

# California Health Interview Survey

## CHIS Making an Impact—2014

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 United States. Conducted by the **UCLA Center for Health Policy Research**, CHIS regularly surveys up to 20,000 households each year and conducts separate interviews with adults and teenagers and children, providing a detailed picture of the health and health care needs of California's diverse population.

*Highlights of CHIS in 2014 include:*

### Supporting and evaluating the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

**ACA preparation:** [California Simulation of Insurance Markets](#) (CalSIM), which incorporates CHIS data, was used by Medi-Cal, Covered California, health plans and stakeholders to plan for implementation of the ACA and open enrollment by projecting what impact various elements of the Affordable Care Act would have on eligibility and enrollment. **Regional CalSIM estimates** helped counties and local health plans prepare for new patients and increased coverage in their areas.

**ACA progress tracker:** The California HealthCare Foundation's Web query tool [ACA 411](#) uses many CHIS indicators, allowing policy-makers to measure and monitor progress on three major aims of the ACA: health insurance coverage, comprehensiveness and affordability of coverage, and access to services.

**ACA benchmark:** The biennial report, [The State of Health Insurance in California](#) (SHIC), is based on 2011-2012 CHIS data and gives a comprehensive picture of health insurance trends, access and coverage status for California's 37.7 million residents. Because data were collected before full implementation of health reform, the latest SHIC report will serve as a baseline to gauge the effects of the Affordable Care Act.

**Expanding ACA access:** U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced a bill, [S2908](#), in September that would increase the premium subsidy up to 600% of the FPL to make health insurance more affordable for Americans, based on estimates provided by CalSIM.



### AskCHIS a "Health Data All-Star"

AskCHIS, the online health data query tool, was again named a "Health Data All-Star" by the [Health Data Consortium](#). CHIS is also a **Charter Member** of the [AAPOR Transparency Initiative](#), a recognition of commitment to transparent survey research practice and effective disclosure of research methods.

### Other national impacts

**Pioneering LGB data:** The [National Health Interview Survey](#) (NHIS) for the first time asked questions about sexual orientation, after seeing more than a decade of reliable and credible data being gathered on the LGB population in California by [CHIS](#) and disseminated in reports and academic articles. CHIS included sexual orientation questions starting with its first survey in 2001. The NHIS released its first set of LGB data in July.

**Expertise, unique data inform federal report:** CHIS Director David Grant and Assistant CHIS Director Royce Park contributed to the [National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report 2014](#) (QDR) published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CHIS provides data on American Indian and Alaska Natives, Asian subpopulations, and many Hispanic sub

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## New! ZIP code level data via AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition

A new Web query tool, [AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition](#) (AskCHIS NE), launched in mid-November. It lets users customize and compare small geographic areas, such as **ZIP codes** and **legislative districts**, and map and chart results. [AskCHIS NE](#) is a companion to [AskCHIS](#), which provides county, region and state level data. [AskCHIS NE](#) is supported by Kaiser Permanente and The California Wellness Foundation.

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populations regarding health disparities for the Health and Human Service's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

### State legislation, testimony and seminars

#### Health coverage for California's undocumented

- **SB 1005** (Health4All), proposed by state senator Ricardo Lara (D-Huntington Park/Long Beach), strongly cited a joint [study](#) that was based on CalSIM calculations. A revised bill, **SB4**, is under consideration by the state legislature. A CHIS-based [analysis](#) by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's [Nadereh Pourat](#) on DACA youth also was cited in SB 1005.
- **Coverage for undocumented:** A [joint policy brief](#) co-authored by Center Associate Director [Steven P. Wallace](#) used CHIS data to summarize the economic, political and social arguments for expanding health coverage to 1.4 to 1.5 million undocumented Californians.

#### Testimony

- **Medi-Cal expansion:** In a California HealthCare Foundation [briefing](#) in Sacramento, Associate Center Director [Ninez Ponce](#) used CHIS data to discuss Medi-Cal enrollees' access to care before the state's expansion of Medi-Cal and how that information could help monitor access to care under health reform.
- **Aging LGB population:** Williams Institute Research Director Gary Gates testified in June before the state [Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care](#) about the specific health needs of the aging LGBT community in California and used CHIS data to illustrate the status and specific financial and health needs of future LGB seniors.

### Who uses CHIS, and for what?

#### State government reports

State reports used a variety of CHIS data, from health insurance estimates (CHBRP) to chronic disease, for many

briefs and fact sheets for the Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care.

