



Wireless Substitution: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, January-June 2020

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Overview

Since 2007, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Early Release Program has regularly released preliminary estimates of the percentages of adults and children living in homes with only wireless telephones (also known as cellular telephones, cell phones, or mobile phones). These estimates are the most up-to-date estimates available from the federal government concerning the size and characteristics of this population.

Estimates in this report are based on the first six months of 2020. During this time period, 62.5% of adults and 73.6% of children lived in wireless-only households.

NHIS data can also be used to estimate the percentage of adults who live in wireless-only households and have their own wireless telephone (wireless-only adults). For January-June 2020, 61.8% of adults were wireless-only adults. Demographic subgroups with the highest percentages of wireless-only adults include adults aged 25–29 (80.4%), adults aged 30–34 (83.0%), and adults renting their homes (78.7%).

NHIS Early Release Program

This report is published as part of the NHIS Early Release Program. Twice each year, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) releases selected estimates of telephone coverage for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population based on data from NHIS. The estimates are based on in-person interviews that are conducted throughout the year to collect information on health status, health-related behaviors, and health care access and utilization. The survey also includes information about

household telephones and whether anyone in the household has a wireless telephone.

To provide access to the most recent information from NHIS, estimates using the January–June 2020 data are being released prior to final data editing and final weighting. These estimates should be considered preliminary. Estimates produced using the final data files may differ slightly from those presented here.

NHIS redesigned its questionnaire in 2019 to better meet the needs of data users. The approach to weighting survey responses was also modified to incorporate more robust response propensity models. These changes have the potential to impact comparisons between recent estimates and those from earlier years. An evaluation of these changes on key estimates from the NHIS

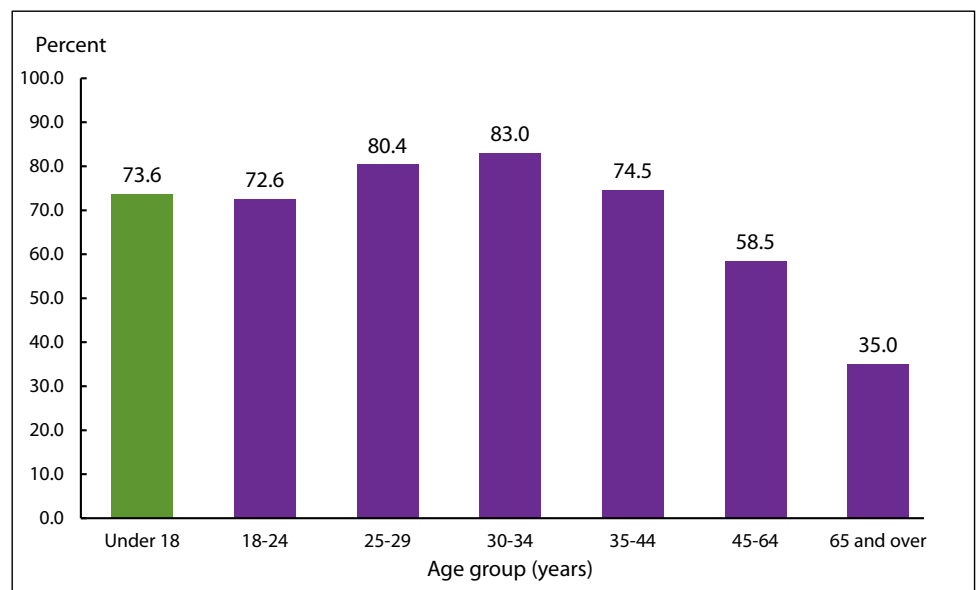
is available from the [Early Release Program homepage](#).

For some key estimates, observed changes from 2018 to 2019 were likely to be artifacts of the questionnaire redesign and not true changes over time. Therefore, this Early Release Program report only includes comparable estimates since 2019. Estimates from prior years are available from previous [Early Release Program reports](#).

Background

Many health surveys, political polls, and other types of research are conducted using random-digit-dial (RDD) telephone surveys. Most survey research organizations include wireless telephone numbers when conducting RDD surveys. If they did not, the exclusion of households with only wireless telephones

Figure. Percentages of wireless-only adults and of children living in households with only wireless telephone service, by age group: United States, January-June 2020



NOTE: Wireless-only adults are adults who live in households with only wireless telephone service and have their own wireless telephone.
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

(along with the small proportion of households that have no telephone service) could bias results. This bias—known as coverage bias—could exist if there are differences between persons with and without landline telephones for the substantive variables of interest.

