

The Program for Early Release of Selected Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey

Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting
September 22, 2011

Jeannine S. Schiller, M.P.H.
Division of Health Interview Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NHIS Early Release (ER) Program: Background

- Need for timely release of estimates, following improved timeliness of annual microdata release
- Identified key health indicators
- Determined how to expedite editing and weighting
- Chose to release on Internet only
- First released April 2001

NHIS ER Program: Objectives

- Provide ready and timely access to the most recent NHIS key estimates
- Monitor health and health care
- Measure progress toward national public health objectives

NHIS ER Program: First ER

- Main report consisting of 7 indicators
 - Multiple charts, data tables, bulleted text
 - Trend and current estimates

NHIS ER Program: Current ER

- Main report consisting of 15 indicators (Sept., Dec., Mar., June)
- Report on health insurance (Sept., Dec., Mar., June)
- Report on wireless substitution (May, Dec.)

NHIS ER Program: Current ER

- Preliminary quarterly microdata file available via the NCHS Research Data Center (Sept., Dec., Mar.)
- Several additional products based on ER data releases (periodic)
- Future product on health care utilization under development

NHIS ER Main Report: Indicator selection

- Public health objectives that benefit from timely data
- Healthy People 2010/2020 Leading Health Indicators
- Key areas for the elimination of racial disparities in health
- Stable definitions over past several data years
- Sufficient sample sizes

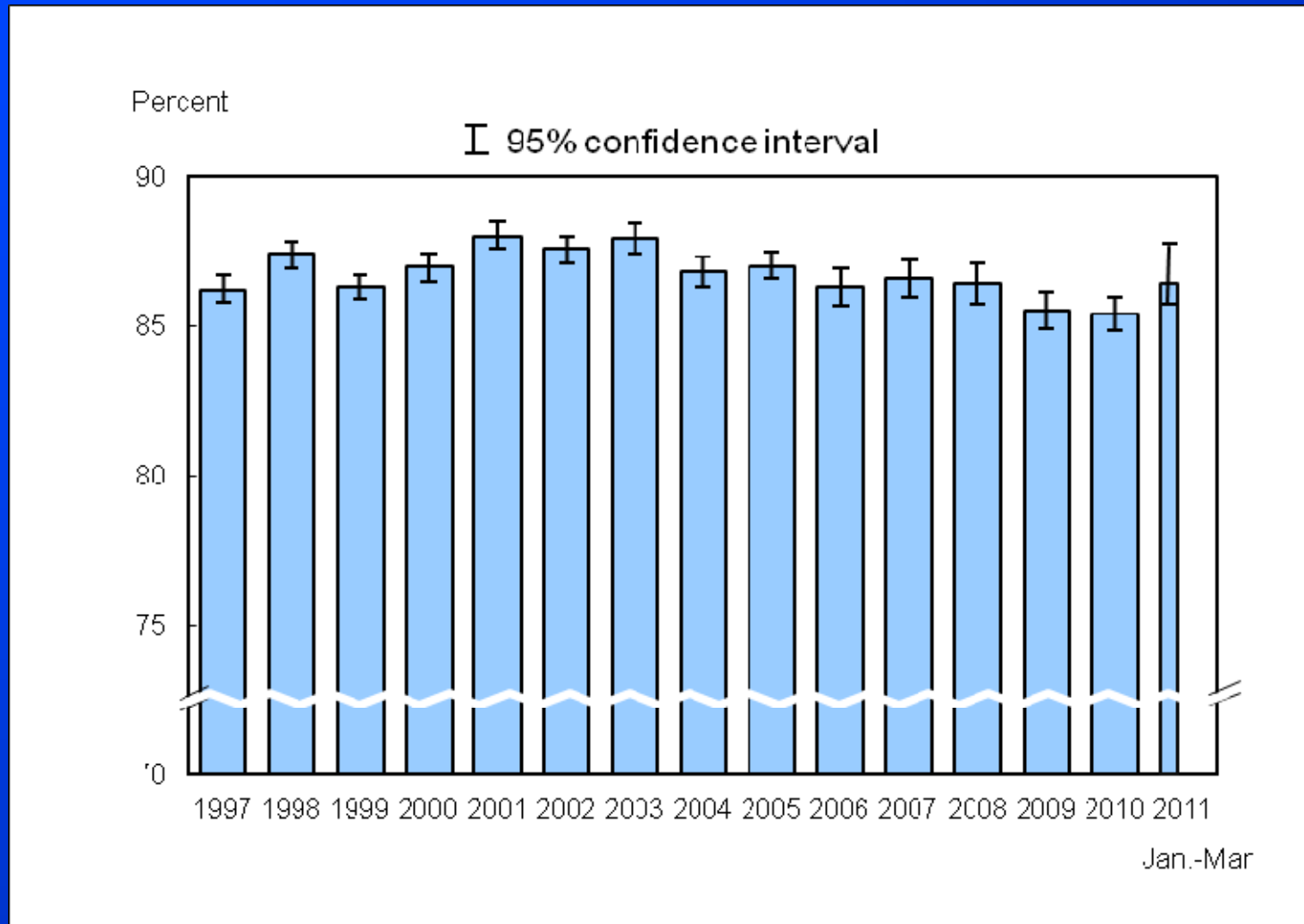
NHIS ER Main Report: Indicators

1. Health insurance coverage
2. Usual place to go for medical care
3. Obtaining needed medical care
4. Influenza vaccination
5. Pneumococcal vaccination
6. Obesity
7. Leisure-time physical activity
8. Current smoking
9. Alcohol consumption
10. HIV testing
11. General health status
12. Personal care needs
13. Serious psychological distress
14. Diabetes
15. Asthma

