

# California Health Interview Survey

## CHIS Making an Impact—2016

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 nation's largest state health survey and one of the largest health surveys in the United States.

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

Despite uncertainty about repeal/replacement of the Affordable Care Act and the direction of health care, one thing remains constant — the [California Health Interview Survey](#) continues to inform both research and legislation designed to reduce inequities in health among California's vulnerable populations, particularly low-income residents, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBT, children and elders.

*Highlights of CHIS in 2016 include:*

### INFORMING LEGISLATION, LEGISLATORS

#### U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein:

Center experts provided data for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's office on insurance premium affordability (state and national) using the California Simulation of Health Insurance Markets (CaSIM). The [CaSIM](#) model uses CHIS

#### AB 635 (increased funding for medical interpretation services)

Analysis by the Senate Health, Senate Appropriations, and Senate Rules committees cited CHIS data that about 281,000 Medi-Cal patients had difficulty understanding or needed an interpreter to understand their doctor because of language problems. The bill passed and was [signed into law in September](#). The law will reduce health disparities for Medi-Cal patients who speak a language other than English.

American Association for Public Opinion Research

CHIS is a Charter Member of the [AAPOR Transparency Initiative](#), a commitment to transparent survey research practice and effective disclosure of research methods.

data and Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) to generate its estimates.

#### AB 2782 (2-cent-per-ounce tax on sugary drinks that sets up a fund for programs to reduce diabetes, obesity and dental disease)

The Assembly Committee on Health used [CHIS diabetes rates](#) for ZIP codes with the highest 30 percentile of type II diabetes to determine population targets for diabetes, obesity and dental programs.

#### AB 572 (diabetes prevention and treatment)

CHIS data in the CDPH report, *Burden of Diabetes in California*, to describe the current burden of diabetes among adults in the state.

#### California Commission on Aging Nov. 2016 letter to California Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon

The California Commission on Aging cited CHIS data in their [letter](#) to the Senate president pro tem, requesting an indefinite extension of the Senate's Select Committee on Aging and Long-Term care.

### CHIS IN NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSES, DATABASES

[Health Services Research Information Center](#) (U.S. National Library of Medicine) lists CHIS under state surveys.



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[National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research \(NCCOR\)](#), a catalog of surveillance systems, includes CHIS.

[Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce](#), a database for state and city health data.

[2015 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report: Chartbook on Health Care for Blacks](#): In this 2016 release, CHIS data augment national data sources on diabetes management and outcomes that do not include some underserved populations, including African-Americans.

#### ACA-RELATED RESEARCH BY THE CENTER AND OTHERS USING CHIS

Center Policy Brief: [Who Had Medi-Cal and Who Remained Uninsured in the First Year of Expansion?](#)

Center Policy Brief: [Affordability and Eligibility Barriers Remain for California's Uninsured](#)

Center Research Report: [Preliminary CalSIM v. 2.0 Regional Remaining Uninsured Projections](#)

Journal of Immigrant Health and Minority Health: [Health Benefits Mandates and Their Potential Impacts on Racial/Ethnic Group Disparities in Insurance Markets](#)

California Health Care Almanac: [California's Uninsured: Coverage Expands, but Millions Left Behind](#)

#### STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS AND DATABASES

ACA 411: The California Health Care Foundation updated its [ACA 411](#) interactive web tool with CHIS data that helps track the Affordable Care Act's effect on insurance coverage, access to health care services, and affordability in California after health care reform. CHCF support allowed CHIS to add additional ACA-related questions to the survey.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) published [California Tobacco and Figures 2016](#) and [The Burden of Cardiovascular Disease in California, 2016](#). The CDPH also lists CHIS as a resource on its [website](#).

Los Angeles Department of Public Health has an [AskCHIS](#) link to find health statistics on each of its [Service Planning Area](#) pages and on their [Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health](#) page.

[Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal](#) includes CHIS data on serious mental illness.

The [Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community](#) campaign uses CHIS data on their county-by-county database.

