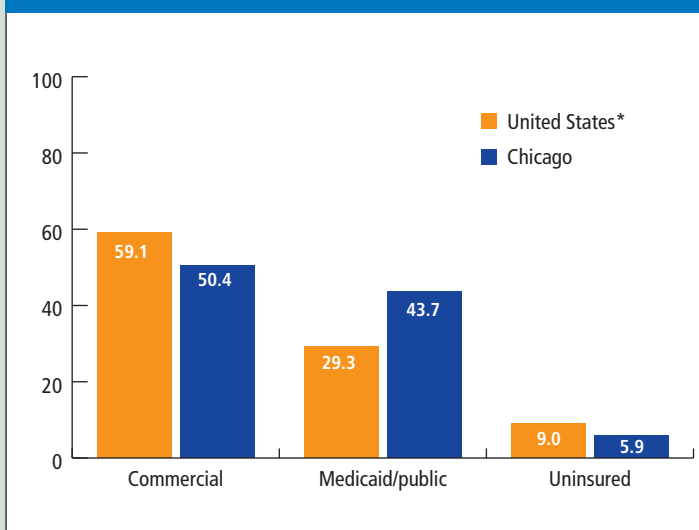
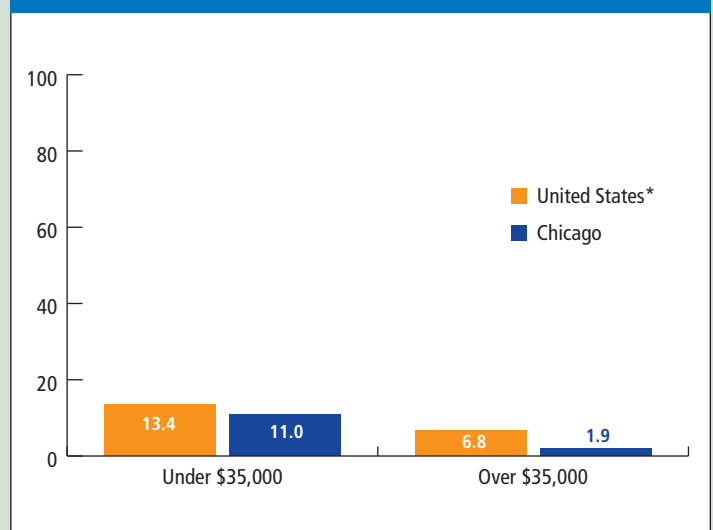


FIGURE 2: Percent of children who have no insurance by family income



For comparability purposes with the National Health Interview Survey, the Medicaid/public insurance category for Illinois includes children on Medicaid/KidCare/All Kids (36.1%), Medicare (3.7%) and "other government insurance" (3.9%).

* Except where noted, U.S. comparison data are from the National Health Interview Survey, 2007.

Access to health services

MEDICAL SERVICES

Nearly all respondents said that the selected child had a regular place for medical care (97.8%). Among Chicago youth who had a regular source of care, 59.0% went to a private doctor's office and 38.5% went to a clinic (Figure 3). The picture across the United States is somewhat different, with 76.4% of U.S. youth reporting a doctor's office as their usual place of

medical care and 21.4% reporting that a clinic is their usual place of care.

Both in the United States and in Chicago, there appears to be only a small difference in the use of medical care in the previous 12 months. Regardless of insurance status, over 90% of surveyed parents reported that their child had at least one visit to a provider in the previous 12 months (Figure 4).