NHIS ER Main Report: Examples

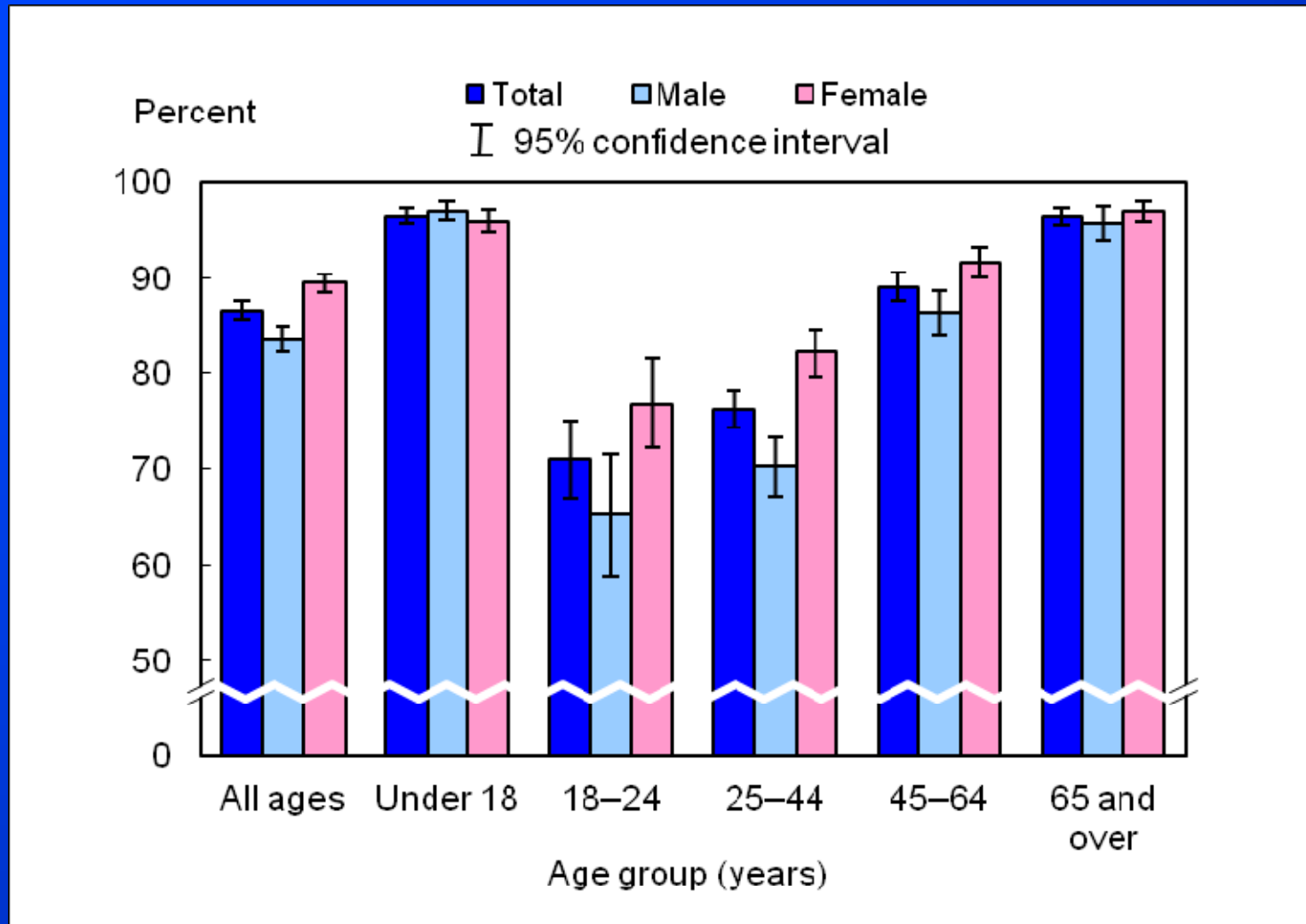
- Usual place to go for medical care
- Current smoking (handout only)
- Influenza vaccination (handout only)

Figure 2.1. Percentage of persons of all ages with a usual place to go for medical care: United States, 1997–March 2011



