

California Health Interview Survey

Making
California's
Voices
Heard on
Health



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The [California Health Interview Survey \(CHIS\)](#) is the nation's largest state health survey and one of the largest health surveys in the nation.

Conducted by the [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#) (Center), CHIS interviews more than 20,000 households each year and collects health data on adults, teenagers and children to construct a detailed picture of California's diverse population.

CHIS data were used to inform legislation this year on issues ranging from children's health to health insurance for all Californians to the future care of elders. It is used in academic research, and cited by advocacy groups, educational institutions, media, and more.

CHIS USE IN LEGISLATION & TESTIMONY

U.S. House of Representatives: Mark LeBeau, Chief Executive Officer for the California Rural Indian Health Board, used CHIS diabetes data on American Indian/Alaska Natives to illustrate health disparities in [testimony](#) about funding of the Indian Health Service before the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein: Requested CHIS data on county-by-county rates of uninsurance for analysis.



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CHIS in Action 2018

WHAT DOES CHIS DO?

"CHIS provides evidence for policy decision-making that is relevant to local, national and international communities. CHIS data extend beyond health system indicators, because larger social factors influence the health inequities we see today. Finally, not only does CHIS give a current snapshot of health, it reveals past trends and helps predict future demands on health systems."

– Ninez Ponce, Center director and CHIS principal investigator

CDC/National Center for Health Statistics Board of Scientific Counselors: Center Director Ninez Ponce presented information on how questions added to 2019-2020 CHIS will be used to assess use and demand of Long-Term Supports and Services (LTSS) in the state as a potential model for the rest of the nation.

SB 1192: The California law, which requires low-fat milk or water be the default beverages for restaurant kids' meals, cites Center [research](#) on prediabetes and diabetes rates from CHIS for children and adults. (Signed into law in September).

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SB 974 and **AB2965**: Figures on California's uninsured from [CalSIM](#), which uses CHIS data, were cited in analysis of both bills. The first bill would have provided full Medi-Cal benefits to low-income California residents 65 years and older, including undocumented Californians. The second would have covered those ages 19 to 25, also regardless of citizenship status.

SB906: CHIS data on unmet mental health need among adults were provided to Sen. Beall's office for a speech about the bill, which would have set up state certification of peer providers for Californians with mental health needs.

California Senate Budget Committee informational hearing: Advocates for elders also presented information about data gaps in senior Californians' use of Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS). The 2019-2020 CHIS will include questions on LTSS.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health used CHIS data from a Center [evaluation](#) of Los Angeles nutrition and obesity programs in a presentation to a **legislative session** regarding creation of a Wellness Fund in California.

The Los Angeles County Counsel's Office consulted with an author of the Center's [analysis of changes to the federal public charge test](#), regarding the county's drafting of comments on the rule.

CHIS AT WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES: RESEARCH ON DIVERSE POPULATIONS

The Center's Health Policy Seminars: The Center featured three seminars based on CHIS data this year:

- ["Liquid Sugar: Sugary Beverage Consumption Among Young Children in California"](#)
- ["California Health Interview Survey 2017 Data Release"](#)
- ["How Proposed Changes to the 'Public Charge' Rule Will Affect Health, Hunger, and the Economy in California"](#)

Immigration workshop: Center Director Ninez Ponce and CHIS staff demonstrated how to use CHIS data to explore the impact of immigration status on health at a workshop at the UC San Diego Center for Comparative Immigration Studies.

Local health data conference: Center and CHIS staff gave presentations on CHIS and Asian American/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander health data at the California Conference of Local Health Data Managers & Epidemiologists.

Industry conferences: Center and CHIS staff gave dozens of presentations or demonstrations featuring CHIS data at annual meetings and workshops hosted by World Health Organization, [American Public Health Association](#), [American Association for Public Opinion Research](#), [Community Health Councils](#) and other organizations.

CHIS IN ONLINE TOOLS: MEASURING ACA IMPACT,



WELL-BEING, RACIAL DISPARITY

Besides the Center's online query tools AskCHIS® and AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition® (AskCHIS NE), CHIS data are featured or included in dozens of city and community health websites and advocacy sites:

[AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition data dashboard](#) (California Department of Public Health). The new tool, added to the CDPH website in September, covers 10 health topics including insurance, smoking and health status, that can be viewed at ZIP code and city geographic levels.

[ACA 411](#) (California Health Care Foundation) includes CHIS data to help track the Affordable Care Act's impact on insurance coverage, access to health care services, and affordability in California.

[California Healthy Places Index](#) (Public Health Alliance of Southern California). This online tool uses AskCHIS NE and other sources to score communities based on their health and well-being indicators.

[California Women's Well-Being Index](#) (California Budget & Policy Center). The index, which includes several CHIS indicators, measures five dimensions of women's lives: health, personal safety, employment & earnings, economic security, and political empowerment in each county.

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[Kidsdata.org](https://kidsdata.org) (Lucile Packard Foundation). The dashboard uses CHIS indicators on children's dental and health care, nutrition, early care, education and health status.

Race Counts (Advancement Project). The query tool measures racial disparity in seven areas: democracy, economic opportunity, crime and justice, access to health care, healthy built environment, education and housing.

USE BY HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

St. Joseph Health, Memorial Hospital (Bakersfield), Scripps Health and others use CHIS data in their community health needs assessment to decide what the most beneficial programs would be for them to offer in their regions. [Community Medical Centers](#) cited CHIS data on the high rates of diabetes and prediabetes in the San Joaquin Valley and in Fresno County.