FIGURE 3: Usual place of medical care

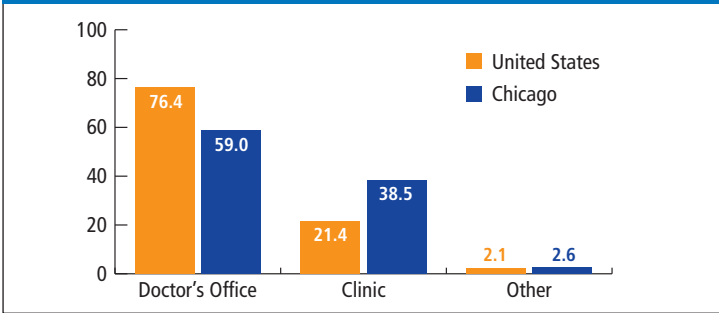
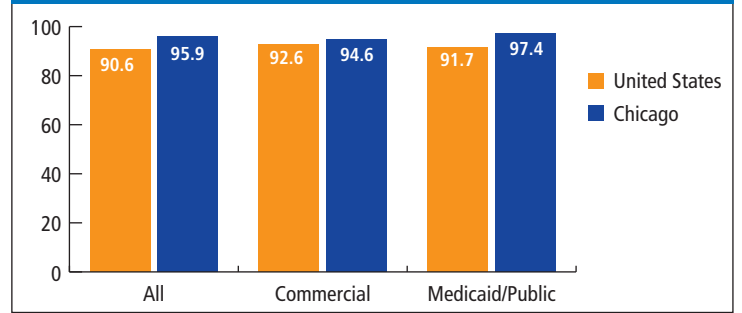


FIGURE 4: Percent of youth who had a doctor's visit in the previous 12 months



DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

About one-fifth of children in Chicago (20.2%) and the United States (22.9%) did not have a dental visit in the previous 12 months (Figure 5). Children who have Medicaid/public insurance in Chicago are slightly

more likely than commercially-insured children to have seen a dentist in the previous 12 months for a routine cleaning without also having another dental problem (Figure 6).

FIGURE 5: Received dental services in the last 12 months

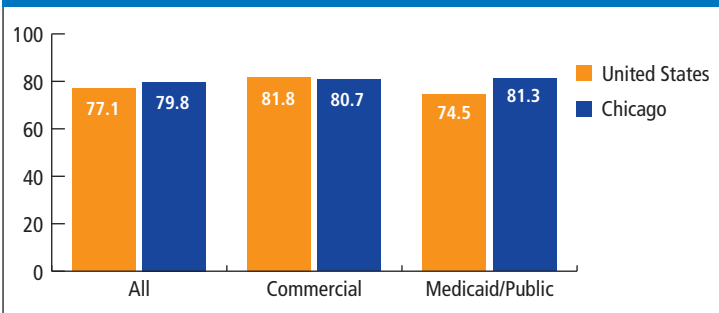
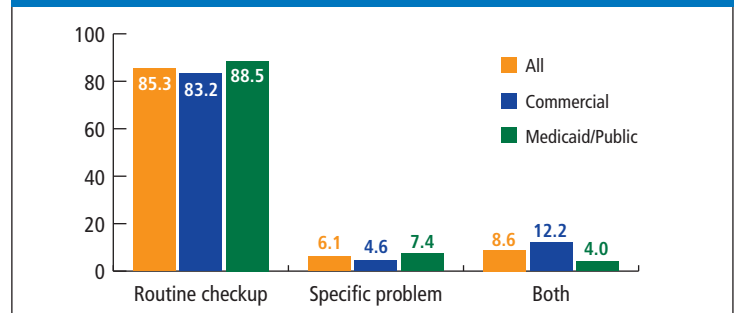


FIGURE 6: Reason for dental visit in last 12 months, Chicago



DELAYS IN GETTING NEEDED CARE

Compared with the United States more generally, more parents in Chicago report that their children experienced delays in receiving needed medical care (Figure 7). Both commercially-insured and publicly-insured children in Chicago appear to experience more barriers to needed health care than

across the United States. Additionally, Chicago youth who have Medicaid/public insurance are about three times as likely as youth with commercial insurance to report geographic barriers (Figure 8).

