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## **Survey Uncovers Latinos Most Likely to Report Health as Poor**

*Latino Coalition for a Healthy California and UCLA Center for Health Policy Research  
Reveal Results from 2001 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS 2001)*

SACRAMENTO – The Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, the leading voice in Latino health and the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, the premier source of health policy information will release the results of the 2001 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS 2001). The joint study found that Latinos in California are more likely to report being in fair or poor health, and more likely to be uninsured, than other racial/ethnic group.

CHIS 2001, a new source of health information on Californians including a large sample of Latinos, is the largest health survey conducted in any state and one of the largest in the nation. The survey covers a broad range of public health concerns including health status and conditions, health-related behaviors, health insurance coverage and access to health care services. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish, among others.

The results set to be released on January 24, 2003 at the San Diego Regional Network meeting hosted by the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California. The document looks at health insurance coverage and perceived general health status of Latinos and five other racial/ethnic groups in California. The comparison looks at health coverage (job-based, Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, and uninsured) and how the racial and ethnic groups vary. While the majority of the ethnic groups were covered by job based health insurance, Latinos stood out as the only ethnicity with less than half (43%) of the surveyed covered by job-based health insurance. Immigration status, income levels and poverty, as shown in the report, contributed to the number of people uninsured in every California racial/ethnic group, especially in the case of Latinos.

The relationship between the number of the uninsured and their poor health status was made more apparent in the survey findings. Latinos who did not receive regular health care (one in four or 28.7%) were more likely to perceive themselves as being in fair or poor health.

One major issue that needs to be researched, as suggested by the joint study, is whether or not the perception of poor health [by Latino survey respondents] is related to actual health status.

Policy recommendations based on the study findings will also be released at the San Diego Regional Network Meeting.

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*Authors of the the 2001 California Health Interview Survey include: Jennifer Aguayo, Research Associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research; E. Richard Brown, PhD, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, professor at the UCLA School of Public Health and Principal Investigator for CHIS; Michael Rodriguez, MD, MPH Associate Professor at the UCLA Department of Family Medicine; and Lia Margolis, president and CEO of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California.*

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