

California Health Interview Survey

CHIS 2023 Sample Design

Making
California's
Voices
Heard on
Health



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Overview

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) began in 2001 as a biennial population-based, omnibus health survey of Californians. It remains the largest survey in California and the largest continuous state health survey in the country. CHIS 2023-2024 is the twelfth data collection cycle following CHIS 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2019-2020, and 2021-2022.

CHIS became a continuous survey in 2011, with ongoing data collection throughout a two-year cycle. The change to a continuous survey enhances the role of CHIS as a critical and timely source of public health surveillance information for California. While this change significantly streamlines CHIS operations and data production, most aspects of the CHIS project, including the overall sample design, remain the same.

CHIS randomly selects one adult to interview in each randomly sampled and participating household throughout California. In addition to adults, interviews are conducted about the health of children (ages 0 to 11, by proxy with the selected adult of the selected child) and adolescents (age 12 to 17, directly interviewed following parental permission). The selected adult respondent must be the parent or legal guardian of children and/or adolescents living in the household in order for children and/or adolescents to be eligible for participation.

The CHIS 2023 sample design is a geographically stratified address-based sample (ABS) design with strategic oversamples of households predicted to have certain attributes. Under the ABS frame, CHIS 2023 included additional samples for specialized analyses of geographic areas and hard-to-reach populations. To better target populations not adequately covered under the ABS frame, CHIS added a supplemental prepaid cell phone sample to the primary ABS sample. More information about the ABS sample design and oversamples, the prepaid cell phone sample, and the multi-mode data collection approach is provided in the following sections.

To capture the rich diversity of the California population, interviews are conducted in six languages: English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin and

Cantonese dialects), Vietnamese, Korean, and Tagalog.

Overall, the CHIS sample is designed to provide population-based estimates for most California counties and all major ethnic groups, including several ethnic subgroups. The sample is designed to meet and optimize two goals:

- To provide local-level estimates for counties with populations of 60,000 or more for local planning and comparisons among counties;
- To provide statewide estimates for California's overall population, its major race/ethnic groups, as well as for several Asian and Latino ethnic groups.

CHIS data and statistical estimates are publicly available to local, state and federal agencies; community-based organizations; health care providers and organizations; advocacy groups; policy makers; and individual citizens. CHIS results and data are available through multiple dissemination channels:

- CHIS website with a free, easy-to-use interactive query system, AskCHIS, for tailored data estimates (<https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/our-work/askchis>)
- Public-use data files for researchers and analysts (<https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/our-work/public-use-files>)
- Published reports and scholarly publications
- The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research Data Access Center (for more, detailed data files available only through a secure environment, see: <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/our-work/data-access-center>)

CHIS provides technical assistance for researchers and all users of web-based and public-use data. For assistance, please email dacchpr@ucla.edu or call 310-794-6783.

The CHIS 2023 Sample in Detail

Address-based sampling

Starting in 2019, CHIS transformed from a dual-frame landline/cellphone random-digit dial (RDD) methodology to an address-based sample (ABS) methodology with a multi-mode data collection that takes place on the web or by telephone.

As with CHIS 2021-2022, the ABS sample for CHIS 2023 is generated from the United States Postal Service's (USPS) Computerized Delivery Sequence (CDS) file which includes all delivery point addresses serviced by USPS and has near-complete coverage of the household population of the United States. The ABS sample is geographically stratified by county, groups of small counties, and some sub-county areas (see Table 2 at the end of this document).

Targeting through predictive modeling

CHIS 2023 continued to employ Big Data techniques to help target specific demographic groups commonly unrepresented. The process appends auxiliary data (e.g., voter registration databases, consumer databases, surname databases) to prior survey data and uses this information to build models that predict self-reported survey outcomes from auxiliary data. Future samples are then scored with the outcomes of those models, enabling the creation of strata that can be used to effectively target specific groups. Individual sample flags and geographic density indicators of households with certain attributes were employed during model evaluation. CHIS specifically targeted Asian households including Korean and Vietnamese, households that are more likely to conduct Asian-language interviews, Latino and Spanish-speaking households, households with African American residents, households with children under 19, and households with adults aged under 65. CHIS then oversampled these strata with the aim of maximizing the different key subgroup incidences while minimizing the negative effects on variance estimation.

