

# California Health Interview Survey

Making  
California's  
Voices  
Heard on  
Health



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## What's New and Notable in CHIS 2019-2020

This document describes new and notable design features and data collected in California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) 2019-2020. CHIS data users should review the information below and detailed online documentation before analyzing or reporting CHIS data. For more details on CHIS methods, please visit the [CHIS Methodology page](#).

### Sampling & Data Collection Redesign

CHIS has employed random-digit-dial sampling and telephone interviewing since its inception, but industry declines in telephone interview response rates, along with cultural shifts in telephone usage, motivated exploring alternative sampling and data collection methodologies for CHIS moving forward.

Following extensive experimentation and research, CHIS transitioned to a mixed-mode survey (web and telephone) using a random sample of California addresses for 2019-2020. Randomly selected addresses were mailed a series of invitation letters requesting one adult member of the household to complete the study online using a secure access code. After each household received all of the invitation letters, trained interviewers attempted to complete the interview over the telephone for those addresses for which we had a valid telephone number. Households could also call in to complete the survey with a live interviewer.

Using both web and telephone data collection methods, CHIS continues to collect data for adults, children (ages 0-11), and adolescents (ages 12-17). The web survey was available in five languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. Trained interviewers were available to conduct the survey over the telephone in all five languages as well as Tagalog. You can learn more about the CHIS redesign process in [CHIS 2019-2020 Redesign: Rationale, Empirical Evaluation, and Trends](#).

### New and Updated Survey Questions

Survey questions are added, removed, and modified in each two-year cycle of CHIS to meet stakeholders' needs and monitor emerging public health concerns. Questions are removed from the interview to reduce its length and save data collection costs when topics are no longer relevant for public health surveillance, or when sponsor funding is no longer available. Most CHIS questions remain in the interview across multiple CHIS cycles. For CHIS 2019-2020 approximately 80% of the content continued from CHIS 2018. Occasionally, changes to question wording are made based on methodological evaluations or when user feedback strongly suggests that

*Continued...*

### Noteworthy Additions to CHIS 2019-2020

#### New Adult Questionnaire Topics in 2019-2020

- Perception of physical and environmental factors affecting health<sup>1</sup>
- Prescription painkiller (opioid) and alcohol<sup>2</sup> or benzodiazepine<sup>3</sup> co-use
- Recent use of methamphetamines<sup>2</sup>
- Misuse of prescription stimulants<sup>2</sup>
- Frequency of internet and social media use<sup>1,2</sup>
- Use of internet for mental health services<sup>2</sup>
- Recent employment termination<sup>1</sup>
- VA service-connected disability rating<sup>2</sup>
- Recent experience with financial crisis<sup>1</sup>
- Tele-medical care/health at a health facility<sup>1,2</sup>
- Community-based services at health care provider's office<sup>1,2</sup>
- Sexual violence<sup>2,3</sup>
- Long-term services and support<sup>1</sup>
- Medi-Cal renewal process<sup>1,2</sup>
- Public program participation (public charge)<sup>3</sup>
- Birth control counseling and prescriptions<sup>1,3</sup>
- Civic engagement and involvement<sup>1,2</sup>
- Reinstated content:
  - Hemoglobin A1c testing for diabetics<sup>1</sup>
  - Activities of daily living/disability status<sup>1,2</sup>
  - UCLA 3-item loneliness scale<sup>1,2</sup>

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## Noteworthy Additions to CHIS 2019-2020

### New Adult Questionnaire Topics in 2020

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, testing, and impacts on work and family<sup>1,2,4</sup>
- Planned Parenthood utilization<sup>3</sup>

### New Child Questionnaire Topics in 2019-2020

- Activities of daily living/disability status<sup>1,3</sup>
- Child development assessment<sup>1,2</sup>
- Reinstated content:
  - Personal doctor<sup>1</sup>
  - Care coordination<sup>1</sup>
  - Soda consumption<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Dental health and dental insurance<sup>1,3</sup>

### New Adolescent Questionnaire Topics in 2019-2020

- Gender identity<sup>2</sup>
- Transition to adult health care services<sup>1,2</sup>
- Frequency and reason for current e-cigarette use<sup>1,2,3</sup>
- Age of first cigarette/e-cigarette use<sup>1,3</sup>
- Frequency of internet and social media use<sup>1,2</sup>
- Use of internet for mental health services<sup>2</sup>
- Birth control counseling and prescriptions<sup>3</sup>
- Reinstated content:
  - Health care utilization due to asthma<sup>3</sup>
  - Soda consumption<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Civic engagement and participation<sup>1,2</sup>

### New Adolescent Questionnaire Topics in 2020

- Attitudes towards voting<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Available in Public Use Files (PUFs)

<sup>2</sup> Available through AskCHIS™ ([ask.chis.ucla.edu](http://ask.chis.ucla.edu))

<sup>3</sup> Confidential data only available through the Data Access Center (DAC). For more information, visit the [DAC webpage](#).

<sup>4</sup> Preliminary 2020 COVID-19 estimates are available on the Center's [2020 CHIS COVID-19 Preliminary Estimates Dashboard](#)

changes will produce better data. Otherwise, questions are consistent across years to aid in trending and pooling. Reinstated questions were asked in cycles prior to 2017-2018, and again in 2019-2020.

A full list of topics in CHIS 2019-2020 are available on the [CHIS Survey Topics page](#). The full CHIS 2019 and 2020 questionnaires are available on the [CHIS Questionnaires page](#).

## Targeting Through Predictive Modeling

CHIS 2019-2020 introduced a new data science procedure to help target specific, commonly underrepresented

demographic groups. CHIS specifically targeted Asian households including Korean and Vietnamese, Latino and Spanish-speaking households, those with low educational attainment, non-citizens, and households with children under 19. For more details on the predictive modeling, see [CHIS 2019 Methodology Report 1 — Sample Design](#).

## Regional Oversamples

CHIS 2019-2020 saw an oversample in San Diego County thanks to funds provided by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

## Data Collection Timeline

CHIS 2019-2020 data were collected between September 2019 and November 2020. Approximately 90% of adult interviews were completed over the web with the remainder over the phone.

Given the transition to primarily web data collection, some variables may observe differences in distribution due to changes in sample composition because of the new mode, as well as differences in stimulus (aural vs. visual). Changes in trends from previous cycles and CHIS 2019-2020 should be interpreted with caution. For more context on understanding the impacts of the redesign on year-to-year trending, see [CHIS 2019-2020 Redesign: Rationale, Empirical Evaluation, and Trends](#).

For small populations or rare conditions and characteristics, pooling two or more single-year datasets may be required to achieve sufficient sample size and statistical stability. Users who need more information about pooling or trending data over time should review the [Analyze CHIS Data website](#) or go to the [CHIS FAQs page](#). You can also email questions to [dacchpr@ucla.edu](mailto:dacchpr@ucla.edu).



The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)  
is conducted by the  
**UCLA Center for Health Policy Research**

*Learn more about CHIS at*  
**[chis.ucla.edu](http://chis.ucla.edu)**