Using a multi-stage area probability sampling design, the NHIS is conducted continuously through each year. The NHIS uses a computer assisted personal household interview for its data collection.

A sample of 428 primary sampling units (PSU’s) drawn from approximately 1,900 geographically defined areas called PSU’s (counties, a small group of contiguous counties or a metropolitan statistical area) that cover the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Clusters of 4, 8, 12, or 16 housing units are selected within sampled PSUs.

Black, Hispanic and Asian persons are oversampled.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION: All household members

Interviewer asks about basic demographic characteristics and number of families in the household

Household (HH) respondent: 1 HH member who is at age of legal majority (18 years in most states, 19 years in Alabama and Nebraska, 21 years in Mississippi)

FAMILY CORE: All child and adult family members

Interviewer asks about additional demographic information on each member from each family in the HH and collects data on topics including health status and limitations, injuries, healthcare access and utilization, health insurance, and income and assets

Family respondent: A family respondent is identified for each family in multi-family HHs. Note: Family members aged 18 or older who are at home at the time of interview may respond for themselves

One or more children aged 0-17 years in family?

Yes

1 CHILD is randomly selected as a “sample child”

SAMPLE CHILD CORE

Child Complementary and Alternative Medicine Supplement

Respondent: An adult residing in the family who is knowledgeable about the child’s health

Sample children n=13,275

Sample children 4-17 years: n=10,218

1 ADULT is randomly selected as a “sample adult”

SAMPLE ADULT CORE

Adult Complementary and Alternative Medicine Supplement

Sample adults: n=34,525

NHIS results are weighted to represent the population of non-institutionalized children ages 0-17 nationally

End of Interview