

# Methods & Data Tables

Vanderbilt Child Health Poll ■ Health Insurance, Food Insecurity



**VANDERBILT**  
Center for  
Child Health Policy

The Vanderbilt Child Health Poll aimed to gather insights from Tennessee parents regarding their children's health insurance coverage, behavioral health, schooling, as well as the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their family. This poll has been conducted in the fall of 2019 (10/1/2019 - 11/4/2019) as well as in 2020 (10/2/2020 - 11/9/2020) by Ipsos Public Affairs (Ipsos) utilizing an online platform to collect responses from more than 1000 parents (2019: 1100; 2020: 1066) in Tennessee. Respondents were required to have at least one child under the age of 18 who lives in the same household. The survey was fielded in English and had a median completion time of 10 minutes in 2019 and 12 minutes in 2020. Participants received an email invitation to complete the poll online at their convenience and non-responders were sent reminders regularly. Ipsos provided households with Internet access and hardware if needed. This electronic approach, as opposed to telephone calls or postal mail, reduces the burden placed on respondents and yields higher response rates.

Ipsos makes use of address-based sampling methods to recruit a pool of participants and subsequently selects from this pool using stratified random sampling. This methodology of survey sampling ensures that poll results will be generalizable to the Tennessee population since it is effective in recruiting hard-to-reach individuals, such as young adults and minorities.

This study design incorporated an oversampling (in 2020) of Non-Hispanic Black/African American parents. Each participant is given a weight based on their demographic information. These weights are scaled based on demographic distributions from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS). In order to maintain consistency in comparing across poll versions, the 2019 Vanderbilt Child Health Poll was weighted similarly, utilizing benchmarks from the 2017 ACS.

The geodemographic benchmarks used to weight Child Health Poll respondents included:

- Race/Ethnicity (White, Black, Other, Hispanic, 2+ Races)
- Gender (Male, Female) by Age (18-34,35-44,45+)
- Gender (Male, Female) by Race/Ethnicity (White, Black, All others)
- Age (18-34,35-44,45+) by Race/Ethnicity (White, Black, All others)
- Education (Less than HS/HS, Some College, Bachelor or Higher) by Race/Ethnicity (White, Black, All others)
- Household Income (under \$25K, \$25K-\$49,999, \$50K-\$74,999, \$75K and over) by Race/Ethnicity (White, Black, All others)

In order to minimize biases, the order in which responses to several questions appear were randomized. In future years, polling topics will change such that different issues related to child health and wellbeing may be highlighted.

Results from the Child Health Poll have been analyzed in R using weighted survey methods. Point estimates of the mean for each response are reported along with their standard errors.

All reported percentages have survey weights applied, so their interpretation can be broadened to all parents in Tennessee. For example, "10.6% of parents in Tennessee sometimes or often could not afford enough to eat during the COVID-19 pandemic."

All summaries are listed as weighted proportions of Tennessee Parents +/- Standard of Error.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

*Is your child currently covered by insurance?*

\*It was possible to choose both Private Insurance and TennCare/Cover Kids

	<u>Fall 2020</u>	<u>Fall 2019</u>
<b>Private insurance including on the health insurance exchange</b>	46.5% +/- 2.3	55.6% +/- 2.1
<b>TennCare or Cover Kids</b>	45.5% +/- 2.3	42.7% +/- 2.1
<b>My child does not have health insurance</b>	9.1% +/- 1.3	4.1% +/- 0.9

### Fall 2020

*In the past 2 years, has your child been covered by TennCare or Cover Kids?*

**No** 39.1% +/- 2.2  
**Yes** 60.9% +/- 2.2

*If yes, did they lose coverage for any period of time?*

**No** 79.6% +/- 2.2  
**Yes** 20.4% +/- 2.2

*If yes, for which of the following reasons did your child lost coverage?*

\*It was possible to choose more than one answer

<b>Our family income was too high</b>	34.7% +/- 5.7
<b>My child was able to switch to insurance from my employer</b>	26.8% +/- 5.3
<b>I had issues with the paperwork</b>	35.4% +/- 5.7
<b>I never received a renewal notice</b>	15.0% +/- 4.3
<b>I didn't know how to apply</b>	4.8% +/- 2.6
<b>Some other reason</b>	3.8% +/- 2.3

## FOOD SECURITY

*Which of the following statements best describes your household's ability to afford the food you need in the past 7 days?*

<b>We could always afford good nutritious meals</b>	57.7% +/- 2.2
<b>We could always afford enough to eat but not always the kinds of food we should eat</b>	31.4% +/- 2.1
<b>We could sometimes/often not afford enough to eat</b>	10.6% +/- 1.4

*What food assistance support did you or any member of your household receive in the past 7 days?*

<b>Food Stamp Program or SNAP</b>	23.9% +/- 1.9
<b>WIC</b>	10.3% +/- 1.4
<b>Food from food pantries, churches, community centers, etc.</b>	11.8% +/- 1.5
<b>Pandemic EBT</b>	15.2% +/- 1.6
<b>Free food from your child's school</b>	16.2% +/- 1.7
<b>None of these</b>	53.5% +/- 2.3