

California Health Interview Survey

A Leading Source of Population-Based Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Data

Making
California's
Voices
Heard on
Health



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Researchers and policymakers at the national level are turning to the [California Health Interview Survey \(CHIS\)](#) for data on the nation's increasing diversity—data that are found in few other surveys.

Conducted by the [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#), CHIS is the nation's largest state health survey. It is also one of the few large health surveys to collect large samples of underrepresented groups and subgroups, including: sexual minorities, Latinos, African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, and immigrants.

CHIS data have been used as a model for national data collection on lesbian, gay, bisexual and (as of CHIS 2015) transgender populations, and have been used to support significant efforts to improve the health of millions in the state and across the nation.

**"Federal agencies could benefit from partnering with states having high concentrations of rare populations to identify disparities among such groups."
– Health Affairs**

CHIS: A model for national data collection

OMB Working Group

CHIS methodologies are guiding an Office of Management and Budget workgroup on LGBT data collection, as discussed at an August 2015 American Sociological Association panel.

"The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding"

The National Academy of Sciences

This 2011 report notes that CHIS is one of the few sources of data on the health of sexual minorities and discusses CHIS as a national model for data collection for the LGBT population.

"A New Patterns of Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community"

The Williams Institute

This 2013 report uses CHIS data to examine LGB poverty rates and finds that sexual minorities continue to face challenges that affect their income and life chances, such as susceptibility to employment discrimination and higher rates of being uninsured.

Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights' Health Care Task Force

In April 2011, the Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights' Health Care Task Force, a group of more than 200 national organizations that describes itself as the nation's "premier civil and human rights coalition," submitted a memorandum of recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services for data collection categories mandated under Section 4302 of the Affordable Care Act. It identified the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) as one of the few surveys that consistently includes questions on sexual orientation and sexual partners and be used as a model for federal health care reform-related data collection on LGBT.

"CHIS is the preeminent model for how to collect accurate, representative and inclusive data on diverse groups," said Kara D. Ryan, senior research analyst who drafted the memorandum.

Continued...

An Essential Research Tool

CHIS has been an invaluable data source for more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles and publications on a broad range of topics, including cancer, health disparities, obesity and diabetes, health insurance status, public program usage, and much more.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual health journal articles and reports using CHIS data include:

California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program, [California Tobacco Facts and Figures 2015](#), Sacramento, CA, 2015

Daniel H, Butkus R. [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Disparities: Executive Summary of a Policy Position Paper From the American College of Physicians](#). *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2015 May 12.

Khalili J, Leung L, Diamant A. [Finding the Perfect Doctor: Identifying Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender-Competent Physicians](#). *American Journal of Public Health*, 2015 April 16.

Boehmer U, Miao X, Maxwell N, Ozonoff A. [Sexual minority population density and incidence of lung, colorectal and female breast cancer in California](#). *BMJ Open*. 2014 March.

[Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Health & Wellness Profile, 2014](#). County of Riverside, Department of Public Health, 2014 March 25.

Boehmer U, Miao X, Ozonoff A. [Cancer survivorship and sexual orientation](#). *Cancer*, 117, 16: 3796-3804. 2011 Aug 15.

Carpenter C. [Self-reported sexual orientation and earnings: Evidence from California](#). *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*. 2005;58(2):258-273.

Easy to access:

FREE CHIS data are available in a variety of ways:

[Download](#) a public use file and conduct your own analysis!
www.chis.ucla.edu

[AskCHIS](#), an easy-to-use Web tool that helps users search for quick health statistics by county, region, and statewide.
www.askchis.com

[AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition](#), a NEW online tool to find health data at the ZIP code, city and legislative district level.
www.askchisne.ucla.edu

[Publications](#), including policy briefs, fact sheets and reports, as well as one-page data "[Health Profiles](#)" for counties, legislative districts, ethnic and racial groups and more!

More than **one million** questions have been asked by **tens of thousands of users** of free CHIS data tools!

On LGB & Cancer:

"Smoking Out a Deadly Threat: Tobacco Use in the LGBT Community"

The American Lung Association

This 2010 report found that the smoking rate among the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender population is roughly double that of the general population, putting more members at greatly increased risk of lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, as well as other tobacco-related health threats such as heart attacks and strokes. The report uses data from CHIS, one of the few surveys to collect data on sexual minorities.

"These studies and others make use of survey vehicles for the general population to capture information about sexual and gender minorities that has localized relevance for priority setting at the state and substate levels."

—National Academy of Sciences

"Cancer Survivorship and Sexual Orientation" Cancer

This May 2011 article in the American Cancer Society's journal *Cancer* notes that data from CHIS "provide an extraordinary source of population-based information about cancer survivorship by sexual orientation. They provide unique findings in light of the absence of cancer surveillance by sexual orientation in registries. These novel findings with respect to sexual orientation can be used to set priorities for lesbian/gay/bisexual populations with respect to cancer, and inform the need for and the design of programs and services to assist these cancer survivors."

Cochran SD, Mays VM. [Physical health complaints among lesbians, gay men, and bisexual and homosexually experienced heterosexual individuals: Results from the California Quality of Life Survey](#). *American Journal of Public Health*. Nov. 2007;97(11):2048-2055.

Deputy NP, Boehmer U. [Determinants of body weight among men of different sexual orientation](#). *Preventive Medicine*. 2010 Aug; 51(2): 129-31.

Grella CE, Cochran SD, Greenwell L, Mays VM. [Effects of sexual orientation and gender on perceived need for treatment by persons with and without mental disorders](#). *Psychiatric Services*. 2011 Apr; 62: 404-10.

Ponce NA, Cochran SD, Pizer JC, Mays VM. [The effects of unequal access to health insurance for same-sex couples in California](#). *Health Affairs* 29, 2010 June.

Xia Q, Osmond, DH, Tholandi M, Pollack LM, Zhou W, Ruiz JD, Catania JA. [HIV prevalence and sexual risk behaviors among men who have sex with men: Results from a statewide population-based survey in California](#). *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*. Feb. 2006; 41(2):238-245.