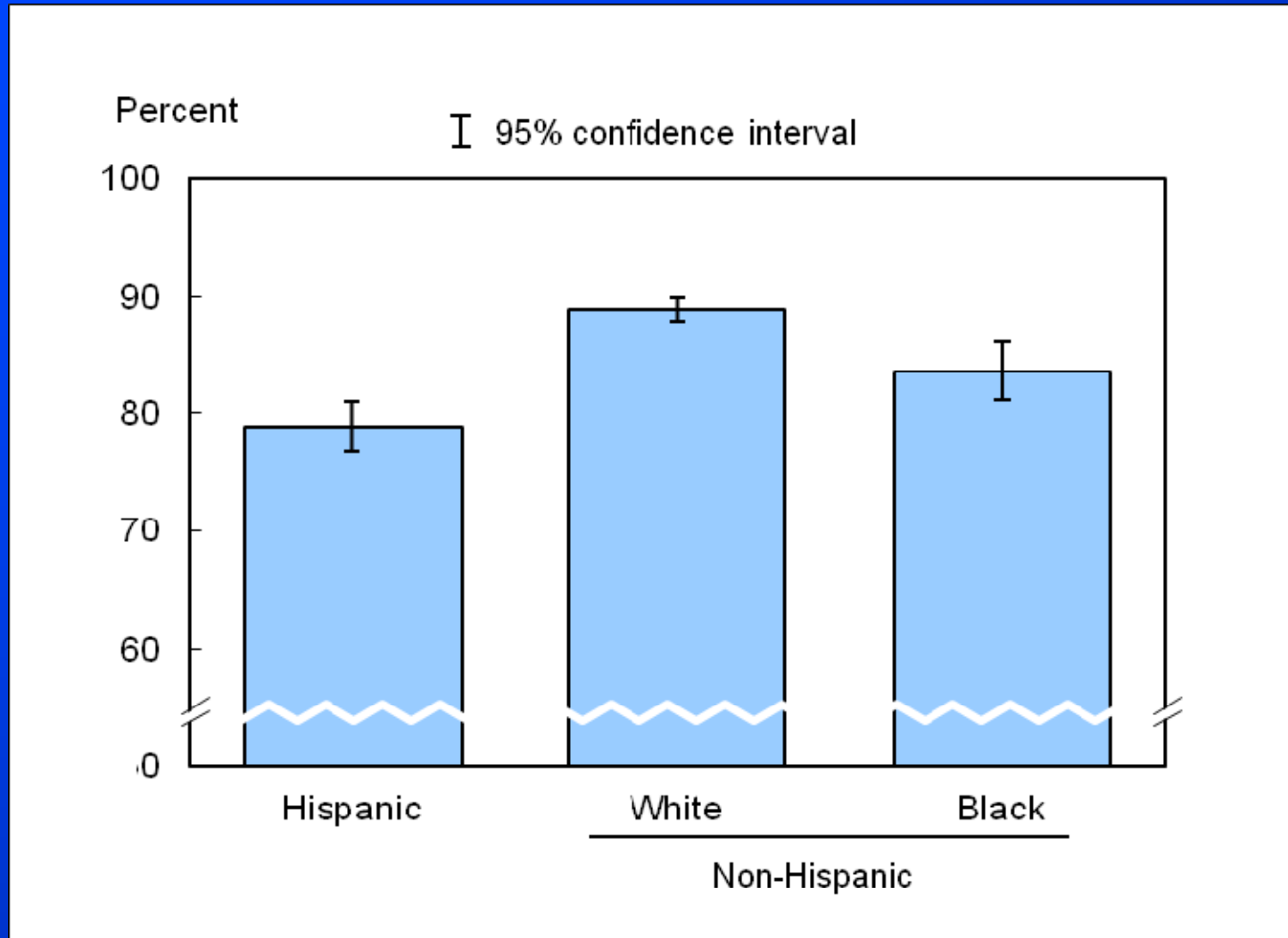
DATA SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 1997–March 2011, combined Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components.

Figure 2.2. Percentage of persons of all ages with a usual place to go for medical care, by age group and sex: United States, January–March 2011



DATA SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, January–March 2011, combined Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components.

Figure 2.3. Age-sex-adjusted percentage of persons of all ages with a usual place to go for medical care, by age group and sex: United States, January–March 2011



DATA SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, January–March 2011, combined Sample Adult and Sample Child Core components.

NHIS ER Main Report: Modifications

- Try to minimize due to need for quick turnaround (time, staff required)
- Try not to deviate from format (automation)
- If new indicator, does it meet the previously defined criteria?
- Future directions of NHIS

NHIS ER Main Report: Modifications, cont.

- Changes to NHIS questionnaire
 - Influenza vaccination: estimates for children, changes to reflect intranasal vaccination and H1N1 vaccine
- Changes to health objectives
 - 2008 Federal Physical Activity Guidelines

NHIS ER Main Report: Modifications, cont.

- Changes requested by subject matter experts
- New indicators
 - Arthritis
 - Composite indicator for chronic condition
 - “Rotating” indicators

Where to find ER, Contact information

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/releases.htm>

From NHIS Web site:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

Related Sites, NHIS Early Release Program

JSchiller@cdc.gov