

# Southwest/East Merced

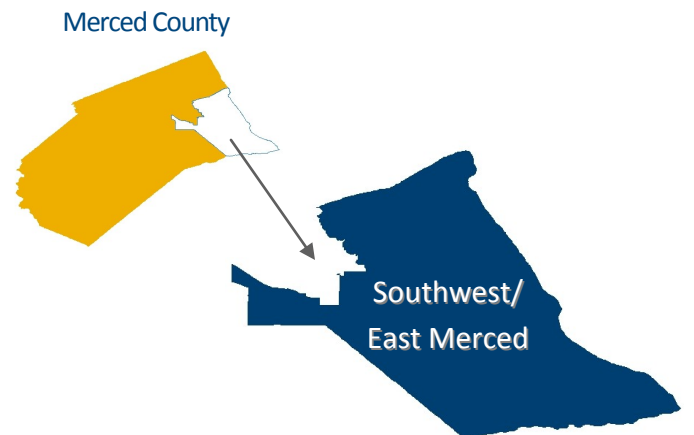
## Health Profile

**Understanding the health of your community** can start with understanding the numbers. How many children have access to a safe park? How many adults have health insurance? To answer these questions, hundreds of residents in Southwest/East Merced participated in the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The survey was conducted to support *Building Healthy Communities (BHC)*, a 10-year plan of The California Endowment (TCE) to help 14 communities develop into places where children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

This Health Profile describes the health of adults, teens, and children living in Southwest/East Merced, one of the 14 *BHC* sites. It provides a snapshot of key survey findings prior to implementing the *BHC* plan and can be used to mobilize friends and neighbors, advocate for community change, secure greater resources, and guide community planning. To learn more about *BHC*, visit: [www.calendow.org/healthycommunities/](http://www.calendow.org/healthycommunities/)

### Selected Highlights

- ◆ 33% of adults in Southwest/East Merced are uninsured compared to 22% in California.
- ◆ Twice as many adults reported their health as fair/poor in Southwest/East Merced (25%) as adults in the county (12%) and state (16%).
- ◆ About half of children (age 2-17) in Southwest/East Merced drank soda or sugar sweetened beverage yesterday compared to 40% of children in California.
- ◆ Parents in Southwest/East Merced are just as likely as parents in the county and state to report that their neighbors get along, can be trusted, are willing to help each other, and are willing to look out for their children.



Demographics*	Southwest/ East Merced %	Merced County %
Latino	60	58
White	23	31
African American	3	3
Asian	12	7
Others**	2	1
Unemployed	27	23
Low-income households <sup>1</sup>	69	56
Limited English proficiency <sup>2</sup>	73	55

\* Among adults with children under age 18 and adults age 18-40.

\*\* Others include American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and two or more races.

Published November 2011

# ADULTS

Adults with children under age 18 and adults age 18-40 unless otherwise noted

Southwest/ East Merced % (95% CI)	Merced County %	California %
---	--------------------	-----------------

## Current Insurance Coverage

Uninsured	33 (23-44)	27	22*
Insured by government program	33 (25-41)	22*	17*
Insured by private coverage/employer	34 (26-43)	52*	61*

## Health Care Access and Utilization

No doctor visit in the last year	32 (23-41)	30	24
Visited emergency department in the last year	14 (10-19)	18	18
Delayed getting prescription drugs or medical care in the last year	20 (11-29)	18	22

## Current Health Conditions

Obese <sup>3</sup>	27 (20-34)	22	21
Overweight <sup>3</sup>	38 (28-48)	41	32
Diagnosed with asthma	9 (5-13)	14	14
Fair/poor health	25 (16-33)	12*	16*
Serious psychological distress in the last year <sup>4</sup>	7 (3-11)	6	7
Binge drinking in the last year <sup>5</sup>	34 (26-43)	44	39

## Physical Activity and Nutrition

Regular physical activity in the last week <sup>6</sup>	27 (17-37)	26	24
Ate fruits and/or vegetables 3 or more times per day in the last week <sup>7</sup>	28 (18-38)	24	24
Ate fast food 3 or more times in the last week	19 (12-26)	22	24
Drank soda 3 or more times in the last week	40 (31-50)	46	25*

## Neighborhood Perceptions and Civic Engagement

Living at current residence for 5 or more years	54 (45-63)	53	50
Neighbors get along <sup>^</sup>	81 (73-90)	88	85
Neighbors can be trusted <sup>^</sup>	79 (71-87)	75	81
Neighbors are willing to help each other <sup>^</sup>	80 (72-87)	77	80
Neighbors look out for children <sup>^</sup>	82 (76-89)	75	83
Participated in community service/volunteer work in the last year <sup>^</sup>	28 (17-39)	35	44*

## Safety and Violence

Feel safe in the neighborhood	81 (73-89)	85	88*
Ever experienced violence from an intimate partner	13 (7-19)	14	13

\* Denotes statistically significant difference from BHC site estimate. See Methods for more details.

<sup>^</sup> Only includes parents of children under age 18.

