

California Health Interview Survey

Essential Data for Building Healthier California Communities

Making
California's
Voices
Heard on
Health



10960 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 1550
Los Angeles, CA
90024
t: 310.794.0909
f: 310.794.2686
chis@ucla.edu

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is the most comprehensive source of health information on Californians, and the largest state health survey in the United States.

The survey provides information on a wide range of health topics for California's diverse population, focusing on access to health care, health insurance coverage, health behaviors, chronic health problems, cancer screening and many other relevant health issues. CHIS also provides estimates for a number of California's ethnic/racial groups as well as sexual minorities.

The survey provides:

- **Statewide data** on the overall population including many racial and ethnic groups.
- **County-level data** for most counties to aid with health planning, priority setting, and to compare health outcomes in numerous ways.
- **Sub-county data** in Los Angeles (Service Planning Areas) and San Diego (Health Service Regions).
- In addition, the CHIS programming team is able to provide customized **legislative district** and other **small area estimates**.

A Valuable Resource

CHIS data are used by local health departments, community health centers, hospitals, health plans, other health care providers, state health agencies, county boards of supervisors, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, tribal agencies, foundations, health researchers and the media.

CHIS provides critical information used to identify and address state and local health problems and health care needs. Survey results help

assess and monitor:

- Health care reform, including expansion programs that extend health insurance coverage to millions of uninsured Californians.
- Access to health care and health programs, including new and expanded coverage programs.
- Eligibility for participation in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.
- The health status of adults, including physical and mental health status, women's health, prevalence and management chronic conditions, diet, exercise and hunger.
- The health of children and adolescents, including prevalence and management of chronic conditions, obesity, exercise, parent/child relationships and child care.

CHIS 2011-2012

This latest two-year cycle completed interviews with 44,559 households, including 42,935 adults, 2,799 adolescents and 7,334 children. The 2011-2012 survey includes new questions on whether and how Californians use the Internet to seek health information, whether they are able to make an appointment with their provider in a timely manner, and, for teen respondents, whether their school situation is stable.

Previous CHIS surveys

The first CHIS survey was in 2001 and collected information from 56,270 households. Subsequent CHIS surveys collected equally large samples in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009. Starting in 2011, CHIS moved to a continuous survey cycle, enabling yearly estimates of many indicators and populations, as well as a full 2011-2012 data cycle.

(Continued)

In various survey years, CHIS also interviewed supplemental samples of several little-studied Asian American groups and urban and rural American Indian/Alaska Natives, or added new survey questions about pressing health concerns such as family history of cancer, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), mental health, high-deductible health plans, access to safe parks, suicide, emergency preparedness, veteran status, registered domestic partner status, flu shots and pre-diabetes.

Diversity

CHIS is well known for its hard-to-find data on many racial and ethnic groups as well as lesbian, gay and bisexual populations. The survey has sizeable samples for Whites, Latinos, Asian Americans, African Americans, American Indians, and others, as well as robust samples of Asian American and Latino subgroups. Surveys are administered in English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese. CHIS's rich data on numerous racial and ethnic groups has made it a valuable resource to researchers nation-wide.

Unparalleled Dissemination

CHIS has developed an active dissemination strategy to put health information in the hands of those who can use it through a variety of publications and tools, including:

AskCHIS: A free, easy-to-use online data query system that enables users to conduct simple analyses and obtain survey results on health topics, population groups and geographic areas. Learn more at: www.askchis.com

Public Use Files (PUFs): Free, downloadable public-use data files that contain a full (two-year) cycle of CHIS data, enabling researchers to customize and run their own data analyses. The files are available in a variety of data formats, including SAS, SPSS, and STATA and are fully documented with codebooks and detailed methodology reports covering each CHIS data collection cycle. Learn more at: www.chis.ucla.edu

Data Access Center (DAC): The Center's Data Access Center provides researchers access to confidential files. Programming and statistical consulting services are also available. Learn more at: www.chis.ucla.edu

Publications: Public health focused reports, policy briefs and fact sheets available through a searchable database on the Center's website at www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu

Journal articles: More than 320 peer-reviewed journal articles have been published using CHIS data and a list of these

publications is available at: www.chis.ucla.edu/peerpubs

Training: Technical assistance through regional workshops and consultation is available to agencies, community organizations and researchers using CHIS data. Contact the Center's Health DATA Program for more information: hdp@ucla.edu

CHIS Advisors

A diverse group of organizations and agencies advises CHIS on a broad range of policy, content and technical issues. The CHIS Advisory Board includes senior government officials, health care organizations, health researchers and advocacy leaders; it provides guidance on survey content and methods, sample design, the dissemination of results and funding.

Technical advisory committees consisting of experts from government, universities, health services and community groups provide advice on specific topic areas, survey methodology and sample design, as well as the multicultural and linguistic dimensions essential for a successful survey.

CHIS Leadership

The California Health Interview Survey is conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and led by:

Ninez A. Ponce, PhD, MPP

**Principal Investigator, California Health Interview Survey
Professor, Dept. of Health Policy and Management,
UCLA Fielding School Public Health**

David Grant, PhD

**Director, California Health Interview Survey
UCLA Center for Health Policy Research**

CHIS Funders

Funding for CHIS has been provided by a variety of federal, state and local government agencies, as well as private foundations and other organizations. For a complete list of funders, visit www.chis.ucla.edu. To learn more about partnership opportunities, please contact A.J. Scheitler at: ajscheitler@ucla.edu

More Information

For more information on CHIS, see recent publications, or download data files, please visit: www.chis.ucla.edu

Visitors can also subscribe to the Center's free, monthly e-newsletter to receive the latest news on CHIS publications, data and data trainings at: www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/newsletter