



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

OVERVIEW

California is making important strides to improve the health status of women as shown by the dramatic decrease in death rates for females (11.2 percent between 1990 and 1998).¹ These improvements may be attributed to the effectiveness of new or expanded programs such as those focused on improving access to health care services, promoting the importance of prenatal care, and increasing breast cancer screening and diagnostic services. However, there is still much to be done, especially in affecting disparities in access to health care.

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 policymakers. Data are collected through a computer-assisted telephone survey of randomly selected California women. The CWHS is a collaborative effort of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), the California Department of Social Services, the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and the Public Health Institute's Survey Research Group. The CDHS Office of Women's Health and the Survey Research Group coordinate and facilitate the project, with collaborators working together to develop the survey instrument, analyze data, and distribute findings. Funding for the data collection is provided by the collaborators.

The Survey Research Group, Public Health Institute, 1700 Tribute Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95815-4402, administers the interviews for the CWHS. Each year, approximately 4,000 randomly selected women are interviewed anonymously in either English or Spanish. Data are weighted in these analyses by age and race/ethnicity to reflect the 2000 California adult female population.

California Women's Health Survey collaborators include:

California Department of Health Services:

California Partnership for Long-Term Care - PO Box 997413, MS 4100, Sacramento, CA 95899-7413, (916) 552-8987

Cancer Control Branch, Cancer Detection Section - PO Box 997413, MS 7203, Sacramento, CA 95899-7413, (916) 449-5305

Cancer Control Branch, Cancer Prevention and Nutrition Section - PO Box 997413, MS 7204, Sacramento, CA 95899-7413, (916) 449-5406

Chronic Disease Control Branch, California Osteoporosis Prevention and Education (COPE) Program - PO Box 997413, MS 7210, Sacramento, CA 95899-7413, (916) 552-9916

Maternal Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch - PO Box 997420, MS 8300, Sacramento, CA 95899, (916) 650-0300

Epidemiology and Prevention for Injury Control (EPIC) Branch, Office on Disability and Health – PO Box 997413, MS 7214, Sacramento, CA 95899-7413, (916) 552-9840

Office of Women's Health – PO Box 997413, MS 0027, Sacramento, CA 95899-7413, (916) 440-7626

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch – 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Bldg. P, 2nd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804-6403, (510) 620-3718

Survey Research Group, Public Health Institute – 1700 Tribute Road, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95815, (916) 779-0336

California Department of Social Services, Research and Evaluation Branch, 744 “P” Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 654-1327

California Alcohol and Drug Programs, Office of Perinatal Substance Abuse, 1700 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 323-4445

Editors: Zipora Weinbaum, Office of Women’s Health; Terri Thorfinnson, Chief, Office of Women’s Health; Renee Wagner, Office of Women’s Health

Editorial Board: Marina Chabot, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning; Joan Chow, Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch; Holly Hoegh, Cancer Control Branch; Marta Induni, Survey Research Group; Barbara MKNelly, Cancer Control Branch; Sharon Sugerman, Cancer Control Branch; Renee Wagner, Office of Women’s Health; Ann Webb, Survey Research Group; Zipora Weinbaum, Office of Women’s Health.

Special thanks to the Women’s Health Council including Mary Wiberg, California Commission on the Status of Women.

For additional copies of CWHS 2003-2004 Data Points please contact the Office of Women’s Health:

Download copies at the Office of Women’s Health website www.dhs.ca.gov/director/owh or contact OWH staff at P.O. Box 997413, MS 0027, Sacramento, CA 95899-7413 or call (916) 440-7626

1 California Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics of California, 1998.