Since 2003, NHIS has asked respondents about landlines and wireless telephones in their homes. Previous **Early Release Program reports** revealed that there are health-related differences between persons with and without landline telephones. For example, compared with adults living in landline households, adults living in wireless-only households were more likely to be current smokers and to have had at least one heavy drinking day in the past year. Adults living in wireless-only households were also less likely to have health insurance coverage, less likely to have a usual place to go for medical care, less likely to have received an influenza vaccination in the past year, and more likely to have experienced financial barriers to care.

The potential for coverage bias remains a real threat to health surveys that do not include sufficient representation of households with only wireless telephones. NCHS continues to publish estimates of the size and characteristics of this population so that survey research organizations can evaluate whether they have appropriately included this population in their health-related telephone surveys.

Methods

NHIS randomly selects one “sample adult” aged 18 years or older and one “sample child” aged 17 years or younger (if any children live in the household) from each household following a brief initial interview that identifies everyone who usually lives or stays in the household. Information about the sample adult is collected from the sample adult him/herself unless s/he is physically or mentally unable to do so, in which case a knowledgeable proxy can answer for the sample adult. Information about the sample child is collected from a parent or adult who is knowledgeable about and responsible for the health care of the

sample child. This respondent may or may not also be the sample adult.

To determine whether the sampled persons lived in a household with a landline telephone, the respondent was asked if there was “at least one phone inside your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone.” To avoid possible confusion with cordless landline telephones, the word “wireless” was not used in the survey. This question was asked only once, in whichever interview (sample adult or sample child) came first.

Sample adults are also asked whether they “have a working cell phone,” and if not, whether they “live with anyone who has a working cell phone.” This approach permits the identification of adults living in wireless-only households (that is, households without landlines within which at least one household member has a working cell phone) and of wireless-only adults (that is, adults who live in a wireless-only household and have their own cell phone). Respondents for sample children are only asked if the child lives “with anyone who has a working cell phone,” and only if the wireless status of the household is not yet known from the sample adult interview.

An additional question is included for sample adults who have a cell phone and live in households with landline telephones. The sample adult is asked to consider “all the telephone calls that you answer” and to report whether “all or almost all [are] on your cell phones, some [are] on your cell phone and some on your home phone, or very few or none [are] on your cell phones.” This question permits the identification of “wireless-mostly” adults—defined as adults with both landline and cellular telephones who answer all or almost all calls on cell phones. Landline-mostly adults and dual-users can be similarly identified.

NHIS uses sampling weights to produce representative national estimates. The base weight is equal to the inverse of the probability of selection of the sample address. These weights are adjusted for household and person-level nonresponse using multilevel models predictive of response propensity. Nonresponse-adjusted weights are further calibrated to U.S. Census Bureau population projections and American Community Survey (ACS) one-year

estimates for age, sex, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, Census division, and Metropolitan Statistical Area status.

Point estimates and 95% confidence intervals were calculated using SUDAAN software (RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC) to account for the complex sample design of NHIS.

Differences between percentages were evaluated using two-sided significance tests at the 0.05 level. All differences discussed are statistically significant unless otherwise noted. Lack of comment regarding the difference between any two estimates does not necessarily mean that the difference was tested and found to be not significant. Because of small sample sizes, estimates based on less than 1 year of data may have large confidence intervals, and caution should be used in interpreting such estimates.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Additional caution is warranted when interpreting telephone status estimates from 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection switched to a telephone-only mode beginning March 19, 2020 and continued through June 30, 2020, the most recent time period included in this report.

This change had little impact on Quarter 1 (January–March), but there were lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics for Quarter 2 (April–June). A preliminary evaluation of the potential for nonresponse bias is at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/nonresponse202102-508.pdf>. It revealed that telephone-only data collection led to an over-representation of more affluent households, including a greater proportion of homeowners, among the participating sample in Quarter 2. Survey weights were adjusted to account for some of this change.

However, phoneless households (i.e., those with neither wireless nor landline telephones) generally could not be interviewed in Quarter 2 (though some may have received a mailed invitation to participate and then called the interviewer from a telephone other than a home telephone or personal cell phone). Caution

should be used in interpreting differences observed in estimates between 2020 and earlier time periods, particularly for estimates of persons living in phoneless households.

Household Telephone Status

From January through June 2020, information on household telephone status was obtained for 13,602 civilian adults aged 18 and over and 3,808 children under age 18.

