

risk. Conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan pose added challenges to reaching the eradication goal.

In January 2004, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, in consultation with ministers of health of countries where polio is endemic, discussed a revised target of complete global interruption of poliovirus transmission by the end of 2005. With sufficient financing, political commitment, and motivation of health workers, global eradication is nearly in reach. However, the eradication partnership might be critically challenged if the end of 2005 finds 1) continued poliovirus transmission in the remaining high-risk districts in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan; 2) delay in the control and interruption of WPV transmission in currently affected African countries; or 3) continued expansion of the epidemic in Africa to additional countries. The initiative will be aided in the final push by selective use of mOPV1 and improved efforts to reach every child in underserved population subgroups. In view of the investments already made in polio eradication, concerted

efforts in 2005 by governments, health workers, volunteers, and local and international polio partners are imperative to reach the goal of interrupting poliovirus transmission.

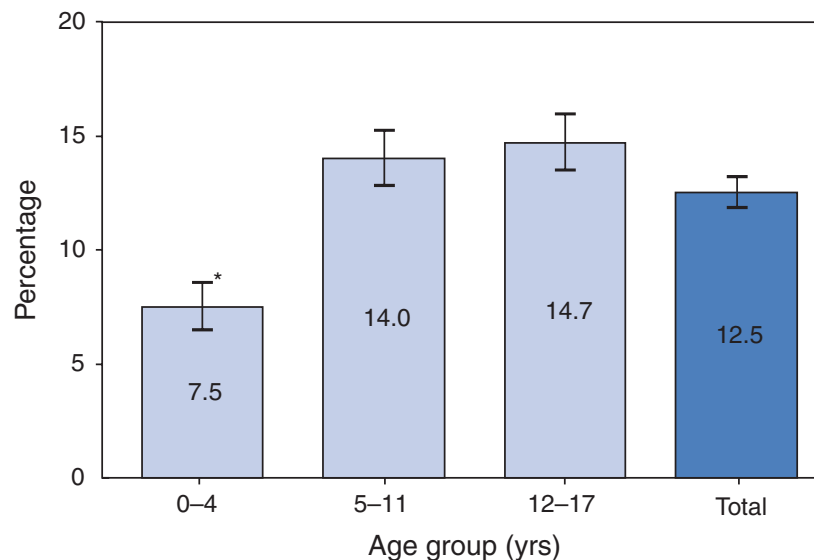
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QuickStats

FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Percentage of Children Aged <18 years Who Have Ever Had Asthma Diagnosed, by Age Group — United States, 2003



* 95% confidence interval.

An estimated 9 million (12.5%) children aged <18 years in the United States have had asthma diagnosed at some time in their lives. As age increases, the proportion of children who have ever had asthma diagnosed increases.

SOURCE: Dey AN, Bloom B. Summary health statistics for U.S. children: National Health Interview Survey, 2003. *Vital Health Stat* 2005;10(223). Available at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_223.pdf.