



2017

NATIONAL
HEALTHCARE
QUALITY
AND DISPARITIES
REPORT

Measure Specifications



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Introduction

This document briefly describes the definitions of the 2017 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report (QDR) measures that are posted on the QDR website at <https://nhqrnet.ahrq.gov/inhqrdr>. The descriptions for each measure include a Measure Title, a Measure Source, Data Source, data tables supporting the measure, definitions of Numerator and Denominator, and other Comments.

The measures are organized by chapter, followed by sections and subsections based on the QDR Measure List. Note that numbering is not sequential in some cases as measures may have been retired, discontinued, or rearranged. Measure specifications are also linked from each measure on the Data Query page of the QDR website.

The sources of this documentation are based on information from the data source data system websites or from the QDR source data contributing agencies and organizations.

Finally, the document has been divided into sections, and each section is numbered separately.

Chapter 2. Access to Care

2.1. Getting Appointments for Care

Measure ID

MEPS_16, 20101011

Measure Title

Adults who had any appointment for routine health care in the last 12 months who sometimes or never got an appointment for routine care as soon as needed

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002 to 2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

National: AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population age 18 and over who made an appointment for regular or routine health care in the past 12 months and had a valid response to the question, “In the last 12 months, how often did you get an appointment for regular or routine health care as soon as you wanted?”

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who answered “Sometimes” or “Never”

Comments

National tables report data from the MEPS Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ).

Measure ID

MEPS_18, 20101031

Measure Title

Adults who needed care right away for an illness, injury, or condition in the last 12 months who sometimes or never got care as soon as needed

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002 to 2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

National: AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized adults age 18 and over who in the past 12 months had an illness or injury who needed care right away and had a valid response to the question, “In the last 12 months, when you needed care right away for an illness or injury, how often did you get care as soon as you wanted?”

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who responded “Sometimes” or “Never” to the above question

Comments

Nonrespondents and “Don’t Know” responses were excluded.

Measure ID

MEPS_17, 20101021

Measure Title

Children who had any appointment for routine health care in the last 12 months who sometimes or never got an appointment for routine care as soon as needed

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002 to 2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, Language spoken at home, Perceived health status, CSHCN(children with special health care needs), U.S. born

Data Source

National: AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population under age 18 who had an appointment for regular or routine health care in the past 12 months and with a valid response to the question “In the last 12 months, how often did [the person] get an appointment for regular or routine health care as soon as you wanted?”

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who, according to their parents or guardians, answered the above question “Sometimes” or “Never”

Comments

Data are from the MEPS Child Health section. The MEPS entry in the Data Sources appendix has more information.

Nonrespondents and “Don’t Know” responses were excluded.

2.2. Waiting Time

Measure ID

HHCAHPS_16, 20201021

Measure Title

Adults who reported getting the help or advice they needed the same day they contacted their home health provider

Measure Source

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HHCAHPS).

Table Descriptions

Geographic Representation: National, State

Years Available: 2012-2016

Population Subgroups: Age, ethnicity/race, education, language spoken at home

Data Source

CMS, HHCAHPS

Denominator

Adult home health patients age 18 and over who provided a valid response to the question, “When you contacted this agency’s office, how long did it take for you to get the help or advice you needed?”, excluding nonrespondents and respondents indicating “did not contact this agency”.

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who responded “same day” to the above question

2.5. Health Insurance

Measure ID

NHIS_15, 20501031

Measure Title

People under age 65 with health insurance

Measure Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2000-2016

Population Subgroups: Activity limitations, age, education, geographic location (residence), income, race/ethnicity, sex

Data Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population under age 65

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator: who reported coverage by any type of public or private health insurance

Comments

This measure is referred to as measure AHS-1.1 in Healthy People 2020 documentation. Persons with Indian Health Service coverage only are considered to have no coverage.