In the first six months of 2020, 62.5% of adults (about 157 million) and 73.6% of children (nearly 54 million) lived in households that did not have a landline telephone but did have at least one wireless telephone (**Table 1**).

The percentages of adults and children living in wireless-only households have been generally increasing since 2003. Consistent with that trend, there was a statistically significant increase (3.3 percentage points) from the first 6 months of 2019 to the first 6 months of 2020 in the percentage of adults living in wireless-only households. Across that same time period, a statistically significant increase (3.1 percentage points) was also observed for children.

Wireless-only Adults

More than one-half of adults were wireless-only (61.8%, 155 million); that is, they personally had a wireless telephone and lived in a household that did not have a landline. The percentage of adults who were wireless-only is shown, by selected demographic characteristics, in **Table 2**. Confidence intervals for these percentages are shown in **Table 3**. For January–June 2020:

- Four in five adults aged 25–29 (80.4%) and aged 30–34 (83.0%) were wireless-only (**Figure**). The percentages for those age groups are greater than for adults aged 18–24 (72.6%). The percentage of adults who were wireless-only decreased as age increased beyond 35 years: 74.5% for those 35–44; 58.5% for those 45–64; and 35.0% for those 65 and over.

- Hispanic adults (74.8%) were more likely than non-Hispanic white (58.7%), non-Hispanic black (58.6%), or non-Hispanic Asian (62.5%) adults to be wireless-only.
- Adults living in poverty (69.7%) and near poverty (66.8%) were more likely than higher income adults (61.1%) to be wireless-only. (Footnote 3 in **Table 2** gives definitions of these categories.)
- Adults living in the Midwest (63.3%), South (65.5%), and West (66.8%) were more likely than those living in the Northeast (45.7%) to be wireless-only.
- Three in four adults living in rented homes (78.7%) were wireless-only. This percentage is higher than the percentage for adults living in homes owned by a household member (54.4%).

Table 2 also includes estimates of the percentage of adults who were wireless-mostly, landline-mostly, dual users, landline-only, and phoneless, by selected demographic characteristics. Confidence intervals for these percentages are shown in **Table 3**.

State Estimates

The prevalence of adults and children living in wireless-only households varies across states. For more information about prevalence estimates at the state level, see

- NCHS. Modeled estimates (with standard errors) of the percent distribution of household telephone status for adults aged 18 and over and for children under age 18, by state: United States, 2018. December 2019. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/Wireless_state_201912-508.pdf.

Other NHIS Early Release Program Products

This report is published as part of the NHIS Early Release Program. Earlier reports on wireless substitution are at

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/erwirelesssubs.htm>. Reports based on data from 2003–2018 include details about the aforementioned health-related differences between persons with and without landline telephones.

Two additional products are published quarterly as part of the NHIS Early Release Program. *Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data From the National Health Interview Survey* provides estimates for selected key measures of health. In addition, *Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey* provides estimates regarding health insurance coverage. Other Early Release Program products are released as needed.

In addition to these products, preliminary microdata files containing selected NHIS variables are produced as part of the ER Program. The telephone service use variables presented in this report have been included in those microdata files. NHIS data users can analyze these files through the NCHS Research Data Centers (<https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/>) without having to wait for the final annual NHIS microdata files to be released.

For more information about NHIS and the NHIS Early Release Program, or to find other Early Release Program products, see

- NHIS home page at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>.
- Early Release Program home page at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/releases.htm>.

Suggested Citation

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Table 1. Percent distribution of household telephone status for adults and children: United States, 2019-2020

Date of interview	Number of persons (unweighted)	Wireless-only household	Landline with wireless	Landline-only household ¹	Phoneless	Landline with unknown wireless	Wireless with unknown landline	Total
Adults								
January–June 2019 ²	16,577	59.2	37.2	2.5	1.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	57.97-60.37	35.99-38.43	2.30-2.79	0.78-1.18	0.02-0.09	0.03-0.12	...
July–December 2019 ²	14,725	61.3	35.2	2.4	1.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	59.66-62.85	33.71-36.62	2.05-2.69	0.86-1.28	0.01-0.10	0.06-0.31	...
January–June 2020 ³	13,602	62.5	34.3	2.3	0.7	0.1	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	61.21-63.78	33.03-35.54	2.01-2.62	0.54-0.96	0.03-0.28	0.04-0.25	...
Children								
January–June 2019 ²	4,800	70.5	28.0	0.6	1.0	–	–	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	68.67-72.19	26.33-29.68	0.34-1.04	0.68-1.39	–	–	...
July–December 2019 ²	4,375	70.3	27.7	0.6	1.3	–	0.1	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	68.10-72.37	25.76-29.64	0.31-1.29	0.95-1.82	–	0.02-0.38	...
January–June 2020 ³	3,808	73.6	25.1	0.3	0.9	–	0.0	100.0
95% confidence interval	...	71.43-75.73	23.12-27.29	0.15-0.54	0.58-1.38	–	0.00-0.23	...

