

# Learning disabilities in U.S. youth remained steady from 1997 to 2021

July 13 2023, by Lori Solomon

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The prevalence of learning disabilities among youth aged 6 to 17 years

remained steady from 1997 to 2021, according to a research letter published online July 10 in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Yanmei Li, from Guangdong Pharmaceutical University in Guangzhou, China, and colleagues estimated the prevalence of learning [disabilities](#) and its long-term trend among 188,449 U.S. children and adolescents aged 6 to 17 years using data from the National Health Interview Survey (1997 to 2021).

The researchers found that 8.76% of children had a diagnosis of a learning disability from 1997 to 2021. There was a significant difference observed in prevalence by age (12 to 17 years, 9.78%; 6 to 11 years, 7.86%), sex (female, 6.56%; male, 11.00%), [race](#) and [ethnicity](#) (Hispanic, 7.82%; non-Hispanic Black, 10.03%; non-Hispanic white, 9.25%; other, 6.23%), family income-to-poverty ratio (

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