

Visits to a dentist during the past year among those aged 2 years and older

Characteristics	NHANES III	MEPS 2000	NHIS 2001
	Visits to a dentist during the past year*	At least one dental visit during the year 2000	Last saw or talked to a dentist or other dental professional within past year
Total	67.2 (65.7, 68.8)	43.1 (41.7, 44.5)	65.7 (65.1, 66.4)
Age			
2 to 4 years	36.5 (33.8, 39.1)	23.4 (20.0, 26.8)	42.2 (39.9, 44.6)
5 to 14 years	77.6 (75.0, 80.1)	54.7 (52.4, 57.1)	80.7 (79.6, 81.9)
15 to 24 years	68.3 (65.6, 70.9)	37.9 (35.1, 40.8)	66.2 (64.7, 67.7)
25 to 34 years	68.0 (65.0, 71.0)	35.3 (33.0, 37.6)	61.8 (60.3, 63.2)
35 to 44 years	72.5 (69.6, 75.4)	44.5 (42.1, 46.8)	66.3 (64.8, 67.7)
45 to 54 years	70.1 (66.8, 73.3)	47.7 (44.6, 50.7)	67.9 (66.5, 69.4)
55 to 64 years	64.7 (61.2, 68.1)	45.0 (41.6, 48.4)	65.1 (63.3, 66.9)
65 to 74 years	59.2 (55.0, 63.4)	43.5 (40.1, 46.8)	58.7 (56.8, 60.7)
75 to 84 years	51.5 (46.1, 56.9)	42.1 (37.8, 46.3)	55.0 (52.6, 57.5)
85 years and older	48.8 (42.9, 54.7)	35.6 (29.4, 41.7)	47.7 (43.4, 52.0)
Race/ethnicity^a			
Non-Hispanic white	70.3 (68.4, 72.2)	NA	69.2 (68.4, 70.0)
Non-Hispanic black	58.2 (55.9, 60.5)	NA	58.6 (57.0, 60.2)
Mexican American	51.9 (49.6, 54.2)	NA	NA
Hispanic	NA	26.9 (24.6, 29.2)	52.5 (51.0, 54.0)
Black	NA	27.8 (25.2, 30.4)	NA
White and other	NA	48.2 (46.6, 49.8)	NA
Gender			
Male	64.1 (62.3, 65.9)	39.5 (38.0, 41.0)	62.9 (62.0, 63.8)
Female	70.2 (68.4, 72.0)	46.5 (44.9, 48.2)	68.4 (67.6, 69.2)
Federal poverty level (FPL)			
Below FPL	50.7 (47.8, 53.3)	27.6 (25.2, 30.1)	49.2 (47.1, 51.2)
At or above FPL	71.0 (69.4, 72.6)	45.0 (43.6, 46.5)	67.8 (67.1, 68.5)
Education¹			
Less than 12 th grade	49.8 (47.5, 52.1)	25.5 (23.5, 27.5)	43.3 (41.8, 44.8)
12 th grade	65.8 (63.8, 67.8)	38.1 (36.5, 39.7)	60.6 (59.5, 61.6)
More than 12 th grade	79.2 (77.6, 80.9)	54.0 (52.4, 55.7)	75.1 (74.3, 75.9)
Below FPL			
Non-Hispanic white	52.2 (47.1, 57.2)	NA	52.4 (49.3, 55.4)
Non-Hispanic black	50.7 (48.1, 53.3)	NA	48.1 (44.2, 52.0)
Mexican American	40.9 (38.7, 43.1)	NA	NA
Hispanic	NA	17.9 (14.6, 21.2)	42.5 (39.5, 45.4)
Black	NA	24.2 (18.7, 29.7)	NA
White and other	NA	33.2 (29.6, 36.8)	NA
At or above FPL			
Non-Hispanic white	72.6 (70.8, 74.4)	NA	70.3 (69.5, 71.1)
Non-Hispanic black	62.7 (60.0, 65.4)	NA	60.7 (58.7, 62.7)
Mexican American	61.0 (57.95, 64.1)	NA	NA
Hispanic	NA	29.2 (26.8, 31.6)	57.2 (55.3, 59.0)
Black	NA	28.8 (25.9, 31.6)	NA
White and other	NA	49.5 (47.9, 51.1)	NA

* All variables are age-adjusted to the year 2000 U.S. standard population, except those for age subgroups.

¹ Education in NHANES III represents the education of the head of the household for persons under 18; otherwise, it represents the education of the individual person. In MEPS, if the age is less than 18 years, then the education is referred to the highest education of either parent. In NHIS, the education categories are less than high school, high school graduate, and more than high school.

^a MEPS reports race/ethnicity as Hispanic, black-not Hispanic, and other (including whites).

Data source: The Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III), 2001 National Health Interview Survey, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 2000 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS HC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.