FIGURE 7: Delayed getting needed medical care because of cost

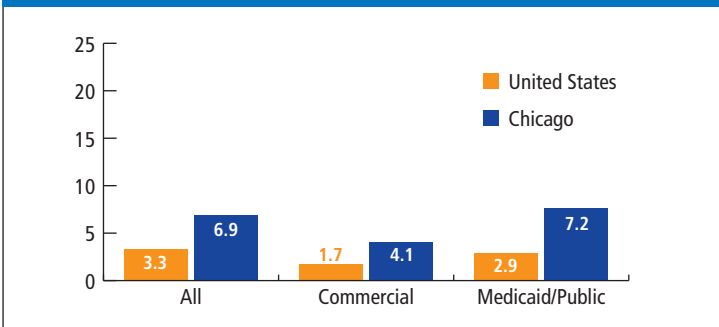
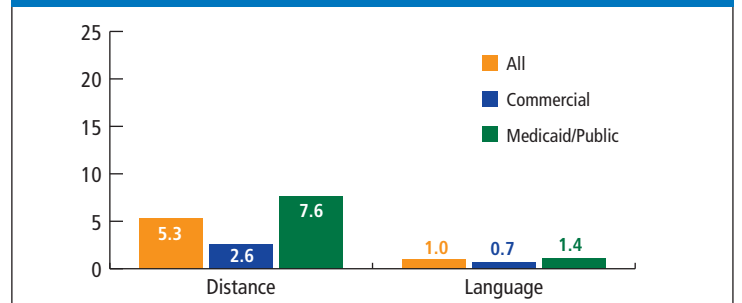


FIGURE 8: Delayed getting needed medical care because of distance or language difficulties, Chicago



Health of Chicago youth

OVERALL HEALTH STATUS

In general, Chicago parents report that their children are somewhat less healthy than children across the nation (Figure 9). The most notable comparison of reported health status is within Chicago (Figure 10). Children who use Medicaid/public insurance have parents who are less

likely to report that the children are in “excellent” (39.5%) or “very good” (20.7%) health than parents with children who use commercial insurance. Parents of commercially-insured children report high numbers who are in “excellent” (65.5%) or “very good” (23.2%) health.

FIGURE 9: Overall health status of Chicago and US youth, as reported by parent

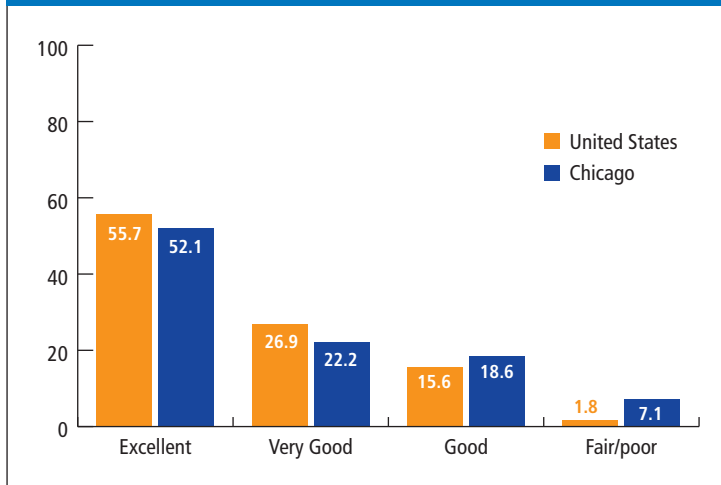
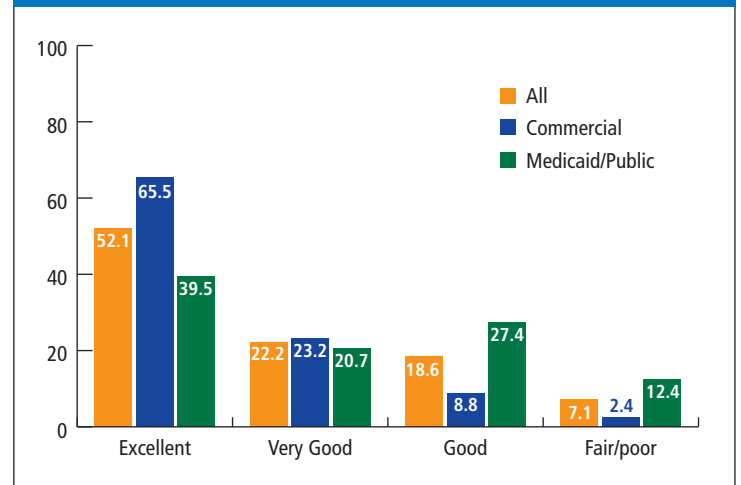