Measure ID

NHIS_17, 20501051

Measure Title

People under age 65 with any private health insurance

Measure Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2000-2016

Population Subgroups: Activity limitation, age, education, geographic location (residence), income, race/ethnicity, sex

Data Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population under age 65

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator: who reported coverage by private health insurance only

Measure ID

NHIS_18, 20501061

Measure Title

Adults age 65 and over with any private health insurance

Measure Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2000-2016

Population Subgroups: Activity limitation, education, geographic location (residence), income, race/ethnicity, sex

Data Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population age 65 and over

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator: who reported coverage by any private health insurance

Measure ID

MEPS_40, 20501071

Measure Title

People under age 65 who were uninsured all year

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002-2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population under age 65

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who reported no private or public health insurance coverage at any time during the year

Comments

People who are “full-year uninsured” include those whose number of uninsured months is equal to the number of available months in MEPS.

Measure ID

MEPS_41, 20501081

Measure Title

People under age 65 with any period of uninsurance during the year

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002 to 2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population under age 65

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who reported they had no public or private health insurance coverage at any month during the year

Measure ID

NHIS_22, 20501091

Measure Title

People under age 65 without health insurance

Measure Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2010-2016

Population Subgroups: Activity limitation, age, education, race/ethnicity, geographic location (residence), income, race/ethnicity, sex

Data Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Denominator

Number of people under age 65 without health insurance

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator: who reported they were without insurance

Comments

Estimates are not age adjusted.

Measure ID

NHIS_16, 20501101

Measure Title

People under age 65 with public health insurance only

Measure Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2000-2016

Population Subgroups: Activity limitation, age, education, geographic location (residence), income, race/ethnicity, sex

Data Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population under age 65

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator: who reported only being covered by public health insurance

Comments

Public insurance includes Medicare, Medicaid, and other public programs that provide hospital and/or physician coverage.

2.6. Usual Source of Care

Measure ID

NHIS_19, 20601011

Measure Title

People with a specific source of ongoing care

Measure Source

Healthy People 2020

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2009-2016

Population Subgroups: Activity limitation, age, education, race/ethnicity, geographic location (residence), income, insurance, race/ethnicity, sex

Data Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator: who reported having a specific source of primary care

Comments

A specific source of primary care includes urgent care/walk-in clinic, doctor's office, clinic, health center facility, hospital outpatient clinic, health maintenance or preferred provider organization, military or other Veterans Affairs health care facility, or some other place. A hospital emergency room is not included as a specific source of primary care.

This measure is referred to as measure AHS-5.1 in Healthy People 2020 documentation.

Measure ID

MEPS_46, 20601021

Measure Title

People with a usual primary care provider

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002-2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who have a usual primary care provider

Comments

A person is determined to have had a primary care provider if his or her usual source of care setting was either a physician's office or a hospital (setting other than an emergency room), and he or she reported going to this usual source of care for new health problems, preventive health services, and referrals.

Measure ID

NHIS_20, 20601041

Measure Title

People in fair or poor health with a specific source of ongoing care

Measure Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2009-2016

Population Subgroups: Activity limitation, age, education, race/ethnicity, geographic location (residence), income, insurance, race/ethnicity, sex

Data Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Denominator

Number of people who reported being in fair or poor health

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator: who reported having a specific source of ongoing care

Comments

A specific source of ongoing care includes urgent care/walk-in clinic, doctor's office, clinic, health center facility, hospital outpatient clinic, health maintenance or preferred provider organization, military or other Veterans Affairs health care facilities, or some other place. A hospital emergency room is not included as a specific source of ongoing care.

Estimates are not age adjusted.