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

... Category not applicable.

– Quantity zero.

¹Landline-only refers to households with a landline telephone in which no residents have a working cell phone. In earlier reports, this category was labeled as "landline without wireless."²To produce estimates for 2019, the NHIS sampling weights were further adjusted to account for telephone-question nonresponse. These data were missing for 2.9% of sample adults and 0.7% of sample children in the first six months of 2019, and for 3.9% of sample adults and 1.8% of sample children in the second six months of 2019. Although telephone-question nonresponse remains at similar levels, this adjustment was dropped for 2020 because sensitivity analyses indicated that the adjustment changed very few resulting estimates, and for those that did change, the impact was no more than two-tenths of one percent. Persons with both unknown landline and unknown wireless status are not included in the denominators when calculating percentages.³Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection switched to a telephone-only mode beginning March 19, 2020 and continuing through June 30, 2020. This resulted in lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics for Quarter 2 (April–June). Differences observed in estimates between the first six months of 2020 and earlier time periods—particularly estimates of persons living in phoneless households—may be partially or fully attributable to these changes.

NOTE: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

Table 2. Percent distribution of personal telephone status for adults, by selected demographic characteristics: United States, January-June 2020

Demographic characteristic	Wireless-only adults	Wireless-mostly adults	Dual-users	Landline-mostly adults	Landline-only adults	Phoneless adults	Unknown ¹	Total
Total	61.8	18.1	9.5	5.3	3.6	1.2	0.5	100.0
Age (years)								
18–24	72.6	19.1	3.5	1.5	1.4	1.8	0.0	100.0
25–29	80.4	12.2	3.2	0.7	1.3	1.1	1.0	100.0
30–34	83.0	11.5	1.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.7	100.0
35–44	74.5	17.3	4.5	1.3	0.5	1.4	0.4	100.0
45–64	58.5	22.3	11.2	3.8	2.7	1.1	0.3	100.0
65 and over	35.0	17.0	19.5	16.5	10.4	1.1	0.6	100.0
Race/ethnicity								
Hispanic or Latino, any race(s)	74.8	13.4	5.3	1.8	2.0	2.3	0.4	100.0
Non-Hispanic white, single race	58.7	18.6	10.9	6.9	3.8	0.8	0.4	100.0
Non-Hispanic black, single race	58.6	21.3	9.9	3.8	4.5	0.8	1.1	100.0
Non-Hispanic Asian, single race	62.5	19.8	8.1	2.4	3.0	**	0.4	100.0
Non-Hispanic other races and multiple races	69.4	17.4	3.3	**	**	**	0.4	100.0
Sex								
Male	62.7	19.0	9.0	4.3	3.3	1.2	0.5	100.0
Female	61.0	17.2	9.9	6.4	3.8	1.3	0.4	100.0
Education								
Some high school or less	63.4	12.6	6.6	5.7	6.9	4.3	0.6	100.0
High school graduate or GED ²	58.4	17.8	10.9	6.7	4.7	1.1	0.4	100.0
Some post-high school, no degree	63.4	18.6	8.6	5.4	2.8	0.9	0.3	100.0
4-year college degree or higher	62.6	20.2	10.4	4.0	1.9	0.5	0.5	100.0
Family poverty status ³								
Poor	69.7	10.5	5.0	4.7	6.3	3.6	0.4	100.0
Near-poor	66.8	12.4	7.7	6.1	5.3	1.7	0.1	100.0
Not-poor	61.1	20.2	10.5	5.0	2.3	0.6	0.3	100.0
Geographic region ⁴								
Northeast	45.7	24.0	15.6	7.3	4.8	2.1	0.6	100.0
Midwest	63.3	15.3	9.6	6.1	4.0	1.2	0.6	100.0
South	65.5	17.3	7.6	4.8	3.5	0.8	0.5	100.0
West	66.8	17.4	7.8	4.0	2.4	1.4	0.3	100.0
Metropolitan statistical area status								
Metropolitan	62.9	18.1	9.4	4.8	3.2	1.2	0.5	100.0
Not metropolitan	55.5	18.1	10.2	8.6	5.7	1.8	0.1	100.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Percent distribution of personal telephone status for adults, by selected demographic characteristics: United States, January-June 2020—Continued