FIGURE 10: Overall health status of Chicago youth as reported by parent, by health insurance provider



CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The Illinois Health Survey includes a number of items that allow us to estimate how many children have chronic conditions and conditions that would interfere with development and success in school. In comparing Chicago and U.S. youth, Chicago youth are almost twice as likely to have been diagnosed with asthma and more than twice as likely to have been diagnosed with behavioral/conduct problems (Figure 11). Chicago youth

are slightly more likely to have been identified as having learning problems or delays than children across the United States (Figure 12). Children who are insured through Medicaid/public insurance are at least twice as likely as Chicago children with commercial insurance to have been diagnosed with any chronic condition.

FIGURE 11: Selected chronic conditions for Chicago and US youth

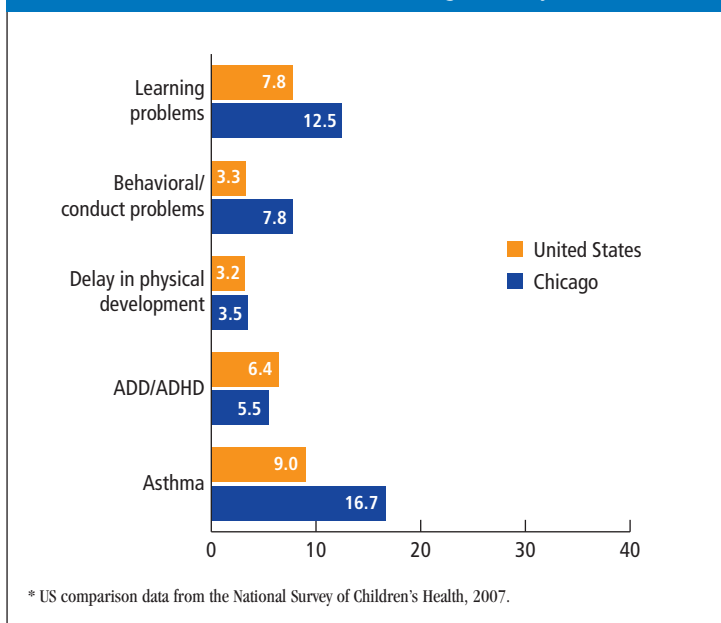
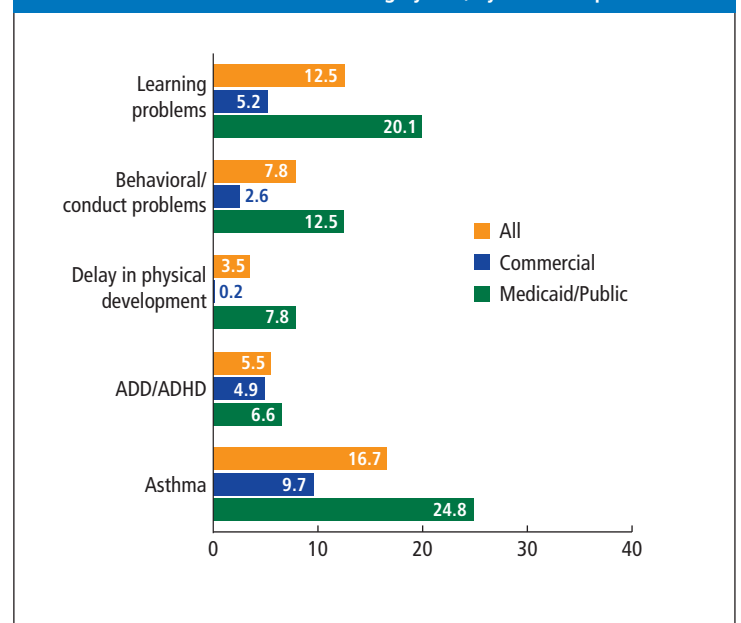