Measure ID

NHIS_21, 20601051

Measure Title

People who identified a hospital, emergency room, or clinic as a source of ongoing care

Measure Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2009-2016

Population Subgroups: Activity limitation, age, education, race/ethnicity, geographic location (residence), insurance, race/ethnicity, sex

Data Source

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator: who reported a hospital, emergency room, or clinic as their source of primary care

Comments

Estimates are not age adjusted

2.7. Patient Perceptions of Need

Measure ID

MEPS_70, 20701011

Measure Title

People who were unable to get or delayed in getting needed medical care, dental care, or prescription medications in the last 12 months

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002-2015

Population Subgroups: Activity limitations, age, education, number of chronic conditions, employment status, ethnicity, gender, family income, health insurance, perceived health status, language spoken at home, Medicaid/CHIP, race, residence location, U.S. born

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who indicated difficulties or delays in obtaining medical care, dental care, or prescription medications

Measure ID

MEPS_51, 20701021

Measure Title

People who were unable to get or delayed in getting medical care in the last 12 months

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002-2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who did not receive or delayed receiving needed medical care in the last 12 months

Measure ID

MEPS_52, 20701031

Measure Title

People who were unable to get or delayed in getting needed dental care in the last 12 months

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002-2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who did not receive or delayed receiving needed dental care in the last 12 months

Measure ID

MEPS_53, 20701041

Measure Title

People who were unable to get or delayed in getting needed prescription medicine in the last 12 months

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002-2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who did not receive or delayed receiving needed prescription medicine in last 12 months

Measure ID

MEPS_54, 20701051

Measure Title

People with a usual source of care, excluding hospital emergency rooms, who has office hours at night or on weekends

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Descriptions

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002-2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population who reported having a usual source of care, excluding hospital emergency rooms

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who reported that their provider has night or weekend office hours

Measure ID

MEPS_55, 20701061

Measure Title

People with a usual source of care who is somewhat to very difficulty to contact their provider during regular business hours over the telephone

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Descriptions

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2002-2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population who report having a usual source of care

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who reported that they have difficulty contacting their provider over the telephone during regular business hours

Measure ID

MEPS_56, 20701071

Measure Title

Adults who needed to see a specialist in the last 12 months who sometimes or never found it easy to see a specialist

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Descriptions

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2008 to 2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, education, employment status, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, language spoken at home, perceived health status, activity limitations, number of chronic conditions, U.S. born.

Data Source

National: AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized age 18 and over who reported that, during the previous 12 months, they or a doctor thought they needed to see a specialist

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who reported problems getting a referral to a specialist in the past year

Comments

The national table report data from the MEPS Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ)

Measure ID

MEPS_58, 20701081

Measure Title

Children who needed to see a specialist in the last 12 months who sometimes or never found it easy to see a specialist

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Descriptions

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2008 to 2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, Language spoken at home, Perceived health status, CSHCN(children with special health care needs), U.S. born

Data Source

National: AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized children under age 18 whose parents reported that, during the previous 12 months, they or a doctor thought they needed to see a specialist

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator whose parent reported problems getting a referral to a specialist in the past year

Measure ID

MEPS_59, 20701091

Measure Title

Adults who had a doctor's office or clinic visit in the last 12 months and needed care, tests, or treatment who sometimes or never found it easy to get the care, tests, or treatment

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2008 to 2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, Language spoken at home, Perceived health status, CSHCN(children with special health care needs), U.S. born

Data Source

National: AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized adults (age 18 and over) who needed care, tests, or treatments in the last 12 months

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who sometimes or never found it easy to get the care, tests, or treatments in the last 12 months

Comments

Data were obtained from the MEPS Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ).

Measure ID

MEPS_60, 20701101

Measure Title

Children who had a doctor's office or clinic visit in the last 12 months and needed care, tests, or treatment who sometimes or never found it easy to get the care, tests, or treatment

Measure Source

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT), Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Table Description

Geographic Representation: National

Years Available: 2008 to 2015

Population Subgroups: Age, gender, race, ethnicity, family income, health insurance, Medicaid/CHIP, residence location, Language spoken at home, Perceived health status, CSHCN(children with special health care needs), U.S. born

Data Source

National: AHRQ, CFACT, MEPS

Denominator

U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized children under age 18 who needed care, tests, or treatments in the last 12 months

Numerator

Subset of the Denominator who sometimes or never found it easy to get the care, tests, or treatments in the last 12 months