CENTER PUBLICATIONS USING CHIS

Center policy briefs and fact sheets based on CHIS data encompassed wide-ranging and topical issues, such as economic and health effects from changes to the federal "public charge" test to how kids are replacing soda with other sugary beverages such as sports drinks. A partial list:



- [*Proposed Changes to Immigration Laws Would Cost California Jobs, Harm Public Health*](#) (Ninez Ponce, et al)
- [*California's Health Coverage Gains to Erode without Further State Action*](#) (Miranda Dietz, Laurel Lucia, Dylan Roby, et al)
- [*ACA Reduces Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health Coverage*](#) (Tara Becker)
- [*Disparities in Health Care Access and Health Among Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals in California*](#) (Susan Babey, Joelle Wolstein, Allison Diamant)
- [*Sugary Beverage Consumption Among California Children and Adolescents*](#) (Susan Babey, Joelle Wolstein)

- [*Rise in Medi-Cal Enrollment Corresponded to Increases in California County Health Spending During ACA Implementation*](#) (Shana Alex Charles, Francis Nepomuceno, Gerald Kominski)

USE IN REPORTS BY GOVERNMENT & HEALTH ADVOCACY GROUPS

[*Counting a Diverse Nation: Disaggregating Data on Race and Ethnicity to Advance a Culture of Health*](#), PolicyLink

[*California Tobacco Facts and Figures 2018*](#), California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program

[*The San Francisco Cancer Initiative*](#), San Francisco County

[*Silicon Valley Latino Report Card, 2018*](#), Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley

[*Six Facts About Undocumented Californians*](#), California Health Care Foundation

[*CalFresh Reaches Millions of Californians and Reduces Poverty*](#), California Budget & Policy Center

ASKCHIS NE API SUBSCRIBERS

University of Missouri joins California Office of Health Equity, St. Joseph Health and Healthy City as the newest subscriber to our AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition© (AskCHIS NE) API. The AskCHIS NE© API provides access to granular-level California Health Interview Survey health estimates that are available at [AskCHIS NE](#).

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

CHIS was used in about 50 journal articles, including:

ACA and insurance

[*Access-To-Care Differences Between Mexican-Heritage And Other Latinos In California After The Affordable Care Act*](#), Health Affairs

[*Adverse Selection into and within the Individual Health Insurance Market in California in 2014*](#), Health Services Research

Gender

[*Measuring Aspects of Sexuality and Gender: A Sexual Human Rights Challenge for Science and Official Statistics*](#), Chance

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AskCHIS

Lifetime queries 1,343,927

Total indicators queried (12 months)*: 90,057

Top indicators:

1. Current Smoking Status – Adults
2. Ever diagnosed with diabetes
3. Body Mass Index – 4 level (adult only)
4. Ever diagnosed with asthma
5. Currently insured

AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition

Lifetime queries: 97,495

Total indicators queried (12 months)*: 30,158

Total geographies queried: 178,816

12-month geographies queries: 46,372

Top indicators:

1. Adult Diabetes
2. Adult Asthma
3. Adult Obesity
4. Adult Food Insecurity
5. Adult Heart Disease

*Dec. 1, 2017 to Dec. 1, 2018

[LGBT People & Access To Prescription Medications](#), The Williams Institute

Race and ethnicity

[Racial Discrimination in Health Care and Utilization of Health Care: A Cross-sectional Study of California Adults](#), Journal of General Internal Medicine

[The Overlooked Burden of Food Insecurity among Asian Americans: Results from the California Health Interview Survey](#), International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

Mental health and substance use

[Monitoring Californians' Mental Health: Population Surveillance Reveals Gender Racial/Ethnic, Age and Regional Disparities](#), RAND

[Gentrification and Binge Drinking in California Neighborhoods: It Matters How Long You've Lived There](#), Drug and Alcohol Dependence

Chronic disease

[Disparities in Diabetes Care Quality by English Language Preference in Community Health Centers](#), Health Services Research

[Community-Based Health and Exposure Study around Urban Oil Developments in South Los Angeles](#), International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

Immigration and immigrants

[Health Care Access and Physical and Behavioral Health Among Undocumented Latinos in California](#), Medical Care

[Immigrants, U.S. Values, And The Golden State](#), Health Affairs

Age groups

[Ethnic and Sex Differences in E-cigarette Use and Relation to Alcohol Use in California Adolescents: The California Health Interview Survey](#), Public Health

[The Relation Between Multiple Informal Caregiving Roles and Subjective Physical and Mental Health Status Among Older Adults: Do Racial/Ethnic Differences Exist?](#), The Gerontologist

CITED IN MEDIA

CHIS was in the media more than 120 times on topics ranging on the state of ACA protections to the perceived value of pets. Examples: [National Public Radio](#), [Psychology Today](#), [NBC San Diego](#), [Vice](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Sacramento Bee](#), [Politico Pulse](#), [Capital Public Radio](#), [Hoy](#), [Los Angeles Times](#). Notable recent media:

[San Francisco Chronicle](#) published an editorial about proposed changes to federal “public charge” immigration test which featured analysis with CHIS data by the Center, UC Berkeley and California Food Policy Advocates.

[KNCO 830-AM](#) featured the CHIS 2017 insurance study that reported the proportion of Californians under 65 years of age who were uninsured held steady at 8.5 percent in 2017.

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healthpolicy.ucla.edu/newsletter

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