United States Prevalence of Atopic Dermatitis in Adults and Pediatrics by Race and Ethnicity

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Background/Purpose: To address issues regarding health disparities and differential access to health care in diverse racial and ethnic populations, many of whom are part of underserved communities, current and robust data on atopic dermatitis (AD) prevalence by race/ethnicity are needed. Whereas data on pediatric prevalence of atopic dermatitis in diverse race/ethnicity populations have been reported, there are limited epidemiologic data on adult populations with AD.

Methods: Analyses were conducted using cross-sectional data from the 2021 National Health Interview Survey. Weighted overall frequencies of subject reports of diagnosed AD or eczema were estimated by race/ethnicity. Adjusted odds ratios were estimated to compare prevalence rates between subgroups. Corresponding population denominators for use in estimating prevalence rates were obtained from the US Census Bureau (2020 Census Demographic Profile). Prevalence is reported as percentage (standard error). Pediatric data was also analyzed for the presentation.

Results: Overall US prevalence of AD in adults ages 18-64 was 7.6% (0.2) and age 65+ was 6.1% (0.3), with a weighted US estimate of 15.3 and 3.2 million respectively. Race/ethnicity prevalence rates for all adults were Black/African American 8.5% (0.6), White 7.7% (0.2), Asian 6.5% (0.7), American Indian/Alaskan Native 4.9% (2.1), and Hispanic 4.8% (0.4). The odds ratio for Hispanic vs Non-Hispanic White was 0.6 (95%CI 0.5-0.7; p<0.0001).

Conclusions: Total US prevalence of AD in all adults is approximately 18 million. Hispanic adults have a lower prevalence AD than all other adult groups. Additional studies are needed to understand sociodemographic variations in AD prevalence.

Key Words
- Atopic dermatitis
- Prevalence
- Race/ethnicity
- Adults
- Pediatrics

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