[Kidsdata.org](#): The query tool, run by the Lucile Packard Foundation, focuses on the health and well-being of children in communities across California.

[Healthy City](#): An information and action resource tool that aims to promote change in California includes numerous CHIS health indicators.

[California Breathing](#): Uses CHIS data in its county asthma profiles.

[Los Angeles Food Policy Council](#): Lists CHIS as a source for food consumption trends in Los Angeles and California.

About a dozen city and county health dashboards use CHIS data, ranging from [El Dorado County](#) (pop. 185,000), which uses county-level CHIS data, to sprawling [Los Angeles County](#) (pop. 10.2 million), which uses [AskCHIS NE](#) data by ZIP code. CHIS data are also used in numerous county health reports, including those for [Santa Barbara](#), [San Joaquin](#) and [Orange](#) counties.

#### HEALTH SYSTEMS AND HOSPITALS

Many health systems use CHIS data to compile their community health needs reports, including: [Children's Hospital of Los Angeles](#), [Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties](#), [Keck Hospital of USC](#), [MemorialCare Health System](#), and [Saint Louise Hospital \(San Jose\)](#).

#### ADVOCACY, NONPROFIT AND OTHER GROUPS

**TRANSPORTATION:** Southern California Association of Government: Their long-term [regional transportation plan/sustainable communities report](#) cites CHIS chronic disease rates as challenges.

**LGBT:** Center for American Progress published the policy brief [The Medicaid Program and LGBT Communities: Overview and Policy Recommendations](#), which focuses on LGBT health access and cites CHIS's two-step gender identification survey question.

**COMMUNITIES OF COLOR:** California Pan-Ethnic Health Network authored several publications using CHIS data,

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including [The Landscape of Opportunity: Cultivating Health Equity in California](#).

**VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH:** Education Development Center, a nonprofit in Waltham, Massachusetts, used the CHIS article [The Mental Health Status of California Veterans](#) as part of an informational package for a U.S.VETS-EDC project to assist women veterans.

### ASKCHIS NE API SUBSCRIBERS

A hospital system, a nonprofit and a state agency subscribe to the AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition (NE) API, which provides live access to the latest AskCHIS NE data.

- [California Office of Health Equity](#) used the API to create statewide reports on health disparities.
- [St. Joseph Health](#) used the API for community needs health assessments to guide their community health initiatives.
- [Healthy City](#), which populates many city health dashboards, expects to launch its updated site in December using the API data. The site is run by Advancement Project, a civil rights organization.

**CHILDREN AND WOMEN:** Children Now, [2016 California Children's Report Card: A Survey of Kids' Well-Being & a Roadmap for the Future](#); The Children's Partnership, [The Affordable Care Act and Children's Coverage in California: Our Progress and Our Future](#); and California Budget & Policy Center, [California Women's Well-Being Index](#).

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

In 2016, researchers published more than 60 reports and journal articles that used CHIS data on wide-ranging topics in dozens of academic journals, including Health and Place, Public Health Nutrition, Social Science and Medicine-Population Health, Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, American Journal of Pediatric Health, Journal of Rural Health, and Chaos. Examples, by topic:

#### MENTAL HEALTH

[The Mental Health Status of California Veterans](#), a Center policy brief

[Correlates and Predictors of Psychological Distress Among Older Asian Immigrants in California](#), Journal of Gerontological Social Work

[The Impact of School Social Support and Bullying Victimization on Psychological Distress among California Adolescents](#), Californian Journal of Health Promotion

#### RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES

[Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage and Health Status Among Farmworkers, Sonoma County, California, 2013-2014](#), Preventing Chronic Disease. (Note: [AskCHIS occupation and industry data](#) will allow more investigation of the health of workers based on what they do and the fields in which they work.)

