

CHIS: A Valuable Tool In The Fight Against Cancer Applied Research Program

Overview

Comprehensive population-based health data are an important tool against chronic diseases such as cancer. For this reason, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has been a key partner in the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the largest state health survey in the U.S. Because California has the most diverse population in the country, CHIS data enrich our understanding of how cancer affects people throughout the nation.

Fielded for the first time in 2001, CHIS is conducted every two years by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in collaboration with the California Department of Health Services and the Public Health Institute.

Through its partnership with the UCLA Center, NCI uses CHIS data to learn more about:

- Cancer screening behaviors
- Cancer diagnosis
- Demographics
- Family history
- Cancer risk factors

The insights that CHIS data provide on these topics offer NCI new opportunities to:

- Update and refine what it learns from other data sources, including the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).
- Develop more information about how cancer affects Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, and other Asian populations that are growing throughout the U.S.
- Geo-code CHIS data and link the data to many other databases.
- Take advantage of the largest sample of cancer information for American Indian-Alaskan Native populations to develop new information about these groups.

- Relate geo-coded CHIS data to environmental factors, local policy, and access issues.
- Analyze comparable data for 44 geographic areas that represent 41 individual counties and three groupings of counties with smaller populations.

A Valuable Resource for California and the Nation

CHIS provides information on the general California population as well as local-level information on most counties. To accommodate the state's rich ethnic diversity, the survey has been culturally adapted for and translated into Spanish and several Asian languages.

CHIS data are used by local health departments, community health centers, hospitals, health plans, other health care providers, state health agencies, county boards, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, tribal agencies, foundations, health researchers, and the media. CHIS provides critical information used to identify and address state and local health problems and health care needs.

Survey results help officials and researchers assess and monitor:

- The health of adults, including physical and mental health status, women's health, prevalence and management of chronic conditions (diabetes, asthma, cancer, and high blood pressure), physical activity, diet, obesity, and hunger.
- The health of children and adolescents, including prevalence and management of chronic conditions, obesity, physical activity, parent-child relationships, and childcare.
- Health insurance coverage and access to health care among children, adolescents, and adults.
- Eligibility for participation in important health programs, such as Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program.

CHIS 2001

- 56,270 adults interviewed.
- Supplemental samples of Asian American nationalities and urban and rural American Indian-Alaskan Natives.
- Interviews conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Vietnamese, and Khmer (Cambodian).

CHIS 2003

- 42,044 adults interviewed.
- Additional questions asked about social support, housing, and neighborhood environment.
- Interviews conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

CHIS 2005

- 43,020 adults interviewed.
- Field tested two versions of items about walking for leisure and transportation.
- Interviews conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

CHIS 2007

- 51,048 adults interviewed.
- Field tested two versions of a racial/ethnic discrimination module and items on human papillomavirus (HPV).
- Interviews conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

CHIS 2009

- Currently in development.

Unparalleled Access

Results and data files from CHIS are available in a variety of ways:

- Reports, policy briefs, and fact sheets in print and online at www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu.

- AskCHIS, a free, easy-to-use, and very fast 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 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.
- The UCLA Center's Data Access Center (DAC) enables researchers to work with confidential files in a secure environment. DAC also offers programming and statistical consulting services.

Funding

Major funding for CHIS comes from:

- National Cancer Institute (NCI) www.cancer.gov
- California Department of Health Services (CDHS) www.dhs.ca.gov/
- The California Endowment www.calendow.org
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) www.rwjf.org
- California Office of the Patient Advocate www.opa.ca.gov
- California Department of Mental Health www.dmh.cahwnet.gov
- First 5 California www.cafc.ca.gov/
- Kaiser Permanente www.kaiserpermanente.org

For More Information

- Visit www.chis.ucla.edu.
- Specific questions can be emailed to chis@ucla.edu.
- Visit <http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/surveys/chis>