

## Data Trends

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From the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Tampa, Florida...

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This News brief alerts you the following article: Blanchard, L. T., Gurka, M. J., & Blackman, J. A. (2006). Emotional, developmental, and behavioral health of American children and their families: A report from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health. *Pediatrics*, 117, 1202-1212.

Data for this article come from The National Health Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), the largest and most comprehensive survey of the health of children in the United States. Telephone interviews were conducted with the parents/caregivers of 102,353 youth aged 0-17. Some children had special needs, while others did not. Just over 5% of children ages 0-17 were reported to have a persistent emotional, developmental or behavioral problem lasting for 12 months or more.

From the abstract: "The most commonly diagnosed problems among children 6-17 years of age were learning disabilities (11.5%), ADHD (8.8%), and behavioral problems (6.3%) among preschoolers, speech problems (5.8%) and developmental delay (3.2%) were most common. One in 200 children was diagnosed with autism. In contrast, rates of parental concerns about emotional, developmental or behavioral problems were much higher; for example, 41% of parents had concerns about learning difficulties and 36% about depression or anxiety. Children with developmental problems had lower self-esteem, more depression and anxiety, more problems with learning, missed more school, and were less involved in sports and other community activities. Their families experienced more difficulty in the areas of childcare, employment, parent-child relationship, and caregiver burden."

Detailed information about the design of the NSCH, and a data search mechanism, are available at <http://www.nschdata.org/Content/Default.aspx>

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