[Comparing Obesity-Related Health Disparities among Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders, Asians and Whites in California](#), Hawai'i Journal of Medicine & Public Health

[Persistent Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Flu Vaccination Coverage](#), American Journal of Infection Control

[Mental Health, Racial Discrimination, and Tobacco Use Differences Across Rural-Urban California](#), Journal of Rural Health

#### ELDERS

[Caregiving Practice Patterns of Asian, Hispanic, and Non-Hispanic White American Family Caregivers of Older Adults Across Generations](#), Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology

[Distribution, Determinants, and Prevention of Falls Among the Elderly in the 2011-2012 California Health Interview Survey](#), Public Health Reports

[Hidden Health Problems Among California's "Hidden Poor"](#), Center policy brief

#### CHRONIC DISEASE

[Prediabetes in California: Nearly Half of California Adults on Path to Diabetes](#), Center policy brief

[Burden of Cardiovascular Disease in California, 2016](#), California Department of Health

[Soda Consumption and Hospital Admissions among Californian Adults with Asthma](#), Journal of Asthma

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## AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition

In the last 12 months, [AskCHIS NE](#), which allows searches by ZIP code, city and legislative district, logged close to 42,000 geographic queries with close to 75 percent of the queries at the ZIP code level.

### Other statistics:

- **Unique visits (lifetime):** 8,900
- **Total indicators queried (12 months):** 20,684
- **Total geographies queried:** 41,774
- **Top indicators:** Adult obesity; child/teen asthma; adult asthma; adult diabetes; adult regular walking

## AskCHIS

- **Unique visits (lifetime):** 1.1 million
- **Total indicators queried (12 months):** 112,153
- **Total geographies queried:** 56,746
- **Top indicators:** currently insured; gender; race (OMB/Department of Finance); poverty level; type of current health insurance — all ages; race, body mass index-adult; current smoking status-adults and teen; health status

## CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

[Accessibility of Summer Meals and the Food Insecurity of Low-Income Households with Children](#), Public Health Nutrition

[Oral Health Status of Immigrant and Refugee Children in North America: A Scoping Review](#), Journal of the Canadian Dental Association

[Taking a Bite Out of Oral Health Inequities: Promoting Equitable Health Policies for Communities of Color](#), California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)

[E-Cigarette Use and Disparities by Race, Citizenship Status and Language Among Adolescents](#), Addictive Behaviors

## UNIQUE USE IN RESEARCH AND BEYOND

**DROUGHT:** A University of California Riverside professor [launched a statewide study, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), to assess the drought's effect on human health by analyzing public health data from CHIS and other sources and correlating it with weather data.

**TREE CANOPY:** A study published in Health & Place reports that more [neighborhood tree cover](#), independent of green space access, was related to better overall health.

## CHIS AS TEACHING TOOL:

An update to the California version of an [elementary statistics](#) textbook will include CHIS data on cigarette, alcohol and Internet use as well as estimates on employment and earnings.

UC Berkeley's Public Health Library Guide uses CHIS as a [teaching tool](#), in addition to having it included as a resource for finding state and local health statistics.

**PET OBESITY:** The Veterinary Public Health Program (VPH) of the LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) created the [2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families Initiative](#), which cited CHIS data for human obesity and VPH survey data for pets.

## TRAINING

CHIS staff presented the seminar on CHIS as a monitoring tool for migrant health at the [Summer Institute on Migration & Global Health](#) in June.

CHIS staff conducted the webinar "Estimating Medi-Cal Eligibility Using the California Health Interview Survey" for the [California Department of Health Care Services](#) in October.

In November, California Health Interview Survey staff conducted an introductory seminar on how to use CHIS data for faculty at the USC Health Sciences campus.

## MEDIA

CHIS was cited in more than 375 media articles this year on topics ranging from the state's five million residents who remain uninsured (Capital & Main) to Fresno considering adding more bicycles lanes and sidewalks to improve residents' safety and fitness (KQED) to high rates of adult prediabetes rates in California (CBS Evening News). Stories were published in CBS Evening News, New York Times, Sacramento Bee, Los Angeles Times, La Opinion, Bay Area Reporter, New America Media, KQED, KPCC, KCRW, KPBS, The Wave, California Healthline and many more.

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