Demographic characteristic	Wireless-only adults	Wireless-mostly adults	Dual-users	Landline-mostly adults	Landline-only adults	Phoneless adults	Unknown ¹	Total
Home ownership status ⁵								
Owned or being bought	54.4	21.6	12.2	6.8	3.9	0.8	0.4	100.0
Renting	78.7	10.3	3.6	2.4	2.5	2.2	0.3	100.0
Other arrangement	57.8	22.4	9.3	3.5	5.7	1.1	0.3	100.0
Number of adults in survey sample (unweighted)	8,038	2,325	1,450	962	622	150	55	13,602

** Estimate does not meet NCHS standards of reliability as specified in *National Center for Health Statistics Data Presentation Standards for Proportions* (available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_175.pdf).

¹Unknown includes adults with either unknown landline, unknown wireless, or unknown frequency-of-use status (for adults with both landline and wireless telephones). Adults with both unknown landline and unknown wireless status are excluded from the analysis.

²GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

³Based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" persons are defined as those below the poverty threshold. "Near-poor" persons have incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not-poor" persons have incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater. Early Release estimates stratified by poverty status are based on reported income only and may differ from similar estimates produced later that are based on both reported and imputed income. Household poverty status was unknown for 11.0% of adults in these analyses. NCHS imputes income when income is unknown, but the imputed income file is not available until the annual National Health Interview Survey microdata are released.

⁴In the geographic classification of the U.S. population, states are grouped into the following four regions used by the U.S. Census Bureau: *Northeast* includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; *Midwest* includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; *South* includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; and *West* includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTES: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Korn and Graubard 95% confidence intervals for these estimates are presented in Table 3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection switched to a telephone-only mode beginning March 19, 2020 and continuing through June 30, 2020. This resulted in lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics for Quarter 2 (April–June). Estimates from the first six months of 2020—particularly estimates of persons living in phoneless households—are likely to have been impacted by this change in the data collection mode.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

Table 3. Korn and Graubard 95% confidence intervals for percent distributions in Table 2