FIGURE 12: Chronic conditions for Chicago youth, by insurance provider



About the Illinois Health Survey

ABOUT THE PILOT SURVEY

The pilot was conducted over the phone using random-digit-dial procedures. Only households with children in Chicago were asked to participate in the pilot. The piloted survey contained four modules:

Module 1: The Center for Disease Control and Preventions' Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) – a survey of randomly selected adults living in the household. Completed for 231 adults. On average, the survey took 17 minutes to complete.

Module 2: The Adult Supplement – items added to the BRFSS to bring it more in line with Illinois' needs. Completed for all adults receiving the BRFSS. The Supplement took on average seven minutes to complete.

Module 3: Youth Core – survey of the parent (or most knowledgeable adult) about the health of a child in the household. The child was randomly chosen among youth (age 0-17) living in the household. Completed for 504 youth. On average, took 17 minutes to complete.

Module 4: Adolescent Supplement – if the child chosen for the Youth Core was an adolescent (age 12-17), permission was requested to interview the youth him/herself. Completed for 70 adolescents.

About 10% of the surveys were conducted in Spanish. Data were weighted to reflect the overall youth and overall adult populations in Chicago respectively.

The response rate for the Adult Module was 28%; the response rate for the Youth Core Module was 55%; and the response rate for the Adolescent Supplement was 49%. More information about the IHS pilot can be found at www.illinoishealthsurvey.org.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDY SAMPLE

The survey sample completed interviews for 504 children, using a random digit dial procedure. The racial distribution of the parents (or the adult who reports to be the most knowledgeable about the youth's health) closely aligns with the racial distribution of Chicago adults (Table 1). The age and gender distribution of youth represented in the sample closely aligns with the age and gender distribution of youth in Chicago (Table 2).

TABLE 2: Age and gender of surveyed youth

Age Group	Study Sample	City of Chicago*
	% (95% C.I.)	%
Age 0-4	26.8 (21.4, 32.1)	30.3
Age 5-9	30.2 (23.1, 37.2)	25.6
Age 10-14	26.7 (21.6, 31.7)	27.4
Age 15-17	16.4 (12.8, 20.1)	16.6
Gender		
Male	50.6 (44.2, 57.1)	50.9
Female	49.4 (42.9, 55.8)	49.1

* City of Chicago demographic data are from the 2007 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 1: Race/ethnicity of adult BRFSS respondent

	Study Sample	City of Chicago*
	% (95% C.I.)	%
White	38.5 (31.1, 45.9)	30.9
Black	38.4 (31.0, 45.9)	34.6
Hispanic	16.9 (11.5, 22.3)	28.2
Other	6.2 (2.3, 10.1)	6.3

* City of Chicago demographic data are from the 2007 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ILLINOIS HEALTH SURVEY:

- Chicago Community Trust
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Children's Memorial Hospital's Faculty Practice Plan and Office of Child Advocacy
- Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation
- Kohl's Cares for Kids

IHS partnering organizations include:

- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Children's Memorial Hospital
- University of Illinois-Chicago, School of Public Health
- Northern Illinois University, Public Opinion Laboratory

For more information about the Illinois Health Survey, please contact:

Jenifer Cartland, PhD
Co-Director, Center for Community Partnerships and Health Promotion
Children's Memorial Research Center
2300 Children's Plaza, Box 157
Chicago, IL 60614
jcartland@childrensmemorial.org
312.573.7772

Or visit our website:
www.illinoishealthsurvey.org

