

Evaluation of the California Health Interview Survey: Cancer Prevention and Control Research, Clinical Practice, and Health Policy

Executive Summary

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This report summarizes the findings from an evaluation commissioned by the National Cancer Institute Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. The goal of the evaluation was to assess the scientific accomplishments, utility and impact of the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), and obtain guidance on future priority topics for CHIS. The focus of the evaluation was on cancer prevention and control.

For a copy of the full report, please visit
<http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/search/pages/detail.aspx?PubID=1226>

Executive summary

Since 1999, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) has funded the inclusion of cancer control items in the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). CHIS is the largest, most comprehensive state health survey in the United States and covers a diverse population. CHIS has been used extensively to inform cancer research, clinical practice and health policy. In 2013, DCCPS convened an external panel of internationally recognized scientists to formally evaluate the scientific accomplishments, utility, and impact of CHIS related to cancer prevention and control, and to obtain guidance on future priority topics for CHIS. A Planning Committee with members internal and external to NCI developed the evaluation strategy.

Guided by the Planning Committee, the expert panel reviewed the products and accomplishments of CHIS, responded to a set of evaluation questions, and participated in two half-day webinars to discuss evaluation findings and make recommendations to enhance the approach, utility and impact of CHIS. The evaluation findings were synthesized and summarized by evaluators external to NCI using rigorous qualitative data analysis methods. Themes that emerged from the panelists' written responses and discussions were reviewed by the expert panelists and the Planning Committee. This report provides detailed findings about the contributions, utility, and impact of the CHIS cancer-control items, as well as recommendations on areas to prioritize and potential areas of expansion.

The panelists strongly recommended that NCI continue to support and partner with CHIS. Continued support will allow NCI to build on the unique contributions of CHIS to cancer prevention and control research, clinical practice improvements, and health policy development. Overall, the panelists concluded that in cancer control and prevention:

- CHIS serves as a model for state and local data collection in the United States;
- CHIS provides a unique data set that uses advanced sampling and administration methodologies;
- CHIS contributes to the evidence base that influences key changes in cancer research, practice, and policy;
- CHIS includes a range of content areas that embrace the interests of funders, researchers, local and state health departments, community health centers, clinical practices, health plans, policy makers, advocacy groups, and others.

CHIS is a valuable resource that describes the health practices and needs of a racially and ethnically diverse, multilingual population. The expert panel identified numerous scientific accomplishments in cancer prevention and control attributable to CHIS as well as additional opportunities to use and enhance CHIS in the changing health care environment. NCI support for CHIS is recognized as making a critical contribution to providing high quality data on cancer control issues. The evaluation findings highlight the value that researchers place on NCI's investment in CHIS and the potential for CHIS data to make substantial future contributions to cancer-related research, clinical practice, and health policy.