CHIS 2023 Sample Additions

As with previous cycles, CHIS 2023 saw an oversample in San Diego County thanks to funds provided by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

To better target populations not adequately covered by the primary address-based sample (ABS) frame, CHIS 2023 utilized an additional prepaid cell phone frame and targeted 450 completes for this oversample.

To provide researchers in City of Long Beach Health and Human Services with sufficient sample to produce estimates for a variety of health-related topics, CHIS 2023 targeted an oversample of 500 interviews in the City of Long Beach.

To provide Santa Clara County Public Health Department with sufficient samples to produce estimates for a variety of topics, CHIS 2023 oversampled 1,925 respondents from the county.

Mail push-to-web with a telephone follow-up

For the ABS sample in CHIS 2023, respondents are invited to participate in CHIS through a series of mail invitations, similar to the advance letter used in previous cycles. Respondents receive an initial invitation letter with a \$2.00 incentive, a multilingual letter in all CHIS languages, and frequently asked questions. This is followed by a reminder pressure sealed postcard, standard letter, and a final postcard. The prominent language of all mail materials was tailored for households likely to be Spanish-speaking or likely to speak one of the four Asian languages offered in CHIS.

Where addresses can be matched to a listed telephone number, the nonresponding households are also called up to six times to attempt to complete an interview. Each mail invitation included a call-in phone number allowing the household to complete the interview with a trained telephone interviewer. Almost half of the total telephone completes (which account for about ten percent of all CHIS adult completes) were a result of call-ins.

Once an eligible adolescent was identified and permission to recontact was provided from a parent, the first mailing for the adolescent was addressed to the parent and contained a nested envelope with a letter addressed to the adolescent. A reminder letter addressed to the adolescent followed as well as a text reminder and telephone (if a phone number was available). All adolescents were offered a \$10.00 gift card for completing the survey. For adult interviews that did not result in parental permission to interview an eligible adolescent, parents were re-contacted with a unique refusal conversion effort using a similar mailing to the nested mailer which included an additional incentive for the parent.

Sample Size by Age Category

As many as three persons will be sampled from each household, one from each of the three age categories: adults (age 18 and older), adolescents (age 12–17), and children (age 0–11). To increase the representation in the sample, children aged 0-5 were sampled at twice rate as older children 6-11 years. Adults and adolescents answer survey questions for themselves, and child data are collected by proxy interview with an adult respondent. To maximize the child sample, if an eligible child was identified, the selected adult proceeded with completing the child interview before resuming the adult survey.

Sample Size by County

The CHIS sample is stratified to produce local-level estimates for most counties. California's 58 counties are arranged into sampling strata based on size and analytic goals to produce 56 sampling strata. Table 1 describes the overall stratification approach for the 58 counties, and Table 2 provides target CHIS sample sizes for the 44 county and county group strata for the ABS sample.

Los Angeles and San Diego counties have 8 and 6 sub-county

strata, respectively. Of the remaining 56 counties, 39 comprise single-county strata and the remaining 17 counties are arranged into three multiple-county strata. The CHIS sample is allocated to achieve the project’s goals of providing estimates for as many counties as possible and to provide estimates for major race/ethnic groups and subgroups. The CHIS 2023 sample, as in previous CHIS cycles, includes a minimum sample size of at least 200 households for the smallest counties and county groups in a single year; the largest county will have a sample of nearly 4,000 households in a single year (see Table 2). The CHIS 2023 sample also had minimum sample targets for the 26 Los Angeles County Health Districts and for each county within the grouped county strata.

