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## Prevalence and Trends of Developmental Disabilities among Children in the United States: 2009–2017

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** To study the national prevalence of 10 developmental disabilities in US children aged 3 to 17 years and explore changes over time by associated demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, using the National Health Interview Survey.

**Methods:** Data come from the 2009 to 2017 National Health Interview Survey, a nationally representative survey of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Parents reported physician or other health care professional diagnoses of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; autism spectrum disorder; blindness; cerebral palsy; moderate to profound hearing loss; learning disability; intellectual disability; seizures; stuttering or stammering; and other developmental delays. Weighted percentages for each of the selected developmental disabilities and any developmental disability were calculated and stratified by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.

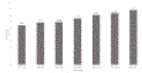
**Results:** From 2009 to 2011 and 2015 to 2017, there were overall significant increases in the prevalence of any developmental disability (16.2%-17.8%,  $P < .001$ ), attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (8.5%-9.5%,  $P < .01$ ), autism spectrum disorder (1.1%-2.5%,  $P < .001$ ), and intellectual disability (0.9%-1.2%,  $P < .05$ ), but a significant decrease for any other developmental delay (4.7%-4.1%,  $P < .05$ ). The prevalence of any developmental disability increased among boys, older children, non-Hispanic white and Hispanic children, children with private insurance only, children with birth weight  $\geq 2500$  g, and children living in urban areas and with less-educated mothers.

**Conclusions:** The prevalence of developmental disability among US children aged 3 to 17 years increased between 2009 and 2017. Changes by demographic and socioeconomic subgroups may be related to improvements in awareness and access to health care.

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### Figures



**Figure 1.. Prevalence of any developmental disability...**

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Durkin MS.

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