

California Health Interview Survey

What is CHIS?

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is the largest state health survey in the nation. It is a random-dial telephone survey that asks questions on a wide range of health topics. CHIS is conducted on a continuous basis allowing it to provide a detailed picture of the health and health care needs of California's large and diverse population. A full data cycle takes two years to complete, with over 50,000 Californians surveyed. Continuous data collection allows CHIS to generate timely one-year estimates.

What is AskCHIS?

AskCHIS is a tool that allows you to quickly search for health statistics in your county.

How do you access AskCHIS?

Register for a free account at <http://ask.chis.ucla.edu/main/register.asp>.

How do you get county-level information from AskCHIS?

1. Sign-in
2. Select [Specific counties in California](#)
3. Select county
4. Select variables of interest

Example Output: BMI by Level of physical activity in Santa Barbara County

Body Mass Index - 4 level (adult only)	No vigorous/moderate activity			Some vigorous/moderate			Some vigorous/moderate			All		
	Est. N	%	95% C.I.	Est. N	%	95% C.I.	Est. N	%	95% C.I.	Est. N	%	95% C.I.
0 - 18.49 (Underweight)	2,000	2.7*	(0.1 - 5.3)	1,000	0.9*	(0.0 - 1.8)	2,000	1.9*	(0.5 - 3.4)	5,000	1.7	(0.8 - 2.6)
18.5 - 24.99 (Normal)	24,000	37.0	(29.3 - 44.8)	47,000	43.7	(37.3 - 50.2)	47,000	47.7	(41.2 - 54.3)	119,000	43.6	(39.6 - 47.5)
25.0 - 29.99 (Overweight)	26,000	38.9	(31.1 - 46.7)	42,000	38.7	(32.7 - 44.7)	35,000	35.4	(28.9 - 41.9)	102,000	37.5	(33.7 - 41.4)
30.0 or higher (Obese)	14,000	21.4	(15.2 - 27.6)	18,000	16.7	(12.4 - 21.1)	15,000	14.9	(10.8 - 19.1)	47,000	17.2	(14.5 - 19.9)
TOTAL	66,000	100.0	n/a	108,000	100.0	n/a	99,000	100.0	n/a	273,000	100.0	n/a

Example Output: BMI by Poverty Level in Kern County

Body Mass Index - 4 level (teen only)	0-99% FPL			100-199% FPL			200-299% FPL			300% FPL and above			All		
	Est. N	%	95% C.I.	Est. N	%	95% C.I.	Est. N	%	95% C.I.	Est. N	%	95% C.I.	Est. N	%	95% C.I.
Underweight (within lowest 5th percentile)	4,000	15.0*	(0.0 - 42.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000	5.1	(0.0 - 14.9)
Normal weight (5th up to 85th percentile)	19,000	67.4*	(34.8 - 99.9)	9,000	43.2*	(7.6 - 78.8)	1,000	13.1*	(0.0 - 41.7)	22,000	92.6*	(81.9 - 100.0)	51,000	62.7	(42.6 - 82.7)
Overweight (85th up to 95th percentile)	3,000	12.5*	(0.0 - 28.2)	2,000	10.4*	(0.0 - 23.3)	6,000	69.0*	(20.9 - 100.0)	1,000	3.5*	(0.0 - 10.5)	12,000	15.1	(1.0 - 29.2)
Obese (highest 5th percentile)	1,000	5.1*	(0.0 - 15.4)	10,000	46.4*	(7.8 - 85.1)	1,000	17.9*	(0.0 - 48.9)	1,000	3.9*	(0.0 - 11.7)	14,000	17.1	(1.3 - 32.9)
TOTAL	28,000	100.0	n/a	22,000	100.0	n/a	8,000	100.0	n/a	24,000	100.0	n/a	82,000	100.0	n/a

Tips:

- If sample size is not large enough to generate stable estimates, combine multiple years of the survey.
- Many CHIS variables have already been examined by county. Look for policy reports published by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.