

Research



**Evaluation Committee Meeting
May 5, 2010**



California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)



California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)

What is CHIS?

- The nation's largest state health survey
- Conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Care Services and the Public Health Institute
- Random-dial telephone survey in 58 counties, conducted every two years
- More than 50,000 Californians are interviewed
 - Adults
 - Teenagers
 - Children

**With an Emphasis on Diverse Populations:
CHIS is known for its hard-to-find data on
racial and ethnic groups**



California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)

- Data presents a detailed picture of **health and health care needs** of California's large and diverse population
- **Survey provides:**
 - **Statewide information** on the overall population including many racial and ethnic groups
 - **Local-level information** on most counties for important health planning and comparison purposes



California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)

Topics Covered By CHIS:

- Health Status, Health Conditions, Health Behaviors, Health Insurance, etc. (please see handout)
- Mental Health (inclusion in 2005 version)
 - Mental health status
 - Perceived need, access and utilization of mental health services
 - Suicide (added in 2009 Version)



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Survey Questions

- Many core questions are repeated in each survey in order to measure significant shifts over time
- New questions are added each survey year to address emerging concerns that are important for planning and policy development



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Mental Health Survey Questions

- **Adults**

- Questions geared towards anxiety, depression, treatment services, recovery, and suicide

- **Adolescents**

- Questions geared towards depression and anxiety

- **Children**

- Parental involvement, child behavior and adjustment, depression, participation in services



California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)

- **CHIS Data Are Used By:**

- Legislators, policy makers, local health departments, state agencies and many other organizations to support programs and develop policies that improve public health

- **Funding:**

- Funded by a network of public agencies and private organizations (e.g., California Department of Public Health, California Department of Health Care Services, Department of Mental Health, First 5 Commission, Kaiser Permanente)



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Current Research Projects in the Mental Health Arena

- Mental health status and utilization of mental health services of Latinos and Asian American/Pacific Islanders
- Prevalence of depression in adolescents
- Psychological distress and mental health service use across ethnic groups, income levels, sexual orientation, and migration history
- Mental health conditions and mental health services in California

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Mental Health Data Access

- AskCHIS allows quick search for health statistics by county, region and state
- Results shown on-screen can be exported to an Excel file
- Health experts, policy makers, journalists and ordinary people use AskCHIS to quickly get data for grant proposals, needs assessments, research, news reporting, and policy-making

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- Discussion: Next Steps

