

**The Data Access Center**, based at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, provides researchers with access to confidential data files in a secure, controlled environment that protects the confidentiality of respondents. Researchers can access data remotely or by working on site. To access data remotely, researchers can either use the programming services of the Data Access Center (DAC) staff, or write their own programming code for statistical analysis and e-mail it to the DAC programmers. The programmers run the programs as submitted and return the results to the requester. Researchers can also schedule time to work on site as guest researchers, where they have access to statistical, programming and consulting services offered by the DAC.

## Data Access Center Facilities

Guest researchers who use DAC computers on site have access to analytical software, including SAS, SPSS, Stata, Stat/Transfer, ArcGIS, SUDAAN and Wes Var. The computer workstations are supported by a data server, which is on a private network with a secure printer. The DAC is open during normal business hours, but special time arrangements can also be made.

## Data Access Center Costs

Cost estimates for guest researcher access and for projects requiring programming, running data or statistical consulting are developed on an individual basis. There is a one-time, \$500 data set-up fee for expenses associated with proposal review, initial technical assistance and custom data file set-up.

Fees for use of the Data Access Center are:

- Guest Researcher Access: \$65.00/hour
- Programming and Consulting Services: \$140.00/hour
- Running Computer Programs: \$120.00/hour

## Data Confidentiality and Security

Prior to use of the Data Access Center, researchers must sign a Nondisclosure Affidavit and submit proof of approval or exemption of the research project by an Institutional Review Board. All printed or electronic materials that the researchers ask to take out of the DAC are carefully screened to minimize the risk of disclosure of confidential information prior to release.



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health  
interview  
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## The Data Access Center And The California Health Interview Survey

The Data Access Center allows researchers to access the most complete data files from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The CHIS files available in the DAC contain detailed geographic identifiers (stratum, county, zip code, census tract, latitude and longitude) and detailed demographic information for CHIS respondents. The files also include highly sensitive information (e.g., sexual behaviors) that has been specifically excluded from the freely available CHIS Public Use Data Files.

CHIS files located in the DAC include data for adults, adolescents and children. Separate data files are also available for the CHIS 2001 special ethnic population supplemental samples of Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, South Asian, Cambodian and American Indian/Alaska Native group.

Complete variable lists, data dictionaries and dummy data for confidential data files are available through the Data Access Center.

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## Applications for Accessing CHIS Data

Prospective researchers must submit an application to the Data Access Center for access to CHIS data. Each application is reviewed by the CHIS Data Disclosure Review Committee, which makes recommendations to the Principal Investigator. Researchers are encouraged to develop their proposal in consultation with Data Access Center staff.

## CHIS Data Disclosure Review Committee

The Data Disclosure Review Committee meets regularly on a bi-weekly schedule. The committee includes representatives of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, the California Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Care Services and the Public Health Institute.

## CHIS Proposal Review Process

When an application is received, the Data Access Center Coordinator will send the prospective researcher an acknowledgement of receipt. The completed application is forwarded to the CHIS Data Disclosure Review Committee. The committee reviews the application and makes a recommendation to the CHIS Principal Investigator to approve or reject the application or to request further information. The CHIS Principal Investigator will approve, reject or request further information within 21 days of receipt of the application. The criteria for project approval include: feasibility of the project, risk of disclosure of confidential information and compatibility with the purpose of the California Health Interview Survey.

## CHIS Custom Data File Set-Up

The Data Access Center staff creates custom research data file(s) for each project, based on the specifications submitted with the application for access to data. In addition, researchers may supply their own data to be merged with California Health Interview Survey data. No one will have access to custom data files or merged data files without the prior written consent of the researcher. Merged files may not be removed from the Data Access Center at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

## For More Information

To obtain an application to access CHIS data or for information about the confidential research files, contact Neil Sehgal, Data Access and Confidentiality Manager, at 310-794-2684, or Brandon Traudt, Data Access Center Coordinator, at 310-794-8319. They both can be reached by e-mail at [dacchpr@ucla.edu](mailto:dacchpr@ucla.edu).

For additional information on the application process or on the use of confidential data, visit the Data Access Center website at [www.chis.ucla.edu/chis\\_dac.html](http://www.chis.ucla.edu/chis_dac.html).

To see what research projects use CHIS data, please visit the CHIS Research Clearinghouse at [www.chis.ucla.edu/rc](http://www.chis.ucla.edu/rc).

For additional information about the CHIS surveys or methods, go to [www.chis.ucla.edu](http://www.chis.ucla.edu).