Demographic characteristic	Wireless-only adults	Wireless-mostly adults	Dual-users	Landline-mostly adults	Landline-only adults	Phoneless adults	Unknown ¹	Total
Total	60.5-63.2	17.1-19.1	8.8-10.2	5.0-5.7	3.2-4.0	1.0-1.6	0.3-0.7	...
Age (years)								
18-24	68.4-76.4	15.1-23.7	2.2-5.4	0.7-3.1	0.6-2.8	0.9-3.3	0.0-0.5	...
25-29	76.4-83.9	9.4-15.6	1.7-5.6	0.2-1.8	0.4-2.9	0.4-2.3	0.2-3.0	...
30-34	80.0-85.6	9.0-14.3	1.1-3.2	0.4-2.0	0.3-1.9	0.5-2.1	0.2-1.5	...
35-44	71.8-77.1	15.0-19.8	3.3-6.1	0.8-2.0	0.2-0.9	0.8-2.3	0.2-0.8	...
45-64	56.6-60.4	20.8-23.8	10.2-12.3	3.2-4.4	2.1-3.5	0.7-1.7	0.1-0.6	...
65 and over	33.0-37.1	15.6-18.4	17.7-21.3	15.1-18.0	9.2-11.7	0.7-1.6	0.4-1.0	...
Race/ethnicity								
Hispanic or Latino, any race(s)	72.0-77.4	11.6-15.3	3.9-7.1	1.2-2.7	1.4-2.8	1.6-3.2	0.1-0.8	...
Non-Hispanic white, single race	57.2-60.1	17.6-19.7	10.1-11.7	6.4-7.5	3.3-4.3	0.6-1.0	0.2-0.6	...
Non-Hispanic black, single race	53.8-63.2	17.4-25.6	7.9-12.2	2.9-4.9	3.1-6.3	0.4-1.4	0.3-2.8	...
Non-Hispanic Asian, single race	57.7-67.1	15.8-24.2	6.1-10.4	1.4-3.7	1.5-5.4	...	0.1-1.1	...
Non-Hispanic other races and multiple races	61.5-76.6	11.8-24.2	1.6-5.8	...	...	...	0.0-1.9	...
Sex								
Male	61.0-64.3	17.6-20.5	8.1-10.0	3.7-4.8	2.8-3.9	0.8-1.7	0.3-0.9	...
Female	59.3-62.7	15.8-18.7	8.9-11.0	5.8-6.9	3.3-4.3	0.9-1.7	0.3-0.6	...
Education								
Some high school or less	59.2-67.4	9.8-15.8	5.0-8.5	4.4-7.4	5.1-9.1	2.6-6.4	0.2-1.4	...
High school graduate or GED ²	56.2-60.6	16.0-19.7	9.5-12.5	5.8-7.6	4.0-5.6	0.7-1.6	0.2-0.7	...
Some post-high school, no degree	61.3-65.5	16.8-20.5	7.5-9.8	4.6-6.2	2.3-3.4	0.6-1.4	0.1-0.9	...
4-year college degree or higher	61.0-64.2	18.8-21.6	9.5-11.3	3.5-4.6	1.5-2.3	0.3-0.8	0.3-0.8	...
Family poverty status ³								
Poor	65.7-73.4	8.3-13.0	3.7-6.6	3.4-6.3	4.5-8.5	2.2-5.4	0.0-1.8	...
Near-poor	64.4-69.1	10.7-14.2	6.2-9.3	5.1-7.2	4.3-6.4	1.0-2.7	0.0-0.3	...
Not-poor	59.8-62.4	19.1-21.3	9.7-11.3	4.6-5.5	2.0-2.8	0.4-0.8	0.2-0.5	...
Geographic region ⁴								
Northeast	43.0-48.5	22.0-26.0	13.8-17.4	6.3-8.4	3.9-5.8	1.1-3.5	0.3-0.9	...
Midwest	60.8-65.8	13.4-17.3	8.2-11.2	5.1-7.1	3.1-5.1	0.8-1.8	0.1-1.5	...
South	63.0-67.9	15.3-19.5	6.5-8.8	4.2-5.5	2.9-4.2	0.5-1.1	0.3-0.8	...
West	64.3-69.2	15.6-19.2	6.6-9.2	3.4-4.8	1.9-2.9	0.9-2.0	0.1-0.6	...
Metropolitan statistical area status								
Metropolitan	61.4-64.3	17.0-19.2	8.6-10.1	4.4-5.2	2.9-3.6	0.9-1.5	0.3-0.8	...
Not metropolitan	52.0-59.1	15.4-21.0	8.3-12.3	7.2-10.2	4.3- 7.4	1.2- 2.6	0.0- 0.5	...

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Korn and Graubard 95% confidence intervals for percent distributions in Table 2—Continued

Demographic characteristic	Wireless-only adults	Wireless-mostly adults	Dual-users	Landline-mostly adults	Landline-only adults	Phoneless adults	Unknown ¹	Total
Home ownership status								
Owned or being bought	52.9-55.8	20.5-22.7	11.2-13.3	6.2-7.3	3.5-4.5	0.6-1.1	0.2-0.5	...
Renting	76.7-80.5	8.9-11.8	2.9-4.3	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.1	1.4-3.1	0.1-0.7	...
Other arrangement	49.8-65.4	15.2-31.1	5.5-14.4	1.7-6.4	2.8-10.1	0.2-3.0	0.0-1.8	...

... Category not applicable.

¹Unknown includes adults with either unknown landline, unknown wireless, or unknown frequency-of-use status (for adults with both landline and wireless telephones). Adults with both unknown landline and unknown wireless status are excluded from the analysis.

²GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma.

³Based on family income and family size using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. "Poor" persons are defined as those below the poverty threshold. "Near-poor" persons have incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold. "Not-poor" persons have incomes of 200% of the poverty threshold or greater. Early Release estimates stratified by poverty status are based on reported income only and may differ from similar estimates produced later that are based on both reported and imputed income. Household poverty status was unknown for 11.0% of adults in these analyses. NCHS imputes income when income is unknown, but the imputed income file is not available until the annual National Health Interview Survey microdata are released.

⁴In the geographic classification of the U.S. population, states are grouped into the following four regions used by the U.S. Census Bureau: *Northeast* includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; *Midwest* includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; *South* includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; and *West* includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection switched to a telephone-only mode beginning March 19, 2020 and continuing through June 30, 2020. This resulted in lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics for Quarter 2 (April-June). Estimates from the first six months of 2020—particularly estimates of persons living in phoneless households—are likely to have been impacted by this change in the data collection mode.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.