Note: Estimates for Current Insurance Coverage may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

# CHILDREN

Children age 0-11 and teens age 12-17 unless otherwise noted

Southwest/  
East Merced  
% (95% CI)

Merced  
County %

California  
%

## Current Insurance Coverage

Uninsured	9 (2-16)	5	5
Insured by government program	63 (52-74)	43*	38*
Insured by private coverage/employer	28 (19-37)	51*	57*

## Health Care Access and Utilization

No doctor visit in the last year	13 (6-20)	12	10
Visited emergency department in the last year	25 (15-35)	12*	18
Delayed getting prescription drugs or medical care in the last year	5 (2-8)	8	9
Visited the dentist in the last year (age 2-17)	84 (74-94)	90	87
Received flu vaccine in the last year (age 6 months-11)	46 (33-59)	44	50

## Current Health Conditions

Teen overweight and obesity <sup>3</sup>	39 (22-56)	41	29
Diagnosed asthma (age 2-17)	16 (9-23)	20	15
Fair/poor health	11 (5-18)	6	7

## Physical Activity

Physically active at least 60 minutes per day in the last week (age 5-17) <sup>8</sup>	25 (16-35)	14*	18
Walked, biked, or skate-boarded home from school at least once in the last week (age 5-17)	41 (29-53)	34	42

## Nutrition

Ate 5 or more servings of fruits and/or vegetables yesterday (age 2-17) <sup>7</sup>	25 (13-36)	22	22
Drank soda or sugar sweetened beverage yesterday (age 2-17)	52 (40-65)	42	40*
Ate fast food 3 or more times in the last week (age 2-17)	12 (4-19)	13	18

## Park and Neighborhood Safety

Feels safe in the neighborhood	83 (77-89)	92*	87
Lives near a park or playground (age 1-17)	79 (69-88)	74	84
Used the park in the last month (age 1-17)	80 (71-88)	70	79
Nearby park or playground is safe during the day (age 1-17)	84 (77-92)	87	90
Nearby park or playground is safe at night (age 12-17)	34 (16-52)	42	48

## Civic Engagement

Participated in community service/volunteer work in the last year (age 12-17)	46 (28-64)	58	59
---	------------	----	----

\* Denotes statistically significant difference from BHC site estimate. See Methods for more details.

Note: Estimates for Current Insurance Coverage may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## Methods

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is an ongoing comprehensive public health survey that provides health data for the state and counties in California. To gather meaningful health data for *Building Health Communities (BHC)*, The California Endowment supported a CHIS 2009 oversample in 14 *BHC* sites.

Households in each *BHC* site were randomly selected to participate through random digit dial (RDD) telephone sampling. Given the focus of *BHC* efforts on children and families, **adult eligibility included being a parent of a child under age 18 or an adult age 18 to 40. Children age 0 to 11 and teens age 12 to 17 were also eligible.** For children, interviews were administered with the adult most knowledgeable about that child; for teens, interviews were administered with the teen after obtaining parent's permission. County and state estimates come from CHIS 2009 and maintain the same eligibility criteria as the *BHC* site. Over 500 interviews were completed in each of the 14 *BHC* sites between April and September 2010. In Southwest/East Merced, 331 interviews were conducted with eligible adults and 249 with children and teens.

Results provided in this health profile represent estimated values for the *eligible* population of the designated *BHC* site, its respective county and California. Estimates are based on the selected sample of the overall *eligible* population and thus have a degree of uncertainty. The data provided display 95% confidence intervals (CIs) indicating that we are 95% confident that the actual value of the health outcome lies between the lower and upper CI range. *Estimates with wide CIs should be interpreted with caution.*

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Households whose income falls below 200% of the federal poverty level are considered low income.
- <sup>2</sup> Respondents who reported speaking a language other than English at home and speak English less than "very well" are considered to have limited English proficiency.
- <sup>3</sup> Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measure used to assess overweight and obesity. It is calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by height squared in meters. Adults with a BMI greater than or equal to 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> are obese and a BMI greater than or equal to 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and less than 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> are overweight. Teens with BMI-for-age and sex greater than or equal to the 85th percentile are considered overweight and obese.
- <sup>4</sup> Serious Psychological Distress (SPD) is often used as a proxy measure for serious mental illness in a population. Adult respondents were asked 6 questions, known as the "Kessler 6", to assess symptoms of distress during a 30-day period in the last year.
- <sup>5</sup> Males are considered binge drinkers if they consumed 5 or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion in the last year and females were considered binge drinkers if they consumed 4 or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion in the last year.
- <sup>6</sup> Regular physical activity for adults is defined as those who reported at least 30 minutes of moderate activity (excluding walking) for 5 or more days in the last week or those who reported at least 20 minutes of vigorous activity for 3 or more days in the last week.
- <sup>7</sup> Fruit and vegetable consumption does not include fruit juices or fried potatoes. Measures may not be comparable to previous CHIS questionnaires.
- <sup>8</sup> Physical activity among children and teens who attended school last week, excluding physical education (PE).



The **UCLA Center for Health Policy Research** is one of the nation's leading health policy research centers and the premier source of health-related information on Californians. Learn more at: [www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu)



The California Endowment, a private, statewide health foundation, was established in 1996 to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. Learn more at: [www.calendow.org](http://www.calendow.org)



The **California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)** is the nation's largest state health survey and one of the largest health surveys in the United States. Learn more at: [www.askchis.com](http://www.askchis.com)