

Better Health for Children and Adolescents



The Landscape

- The U.S. has **more than 280** children's hospitals, including children's hospital units.
Source: 2024 AHA Annual Survey; 2025 AHA Hospital Database Subsidiary Report
- Nearly 50%** of children* are enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.
Source: AAP, 2025
- Medicaid accounts for **more than half** of pediatric hospitals' total revenue.
Source: Chartis, 2025
- 5.6%** of children are uninsured.
Source: NCHS, 2026
- Children with medical complexities ages 0-21 are **less than 1%** of the pediatric population, but account for nearly **1/3 of pediatric healthcare costs**.
Source: BMC Health Services Research, 2024

Health Trends among Children

40.6% have one or more lifelong conditions.
Source: NSCH, 2024

6.5% currently have asthma.
Source: NCHS, 2026

1 in 5 children have obesity.
Source: CDC, 2026

314,000 children under 20 years have diagnosed type 1 diabetes.
Source: CDC, 2026

Mental and Behavioral Health Conditions



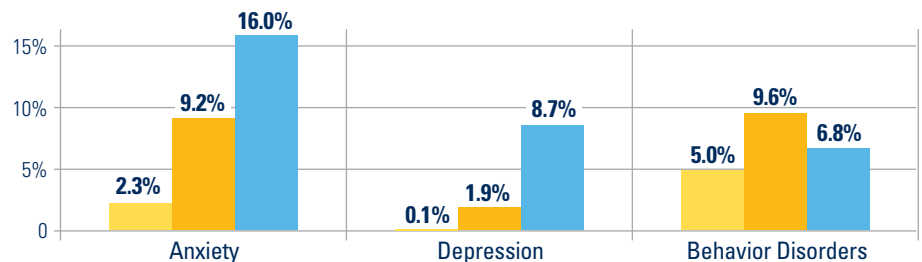
1 in 5 children are diagnosed with a mental, emotional or behavioral health condition.

More than 70% of U.S. counties lack a child and adolescent psychiatrist.

Source: CDC, 2023

Mental and Behavioral Health Conditions by Age

■ Ages 3-5 ■ Ages 6-11 ■ Ages 12-17



Source: AACAP, 2025

Leading Causes of Mortality

Accidents or unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death across all children ages 1-14, while intentional self-harm and suicide are leading causes among older children ages 15-19.

Source: CDC, 2024

67% of children had both a preventive medical and dental visit in the past 12 months.

Source: NSCH, 2024

Social Drivers of Health



17% experience housing instability.

Source: NSCH, 2024



About **24%** lack access to parks and sidewalks.

Source: NSCH, 2024; NSCH, 2024



1/3 of parents reported an inability to always feed their children a healthy diet.

Source: NSCH, 2024

Disparities in Health Outcomes

Black children are **2.5x as likely** to have fair or poor health than white children.

Source: NSCH, 2024

Children living in poverty **increased from 5% in 2021 to 13% in 2024**.

Source: Annie Casey Foundation, 2025

36% of children in rural areas receive flu vaccines compared to **55%** in urban areas.

Source: CDC, 2026

*This infographic uses the common definition of children — individuals ages 0-17, unless otherwise noted.