

Methods - Vanderbilt Child Health Poll

The Vanderbilt Child Health Poll aimed to gather insights from Tennessee parents regarding their children's health insurance coverage, mental and behavioral health, schooling, and food security, as well as their perceptions on antibiotics and firearm violence in schools. This poll has been conducted in the fall of 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 (10/25/2023-11/22/2023) by Ipsos Public Affairs (Ipsos) utilizing an online platform to collect responses from 1,025 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 13.5 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 2021 American Community Survey (ACS).

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

- Race/Ethnicity (White, Black, Other, Hispanic, 2+ Races)
- Household Income (under \$25K, \$25K-\$49,999, \$50K-\$74,999, \$75K-\$99,999, \$100K-\$149,999, \$150K and over)
- 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-\$99,999, \$100K-\$149,999, \$150K and over) by Race/Ethnicity (White, Black, All others)

The poll asked questions related to the following categories:

- Concerns about the health and wellbeing of children
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Food Insecurity
- Antibiotics
- Schooling
- Firearms and School Safety

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.

Weighted Parent Demographic Characteristics

	Weighted %	Standard Error
Age		
18-29	13.7	1.5
30-44	60.7	2.2
45-59	23.2	2.0
60+	2.3	0.6
Respondent		
Female	56.0	2.3
Male	44.0	2.3
Race/Ethnicity		
White non-Hispanic	72.0	2.1
Black non-Hispanic	14.2	1.5
Other non-Hispanic	1.6	0.7
Multiracial non-Hispanic	5.0	1.2
Hispanic	7.1	1.3
Highest Education Level		
Less than High School	3.2	0.6
High School	31.1	2.1
Some College	30.0	2.0
Bachelor or higher	35.7	2.2
Household Income		
<\$25k	10.3	0.9
\$25k-\$50k	16.4	1.3
\$50k-\$99k	33.4	2.1
>\$100k	39.9	2.4
Employment Status		
Working full-time	77.7	1.7
Working part-time	19.5	1.6
Not working	2.8	0.8
TN Region		
West	21.9	1.9
Middle	42.5	2.3
East	35.6	2.1