

Methods - Vanderbilt Child Health Poll

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, 2020, and 2021 (10/19/2021-11/28/2021) by Ipsos Public Affairs (Ipsos) utilizing an online platform to collect responses from 1,026 parents 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 12 minutes. 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 of Non-Hispanic Black/African American and Hispanic minority populations. Each participant is given a weight based on their demographic information. These weights are scaled based on demographic distributions from the 2019 American Community Survey (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)
- TN Region (East, Middle, West)

The poll asked questions related to the following categories:

- Concerns about the health and wellbeing of children
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Behavioral Health
- Screen time and Cyberbullying
- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Schooling

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.