

Fact Sheet



About the Colorado Health Access Survey

The Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS) is the most extensive survey of health care coverage, access and utilization in Colorado. It is a follow-up to the 2008-2009 Colorado Household Survey and is administered every other year via a random sample telephone survey of more than 10,000 households across the state — providing detailed information that is representative of the 5 million-plus Coloradans.

A program of The Colorado Trust, CHAS provides information to help policymakers, as well as health care, business and community leaders, more fully understand health challenges and advance shared solutions to improve health coverage and care for Coloradans.

Unique Attributes of CHAS

- CHAS is the only survey that focuses solely on health insurance status, access to health care and utilization of health care services of Coloradans.
- Each respondent was asked to give answers for all individuals living in the household, providing a comprehensive understanding of health care issues.
- Interviewers were able to delve deeply into detailed aspects of each component of the survey by asking tailored follow-up questions about each member of the household.
- The customized question set is specific to our state, addressing Colorado programs such as Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+).
- The proportion of chronically uninsured Coloradans can be determined through CHAS findings since survey respondents address the insurance status of household members at the time of the survey and for the 12 months prior to the survey.

CHAS is the only survey of Colorado households that focuses solely on health insurance status, access to health care and utilization of health care services.

Geographic Coverage of the Survey

The survey represents the entire state of Colorado. The data are categorized into 21 Colorado Health Statistics Regions (HSRs), which are geographic regions developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for public health planning services. A map of the HSRs and high-level comparisons of some data from the 2008-2009 and 2011 surveys are available on the CHAS website at www.COHealthAccessSurvey.org.

Methodology

Administered between May 10 and August 14, 2011, CHAS included a representative sample of 10,352 Colorado households, each with at least one person age 18 or older. Results were weighted to represent Colorado's total population of more than 5 million people.

Respondents were selected through a random-digit-dialing, computer-assisted telephone interview. Of the interviews, 1,214 were conducted with respondents who owned only a cell phone.

Within each household, one member at least 18 years of age was randomly chosen to answer a series of questions about health insurance coverage, health status, access to health care, health care utilization, out-of-pocket health care expenditures, employment and income. In addition, a subset of questions about individual demographic characteristics (such as age and gender) and health insurance coverage was asked about all members of the household.

Organizations Affiliated with CHAS

The Colorado Health Access Survey is a program of The Colorado Trust, a grantmaking foundation dedicated to achieving access to health for all Coloradans. Since its founding in 1985, The Colorado Trust has worked closely with nonprofit organizations in every county across the state to advance the health and well-being of the people of Colorado. The foundation's long-term commitment to support CHAS ensures a robust, Colorado-specific data set will continue to be available to inform and guide policy and systems solutions to expand and improve health coverage and care. The Colorado Trust also funded the baseline 2008-2009 Colorado Household Survey.

The Colorado Health Institute (CHI) managed the data collection and analysis of CHAS. CHI also maintains the public use and research files on behalf of The Colorado Trust, provides ongoing in-depth analyses of the data, and responds to individual questions about the data in CHAS and the 2008-2009 baseline survey.

Social Science Research Solutions, an independent research company, conducted the survey using random-digit-dialing, computer-assisted telephone interviews.

Future Analysis, Reports and Surveys

The survey will be conducted every other year through at least 2017. The Colorado Trust will continue to release additional CHAS information and in-depth analysis, in the form of issue briefs and other reports, throughout 2012 and 2013 until data from the next CHAS are available. The Colorado Trust and the Colorado Health Institute are also available for presentations about these data.

To request a presentation or to learn more about CHAS, please visit www.COHealthAccessSurvey.org.



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