

Attachment 2

CHIS Making an Impact

California Health Interview Survey



california
health
interview
survey

Making
California's
Voices Heard
on Health

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CHIS Making an Impact

California Health Interview Survey is an invaluable resource for building healthier communities

California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) data and results are invaluable tools for health policy makers at the local, state and national levels. Health advocates, media, health care providers, foundations and researchers also depend on this rich source of population-based data for critical health information.

Beginning in 2001, CHIS has been conducted every two years by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Care Services and the Public Health Institute. Data from the 2001, 2003, and 2005 surveys have already been put to work enhancing the health and access to care for children and adults throughout California and the nation.

Supporting New Efforts to Cover the Uninsured

California state government officials, as well as local agencies and advocacy groups, rely on CHIS data to support their efforts to expand health coverage to the uninsured – especially uninsured children.

First 5 County Commissions

More than a dozen county First 5 commissions – created by California voters to direct tobacco tax revenues to promote early childhood development – have used CHIS data to develop new public-private expansion programs for children ineligible for private insurance, Medi-Cal, or Healthy Families. In most cases, CHIS has been the only data source available.

First 5 agencies from Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Joaquin, Marin, San Luis Obispo and Tulare counties have relied on CHIS data to advocate for and plan these expansion projects, as has a coalition of commissions from Sacramento, Colusa, El Dorado, Yolo and Yuba counties.

State and Local Expansion Efforts

- The Los Angeles County Children's Health Initiative – a broad coalition of public and private entities ensuring access to coverage to all children through age 18 – built its groundbreaking expansion using CHIS estimates of the number of uninsured children who are eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, as well as those who are not eligible for these programs.

- The Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency used CHIS data to develop a health insurance plan for all children up to age 18.
- The Santa Cruz County Health Department also relied on CHIS data in its successful application for a federal Community Access Program grant that provided three years of funding for expanded clinic services, outreach to enroll eligible uninsured residents in public health insurance programs, and creation of a Health Improvement Partnership Council.

Obtaining Funding to Improve Access to Care

CHIS data are used by local agencies and community clinics to support their efforts to obtain funding to serve low-income families and individuals.

- The Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County uses CHIS data in its advocacy and planning activities and in its proposals to government agencies and foundations in support of its 41 member community clinics and health centers.
- The San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium and San Francisco Department of Public Health used CHIS data to develop its two-year federal Community Access Program, a project to improve access to and quality of care for San Francisco's indigent and uninsured. The CHIS data helped identify the special problems and needs of the target population, and direct

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interventions.

- The Contra Costa County Office of Education's Children's Report Card used CHIS 2001 data to compare health insurance coverage of children in Contra Costa County to children statewide.

Building Healthier Communities

Local governments and organizations continue to discover new ways to integrate CHIS data into their individual health-related projects in their communities.

- First 5 San Diego used CHIS health insurance and oral health data in developing new, local requests for proposals. First 5 San Diego used CHIS data in its planning to allocate \$6 million for efforts to enroll uninsured eligible children in existing programs.
- Health policy researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, used CHIS data in the first study to compare measures of mental health and general well-being among California's county populations. The results are published in *Measuring Mental Health in California's Counties: What Can We Learn?*

Using Data to Better Serve Ethnic Communities

Because of its size, sample design, and ability to reach households in several languages, CHIS is of great value to those seeking to identify the health needs of ethnic communities in California and beyond.

- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) uses CHIS data to better understand how cancer impacts Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese and other Asian ethnic populations, which are growing throughout the United States. NCI is also taking advantage of CHIS' large sample of American

CHIS and the Fight Against Hunger

A series of publications by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, which used CHIS data to analyze the extent of food insecurity in California, prompted the Legislature in 2003 to pass Assembly Bill 231, making it easier for low-income families to access food stamps.

Moreover, the California Food Policy Advocates (CPFA), which funded the series, used subsequent publications to generate substantial media interest in the subject of hunger, and used local CHIS data to identify increased rates of food insecurity among low-income Californians in 23 of the states smallest counties. Advocates were then able to work with rural food banks and community-based organizations to identify effective ways to reach people who need food assistance.

Indian-Alaskan Native populations to better understand how cancer affects this population.

