

The California Women's Health Survey (CWHs) was established to collect, analyze, and disseminate information to guide decision-making about women's health by public health professionals and policy-makers. Data are collected through a computer-assisted telephone survey of randomly selected California women. The CWHs is led by the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) with participation from other public and private institutions. The CDHS Office of Women's Health coordinates and facilitates the project, with collaborators listed below working together to develop the survey instrument, analyze data, and distribute findings. Funding for the survey interviews was provided by these collaborators.

The Survey Research Group, Public Health Institute, 1700 Tribute Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95815-4402, administer the interviews for the CWHs. Each year, approximately 4,000 randomly selected women are interviewed anonymously by women interviewers in either English or Spanish. The age and racial/ethnic distribution of the sample does not completely match that of the California population of women. Therefore, data are weighted in analysis by age and race/ethnicity to reflect the 1990 California female population. Women without telephones in their homes, institutionalized women, and women who do not speak English or Spanish are missing from the sample. Findings are not generalizable to women missing from the sample. Because many Asian women speak neither English nor Spanish, findings should not be generalized to non-English speaking Asian women. Data indicating race/ethnicity are collected according to standards set by the CDHS Center for Health Statistics. During data collection, women are classified as follows: White (non-Hispanic), Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic, Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Other. For weighting purposes, categories established by the Demographic Research and Census Data Center of the California Department of Finance are used. These categories are White (non-Hispanic), Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic, and Other. Poverty status is calculated from responses to questions about household income and size as "At or Below 100% of Poverty", "Between 100% and 200% of Poverty" or "Above 200% of Poverty" (Federal Register, February 9, 1995, rounded to nearest \$100). Some subgroups used in the analysis, particularly racial/ethnic categories with small numbers, may be represented in such low numbers that meaningful comparisons are not possible. For presentation purposes, percentages are rounded to whole numbers and normalized to total to 100%.

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Additional copies of the 1997 and 1998 Data Points may be requested by fax (916) 653-3535 or by phone (916) 653-3330 or copies may be downloaded from the Office of Women's Health web site at www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh.



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