**Examples:** The California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) brief, [Estimates of Sources of Health Insurance in California for 2015](#); California State Library: CHIS data were used in numerous publications ([Psychosocial and Economic Health of Older American Indians and Alaskan Natives in California](#), [Psychosocial and Economic Health of Older African Americans in California](#), [Psychosocial and Economic Health of Older Non-partnered Women in California](#)); California Dept. of Public Health (CDPH), [California Wellness Plan 2014](#) and [The Burden of Diabetes in California 2014](#).

#### Local public health departments

Numerous local health agencies used CHIS data to illustrate guidelines, plans and reports ranging from specific populations (sexual minorities) to general groups (El Dorado County).

**Examples:** San Francisco Department of Public Health, [Sexual Orientation Guidelines: Principles for Collecting, Coding, and Reporting Identity Data](#); Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, [L.A. County Comprehensive HIV Plan](#); Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health, [2014 Community Health Status Report](#); El Dorado County, [Healthy El Dorado County 2014](#).

#### County report cards

Annual county report cards included CHIS data on chil-

### AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition use in 2014 (launched mid-November 2014)

**Number of queries:** 11,000

**Number of geographic locations queried:** 22,495

#### Top 5 requested geographic parameters

- ZIP code: 12,750 queries
- City: 5,818
- County: 1,827
- Grouped ZIP codes: 1,235
- Grouped cities: 425

#### Top 5 indicators queried

- Diabetes (adult): 678
- Obese (adult): 650
- Uninsured (adult): 589
- Serious psychological distress (adult): 525
- Current smoker (adult): 516

dren's oral care, adolescent and adult rates for chronic disease, quality of life, access to insurance, health risk factors by race and ethnicity and many other general health indicators for a county-wide audience.

**Examples:** [Kern County Report Card](#), [The Sacramento County Community Health Status Report 2014](#), [San Bernardino County Community Indicators Report 2014](#), and [The Alameda County Health Data Profile 2014](#).

### Community advocacy groups

Advocacy groups used CHIS for publications ranging from special printed reports on a single issue such as food insecurity in one local area (SPUR) to Latino child health (Lucile Packard) to annual online scorecards that look at the health status of children in every county in the state (Children Now).

**Examples:** [SPUR](#) (food insecurity in the Bay Area), [California LGBT Health and Human Services Network](#), [Breathe California](#), Children Now (for their [Children Now Scorecard](#) and [California County Report Card](#)), [Lucile Packard](#), [First 5 Yolo County](#), [Consumer Watchdog](#), and more.

### Research on vulnerable and underrepresented populations, and more

Besides fueling many [UCLA Center for Health Policy](#) studies, CHIS's wide range of health data are frequently used by researchers at other universities to publish journal articles and studies. At least **60** reports and journal articles used CHIS data in 2014 on topics that ranged from teen smoking to asthma variations by race, to sexual minorities and health care to elder poverty.

Articles were published in the Journal of Asthma, Social Work in Health Care, British Medical Journal, Preventive Medicine, Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health,

## CHIS a centerpiece of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's 20th Anniversary Celebration!

CHIS was celebrated in speeches, a video and display material at the Oct. 7 celebration of the Center's 20th Anniversary. Rep. Henry Waxman, Cástulo de la Rocha

of AltaMed, and Sarah de Guia of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN) accepted Health Impact Awards in front of hundreds of appreciative health advocates, supporters, students and staff.



## AskCHIS use in 2014 at a glance

**Number of AskCHIS users:** 44,000 registered

**Number of queries made:** 192,000

**Top users:** Educational institutions made 31,560 queries

### Top 5 queries:

- Ever diagnosed with asthma: 9,866 queries
- Currently insured: 8,434
- Ever diagnosed with diabetes: 7,985
- Body Mass Index (adult): 6,745
- Health status: 5,680

**Learn more:** [www.chis.ucla.edu](http://www.chis.ucla.edu)

Health Affairs, Pediatrics, Journal of Aging and Health, American Journal of Public Health, and more.