- The Asian Pacific American Legal Center used CHIS estimates to compile health data on California and several counties to produce demographic profiles of the Asian and Pacific Islander populations.
- United American Indian Involvement used CHIS data in a successful competitive grant application to the Indian Health Service for a Diabetes Primary Prevention Demonstration project in Los Angeles County. The project implements diet and exercise community-based diabetes intervention programs for American Indians.
- The Office of Multicultural Health at the California Department of Public Health used CHIS data for legislative analyses of Assembly Bill 1963 (to encourage the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers to provide better health outcomes for rural and underserved communities) and Assembly Bill 9 to address disparities in the delivery of health services to multicultural populations in specific areas of Los Angeles County), among other legislation.
- The National Latino Research Center at Cal State San Marcos

used data from CHIS in its publication, *Health Disparities in San Diego County: Immigration and Citizenship*.

- CHIS data was used in the Asian and Pacific Islander American Case Study: *The Diabetic Vietnamese Population of San Diego County*.

In the Battle Against Asthma, Diabetes, and Other Chronic Diseases

CHIS is widely used both to track chronic diseases and to stimulate and guide prevention action and policies.

- The Community Action to Fight Asthma (CAFA) relies on CHIS data and estimates to support the work of a dozen grantees of The California Endowment in addressing the multiple environmental triggers of asthma symptoms among school-aged children.
- The Orange County Health Needs Assessment uses CHIS estimates of Californians diagnosed with diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, or arthritis, among other CHIS measures.
- Monterey County produced an annual County Health Profile using CHIS data and successfully used CHIS and the Center for Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey to receive \$8 million from a CDC

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STEPS grant to coordinate programs addressing asthma, diabetes and obesity.

- The California Department of Public Health produces *County Health Facts*, a series of reports using CHIS data to describe the prevalence of key health indicators in California's counties. The Department has published county data reports relying on CHIS data on the prevalence of diabetes, obesity and health weight, arthritis, binge drinking, and heart disease.
- Statewide, CHIS data are being recommended for use in California's environmental health tracking system, being developed by the California Department of Public Health with funding from CDC's National Center for Environmental Health.
- The California Health Benefits Review Program uses CHIS data in its analyses of legislative bills, including bills that would mandate childhood asthma management programs.
- Researchers from the Integrative Medicine and Public Health Program at the University of California, San Francisco, used CHIS data for a report on *The State of the Great Central Valley – Public Health and Access to Care*. Data were used for information on asthma prevalence, uninsured children, older adult immunization rates, and the prevalence of binge drinking among adults in California.
- The Central California Children's Institute used CHIS data to develop reports on the prevalence of childhood asthma, childhood obesity, and physical inactivity in the Central California Region and a report entitled, *Children Count 2002-2003 Report Card on the Well-Being of Children in Fresno County*. Another report, *Children in Jeopardy: A Sourcebook for Community Action*, used CHIS

data for its child health insurance, access, asthma, and dental health indicators.

- Community advocates in Solano County successfully argued against developing another truck stop along I-80 in the county, based on published CHIS 2001 estimates showing that the county had the state's highest rate of asthma symptom prevalence overall and one of the highest rates for children.
- CHIS data helped the Fresno Metro Ministry secure funding from the USDA for its Food Security Project.
- *Health in the Heartland: The Crisis Continues*, a report on health status and access to care in the San Joaquin Valley was produced by the Central Valley Health Policy Institute, California State University, Fresno. The report relied on CHIS data to estimate adults diagnosed with diabetes, insurance status, and – using CHIS and other sources – health status in San Joaquin Valley Counties.
- Using CHIS data, the Fresno County public health officer identified obesity, diabetes and asthma as the most important public health issues in that county and obtained additional resources to address these issues.
- The Fresno Metro Ministry Hunger & Nutrition Project used CHIS data in its advocacy to Fresno community leaders, state agencies, and the American Heart Association Minority Summit on Health Disparities.
- The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, which sponsored a CHIS 2001 county oversample, relied on CHIS data on obesity and many other health indicators in its report on *The Health and Well-Being of the People of Santa Barbara County*.