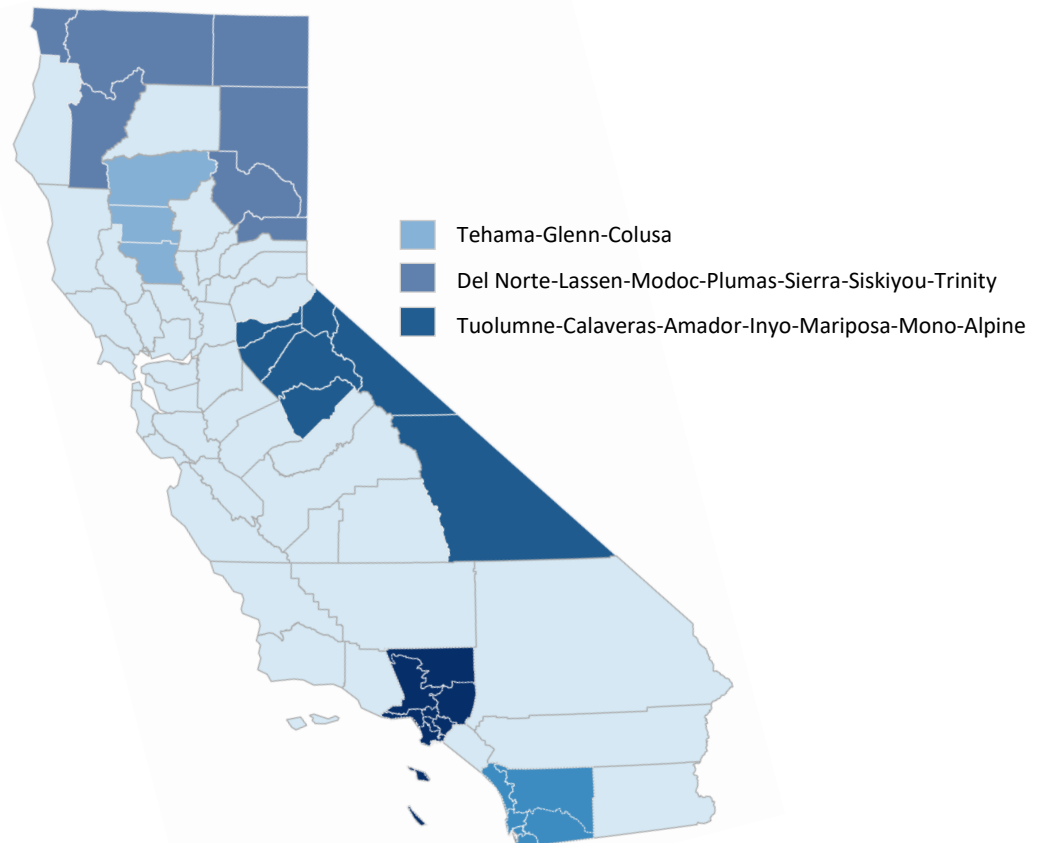
The stratum sample goals in Table 2 are calculated by proportionally allocating the state target using population

estimates and projections in 2023 from the California Department of Finance (DOF). In this proportional allocation, a minimum sample size is maintained to ensure sufficient sample for analysis of smaller counties. The figures in Table 2 reflect estimated sample targets based on information available at the time of this report and may be updated in consultation with the CHIS data collection subcontractor as DOF information is updated. Agencies and organizations may partner with CHIS to increase the sample size or add county-specific content in their county through supplemental funding. Oversamples are not included in Table 2 and such oversamples for CHIS 2023 are discussed in [CHIS 2023 Methodology Report 1— Sample Design](#). For more details regarding the CHIS 2023 sample design, please visit the [CHIS Methodology webpage](#).

TABLE 1. CHIS 2023 SAMPLING STRATA TYPE AND NUMBER

STRATUM TYPE	NUMBER OF COUNTIES AND STRATA
Counties with sub-county strata	2 counties, 14 strata total between them
Counties as single stratum	39 counties, 39 strata
Counties combined into single stratum	17 counties, 3 strata total
Total	58 counties, 56 strata

FIGURE 1. CHIS 2023 SAMPLING STRATA



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TABLE 2. CHIS 2023 INITIAL ABS SAMPLE SIZE TARGETS BY COUNTY

COUNTY NAME	ONE-YEAR TARGET ADULT SAMPLE
Los Angeles (total)	3,960
San Diego (total)	1,500
Orange	1,230
Santa Clara	762
San Bernardino	764
Riverside	866
Alameda	685
Sacramento	637
Contra Costa	465
Fresno	366
San Francisco	436
Ventura	324
San Mateo	314
Kern	320
San Joaquin	271
Sonoma	250
Stanislaus	250
Santa Barbara	250
Solano	250
Tulare	250
Santa Cruz	250
Marin	250
San Luis Obispo	250
Placer	250
Merced	250
Butte	250
Shasta	250
Yolo	250
El Dorado	250
Imperial	250
Napa	250
Kings	250
Madera	250
Monterey	250
Humboldt	250
Nevada	250
Mendocino	250
Sutter	250
Yuba	250
Lake	250
San Benito	250
Tehama-Glenn-Colusa	200
Del Norte-Lassen-Modoc-Plumas-Sierra-Siskiyou-Trinity	200
Tuolumne-Calaveras-Amador-Inyo-Mariposa-Mono-Alpine	200
TOTAL	20,000