*Products and academic studies that relied on CHIS data:*

### Racial/ethnic groups

- **Race and Ethnicity Health Profiles:** The new [Race and Ethnicity Health Profiles](#) used data from the 2011-2012 CHIS to explore a range of health topics, from insurance status to binge drinking. A new feature: statistics for nearly a dozen groups within the Latino (9.5 million) and Asian (3.9 million) ethnic groups, including separate data for U.S.-born Mexicans vs. non-U.S.-born Mexicans.
- **Korean women:** Fewer than 52 percent of Korean women over the age of 40 have had a mammogram screening in the last two years according to CHIS data, the lowest rate of all racial and ethnic groups in California, as reported in a Center [study](#).
- **African-Americans, Latinos and cancer stress:** A cancer diagnosis and the accompanying financial burden more significantly erodes the mental health of Latinos and African-Americans than whites, according to a Bio-Med Central Public Health [study](#) that used CHIS data.
- **Asian/Pacific Islanders in O.C.:** Orange County, California, has the nation's third-largest population of Asian Americans, according to an Asian Americans Advancing Justice/Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance [report](#), which cited [CHIS](#) data about the emotional and mental health of the county's Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations.
- **A textbook,** [Big Data and Health Analytics](#), includes a chapter "Addressing Social Determinants of Health

Using Big Data" that includes [The California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities fact sheets](#) on South Los Angeles, based on CHIS data.

### Elders

- **Falls:** More than half a million older Californians — 12.6 percent of the state's senior population — fall more than once a year, but nearly 60 percent of them fail to seek medical attention afterward, according to a Center [policy brief](#) that used CHIS data.
- **Asthma:** CHIS data were used to study the incidence, characteristics of asthma morbidity and care, and ethnic differences in older adults in a *Journal of Asthma* [report](#).

### LGB

- **LGBT well-being 2014:** The Riverside County Public Health Department may have been the first local government agency to address local LGB health needs in its report, [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Health & Wellness Profile, 2014](#). The report drew extensively upon CHIS data for LGBT residents in the Riverside and San Bernardino counties.
- **LGB and cancer:** A [study](#) in the *British Medical Journal* found links between county-level LGB population density and cancer incidence.

### Children and women

- **Women's health, age and income:** The Public Health Institute report [Women's Health in California: Examining Age and Income](#) found younger women have more access issues and older women have higher rates of health issues, while each age group exhibited sharp health disparities between low-income and higher-income women.
- **Latino children:** 2011-2012 CHIS data were used in [The Health of Latino Families and Children in California](#), published by the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, which studied how factors affecting Latino children's health has lifelong consequences.
- **Reading and young children:** Young immigrant children may be less ready to start school due to a lack of "book sharing" — reading or looking at picture books — with their parents, according to a [study](#) based on CHIS data on reading in the journal *Pediatrics*.

### Chronic disease, mental health research

- **Obesity and cancer:** A UC Davis [report](#) used CHIS data to study the incidence and mortality rates of five types of cancer that have been linked to obesity and how the rates have changed since 1988.

- **Diabetics and amputation "clusters":** A Health Affairs [study](#) used CHIS and other data to show diabetics who live in low-income areas of California are up to 10 times more likely to lose a toe, foot or leg than patients living in more affluent areas.
- **Mental stress and chronic illness:** Nearly 1.3 million women in California — 9 percent of the state's adult females — experience serious psychological distress (SPD) in a given year, according to a new Public Health Institute [policy brief](#) that used data from CHIS.
- **Children with mental health needs:** More than 300,000 California children between the ages of 4 and 11 need mental health care, but only 1 in 4 is treated, according to a Center [policy brief](#) that used 2007-2009 CHIS data.

### Diverse research topics

- **Dental care access:** A dentist's personal characteristics and how he or she organizes his/her practice can create disparities in access to dental care, according to an [article](#) by Center Research Director [Nadereh Pourat](#) in the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*.
- **Community street design:** A University of Colorado study, ["Community Design, Street Networks, and Public Health,"](#) used CHIS data to illustrate the effect street design — from efficient city grid patterns to disconnected suburban layouts — had on health.
- **Minimum wage and health:** [Health Impacts of Raising California's Minimum Wage](#), published in *Human Impact Partners*, used CHIS data to show that a proposal to raise the state's current minimum wage to \$13 by 2017 would significantly benefit health and well-being for 7.5 million lower-income Californians.

### AskCHIS community training sessions

Supported by funding from [The California Endowment](#), more than 400 people participated in 18 introductory and advanced AskCHIS training seminars. Topic areas included: accessing [CHIS and Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System](#) (BRFSS) data (with the state Department of Public Health), the Affordable Care Act, LGBT (with Kate Burch of [California LGBTHHSN](#)), diverse populations (with [CPEHN](#)), mental health, and nutrition and healthy living (with the [American Heart Association](#)).

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