- The Santa Barbara County KIDS Network and First 5 Santa Barbara used CHIS data in their collaborative *Santa Barbara County Children's Scorecard 2003* to compare the overweight and obesity of adults in Santa Barbara County and California overall.
- The 2003 Kern County Assessment used CHIS data on diabetes prevalence to compare Kern County with other counties in the San Joaquin Valley.

Supporting Vital Research on Health Needs and Disparities

Researchers in the California Department of Public Health, other State agencies, the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and universities and other research organizations have been using CHIS data for studies on many important health issues.

More than 160 studies using CHIS 2001 and CHIS 2003 data have been identified. Taken together they demonstrate the survey's wide applicability. Here are just a few of the topic areas for which researchers have used CHIS data:

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CHIS and AHRQ

CHIS was selected by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) as the only subnational population survey to be included in its first National Healthcare Disparities Report. AHRQ selected CHIS because it provides adequate samples of Asian and Latino ethnic groups that are unavailable in national surveys, and cutting-edge measures related to ethnicity, immigration and culture.

Health Needs of Racial/Ethnic Groups

- Racial/ethnic disparities in access to preventive dental services in California
- Health disparities among Asian and Pacific Islander children and adolescents in California
- Racial/ethnic disparities in cancer screening in California
- Relationship between socioeconomic position and health among Asian American ethnic groups
- Language, cultural and systemic barriers to mental health care among racial and ethnic groups
- Ethnic enclaves and cardiovascular risk factors in Asian Americans
- Smoking prevalence among Asian Americans in California
- Obesity, diet, and physical activity in Asian Americans

Children's Health and Health Care Needs

- Health of young children in California
- Access to specialty care for

CHIS is a key resource for data about ethnic subgroups

Because CHIS offers large samples for ethnic subgroups, researchers rely on CHIS data to study disparities in health and health behaviors. For example, a recent journal article by Namratha Kandula, M.D., Northwestern University, and Diane Lauderdale, Ph.D., University of Chicago, used CHIS to describe how recent Asian immigrants have low physical activity levels, which increases their risk for heart disease. The researchers are now using CHIS to study cancer risk factors among Asian Americans.

California's children with special health care needs

- Healthcare access for children of the working poor
- Sexually transmitted disease related behavior among California adolescents

Health Insurance Coverage and Access to Care

- Long-term and intermittent lack of health insurance coverage in California
- Health insurance status of immigrant farm workers and their families
- Impact of private and public health insurance on medication use for adults with chronic diseases

Diabetes, Asthma, Cancer and Other Chronic Health Needs and Their Prevention

- Uncontrolled asthma and exposure to air pollution
- Cancer screening in California
- Prostate cancer screening in California
- Estimates of fruit and vegetable consumption in California
- Social capital and cardiovascular disease in California

Sexual Orientation

- Disparities in health insurance coverage among lesbian, gay, and bisexual Californians
- Effect of sexual orientation on women's access to healthcare, preventive care, and health risk behaviors

To learn more about these and other studies using CHIS data, please visit the CHIS Research Clearinghouse at www.chis.ucla.edu/rc.

Unparalleled Access

Results and data files from CHIS are available in a variety of ways to anyone with an interest in public health issues:

Getting Out the Data

- More than 8,000 registered users have placed more than 135,000 queries on AskCHIS since 2002.
- Researchers have downloaded more than 850 CHIS 2003 Public Use Files since February, 2003.
- The CHIS Research Clearinghouse (www.chis.ucla.edu/rc) is tracking more than 160 projects using CHIS data. Visitors have accessed this online resource more than 14,000 times to learn more about these projects.
- Reports, policy briefs and fact sheets in print and online free at www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu.
- *AskCHIS*, an easy-to-use free online data query system available at www.chis.ucla.edu, enables users to obtain survey results on health topics, population groups and geographic areas.
- Public-use data files and accompanying documentation can be downloaded free from www.chis.ucla.edu and are also available on CD-ROM.
- Technical assistance through regional workshops and consultation is available to agencies, community organizations and researchers using CHIS data.
- UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's Data Access Center (DAC) enables researchers to work with confidential files in a secure environment. The DAC also offers programming and statistical consulting services.

Learn More

For information about the California Health Interview Survey, please visit www.chis.ucla.edu. Specific questions can be emailed to chis@ucla.edu.