

## CHIS: Using Local Data In The Fight Against Cancer Applied Research Program

### Overview

Comprehensive population-based, statewide local 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.

First fielded 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 and the California Department of Health Care Services. In 2011 and beyond, CHIS will be fielded as a continuous survey.

NCI supports cancer control items on CHIS. Through its partnership with the UCLA Center, NCI uses those data to learn more about:

- Cancer screening behaviors
- Cancer diagnosis
- Family history of cancer
- Cancer risk factors

CHIS data offer NCI new opportunities to:

- Compare results with the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).
- Understand how cancer affects Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, and other Asian populations that are growing throughout the U.S.
- Geo-code CHIS data and link them to environmental, local policy, and health care access data.
- Develop new insights about American Indian-Alaskan Native populations from the largest health survey sample for these groups.
- 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, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and (in 2001 only) Khmer/Cambodian.

CHIS provides critical information used to identify and address state and local health problems and health care needs. 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. 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.
- Sociodemographics, health insurance coverage and access to health care among children, adolescents, and adults.
- Eligibility for program participation (e.g. Medi-Cal, Healthy Families Program).

### Funding

Funding for CHIS comes from the NCI, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), California Office of the Patient Advocate, California Department of Mental Health, First 5 California, Kaiser Permanente, The California Endowment, and others.

### CHIS 2001

- 56,270 adults interviewed.
- Supplemental samples of Asian American nationalities and urban and rural American Indian-Alaskan Natives.

### CHIS 2003

- 42,044 adults interviewed.
- Additional questions asked about social support, housing, and neighborhood environment.

### CHIS 2005

- 43,020 adults interviewed.
- Field tested two versions of items about walking for leisure and transportation.

### CHIS 2007

- 51,048 adults interviewed.
- Field tested two versions of a racial/ethnic discrimination module and items on human papillomavirus (HPV).

### CHIS 2009

- Approximately 50,000 adults interviewed.
- Field tested two versions of a racial/ethnic discrimination module in two languages.
- Additional questions asked about prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test decision-making.

### Outstanding Impact

- Ongoing studies to assess CHIS impact show these data to be critical for research and policy interventions.
- An NCI-sponsored methods workshop found that CHIS is a leader in telephone survey methods. A summary is available at <http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/surveys/chis>.
- A qualitative study on access, use, application and impact of CHIS data is available at <http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/surveys/chis>

### Unparalleled Access

CHIS devotes 20% of its budget to dissemination. Results and data files from CHIS are available in a variety of ways:

- AskCHIS, a free, easy-to-use, and very fast online data query system available at [www.chis.ucla.edu](http://www.chis.ucla.edu), enables users to obtain survey results on health topics, population groups, and geographic areas.
- Reports, policy briefs, and fact sheets in print and online at [www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu).
- Public-use data files and accompanying documentation can be downloaded from [www.chis.ucla.edu](http://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.

### For More Information

- Visit [www.chis.ucla.edu](http://www.chis.ucla.edu).
- Visit <http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/surveys/chis>

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