The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is the most comprehensive source of important health information on Californians. Conducted every two years, CHIS provides information for the entire state and most counties on a variety of health topics for California’s diverse population.

CHIS focuses on access to health care, health insurance coverage, health behaviors, chronic health problems, cancer screening and many other relevant health issues. CHIS, the largest state health survey in the United States, provides estimates for counties and for a number of ethnic/race groups in California.

CHIS 2001
The first survey, CHIS 2001, collected information from 55,428 households, drawn from every county in the state and included interviews with 5,801 teenagers and 12,592 parents of young children. CHIS also interviewed supplemental samples of Asian American groups and urban and rural American Indian/Alaska Natives. In order to be inclusive of California’s diverse population interviews were conducted in six languages: English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Vietnamese and Khmer.

CHIS 2003
CHIS 2003 completed interviews with more than 42,000 households. The survey was administered in English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean and Vietnamese. Results and data files will be available in the fall of 2004. In addition to the same broad topics as were covered in CHIS 2001, CHIS 2003 asked respondents about social support, housing and the neighborhood environment.

A Valuable Resource
CHIS data are being used by local health departments, community health centers, hospitals, health plans, other health care providers, state health agencies, county boards of supervisors, 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 assess and monitor:

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

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

- Reports, policy briefs and fact sheets, in print and online.
AskCHIS, an easy-to-use online data query system enables users to conduct their own simple analyses and obtain survey results on health topics, population groups and geographic areas. AskCHIS is reached through the CHIS website.

Public-use data files and accompanying documentation can be downloaded from the CHIS Website 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 Data Access Center (DAC) enables researchers to work with confidential files in a secure environment. The DAC also offers programming and statistical consulting services.

CHIS Funders
Funding for CHIS 2001 and 2003 is provided by the California Department of Health Services, The California Endowment, the National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CHIS 2003 has additional funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the California Office of the Patient Advocate, Kaiser Permanente, L.A. Care Health Plan and Alameda County. CHIS 2001 had additional funding from First 5 California, the Indian Health Service, and the counties of San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Solano and Shasta.

CHIS Advisors
A diverse group of organizations and agencies advise CHIS on a broad range of policy and technical issues. The CHIS Advisory Board includes senior government officials, health care organizations, health researchers and advocacy leaders; it provides guidance on survey content, methods sample design, the dissemination of results and funding. Specialized technical advisory committees consisting of experts for government, universities, health services and community groups provide advice on specific topic areas, methodology, sample design, plus the relevant multicultural and linguistic dimensions essential for a successful California survey.

CHIS Leadership
The California Health Interview Survey is a collaboration of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, the California Department of Health Services and the Public Health Institute. The CHIS project and staff are based at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in Los Angeles. The decision-making leadership rests with the CHIS governing board consisting of:

E. Richard Brown, PhD,
Principal Investigator,
Director, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research,
Professor, UCLA School of Public Health

Greg Franklin, MHA,
Chief, Office of County Health Services,
California Department of Health Services

Sue Holtby, MPH,
Senior Research Scientist,
Public Health Institute

More Information
For more information about CHIS and the availability of results and data files please visit www.chis.ucla.edu. You may also sign up for the CHIS mailing list and the CHISnet list serve on the Website or by sending an email to chis@ucla.edu.