

Folic Acid Surveillance Surveys

California (Updated 10/2012)

Criteria	Comments
Title of the state or local Folic Acid Survey	California Women's Health Survey (CWHS)
Geographic area covered	State of California
Contact information at BDR	
Name of person:	Michael Curtis, PhD
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Survey sample size:	Approximately 4,000 women/year
General description of survey or dataset (target population, frequency of administration, years covered, data collection methods, reason for data collection)	CWHS was established to provide information to policy-makers and health professionals about women's health and to serve as a catalyst for innovative solutions that impact the health of California's women and girls. CWHS is an annual telephone survey that collects data on a random sample of approximately 4,000 women aged 18 years or older on a wide variety of health indicators and health-related knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes. Women are interviewed anonymously in either English or Spanish. CWHS data have been collected annually since 1997 and data are weighted to produce State of California estimates.
Cost of survey	Approximately \$4,500 per question
Questions included in the survey (most current, changes over time, state specific changes)	<p>CWHS (2009-2011): Have you ever heard or read anything about folic acid or folate? Response Options: Yes, No, Don't Know/Not Sure, Refused</p> <p>(If yes) Where did you learn about folic acid? (Mark all that apply) Magazine or newspaper article Radio Television Physician OB-GYN/GP/PF Books Brochures Literature at health care provider's office Friend Relative Co-worker School College Label Back of vitamin bottle Nutrition Classes other than in school or college Nurse Nurse practitioner Nursing School Media Other (specify) Website Don't know Not sure Refused</p> <p>CWHS (2010-2011): Now, I would like to ask you about your use of vitamins and minerals. During the past month, how many times a week did you take a multivitamin, a prenatal vitamin, or a folic acid vitamin? Did not take a multivitamin, prenatal vitamin or folic acid vitamin at all 1 to 3 times a week 4 to 6 times a week Every day of the week Don't know / Not sure Refused</p> <p>CWHS (2009-2010): During your most recent routine checkup, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care provider talk to you about the following topics? Smoking Diet or exercise Dental care Taking folic acid Alcohol Use Response Options: Yes, No, Don't Know/Not Sure, Refused</p> <p>CWHS (2005-2009): Now, I would like to ask you about your use of vitamins and minerals. Are you CURRENTLY taking a prenatal or multi-vitamin pill or a pill containing the B vitamin folate or folic acid? Note: This question is ONLY asking about ANY pill containing folate. Response Options: Yes, No, Don't know / Not sure, Refused</p> <p>(If yes) Do you take any of these on a daily basis? (prenatal or multi-vitamin or a pill containing the B vitamin folate or folic acid) Response Options: Yes, No, Don't know / Not sure, Refused</p>
Uses of data	CWHS provides essential information not available from other sources to guide health policies and programs for California women. Results of the folic acid information have been used to target outreach to direct services programs including the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program, Adolescent Family Life Program, and Black Infant Health Program. They have also been used to inform sub-population targeting for social media campaigns. (e.g. CWHS has identified that Latinas have the lowest prevalence of folic acid consumption and highest incidence of neural tube defects.) Similarly, data have been used to develop materials for providers to assist with folic acid counseling. (E.g. Interconception Care Project of California, Preconception Health Clinical Guidelines). CWHS data have been used in professional trainings and published online and in print reports for stakeholders. The goal of continually monitoring folic acid in the general population of California women and among those with a recent live birth is to inform the program practice among state programs, external program, and MCAH stakeholders. Trends in Folic Acid Supplement Intake Among Women of Reproductive Age --- California, 2002--2006 (MMWR- October 26, 2007 / 56(42);1106-1109) precipitated a stakeholder meeting and a multi-level folic acid intervention (brochure and poster development, media campaign, multi-vitamin distribution and WIC coordination).
Results/Summary (may include links to reports or published articles)	<p>- Trends in Folic Acid Supplement Intake Among Women of Reproductive Age --- California, 2002--2006 (http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5642a3.htm?s_cid=mm5642a3_e)</p> <p>- Preconception Health: Selected Measures, California, 2005 (http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/healthyliving/childfamily/Documents/MO-PreconceptionHealthOct07.pdf)</p> <p>- Folic Acid Use Among California Women of Reproductive Age, 2004-2005 (http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/reports/Pages/Datapoints2005.aspx)</p>
Web site address (if available)	http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/Pages/CWHS.aspx
Comments (limitations, lessons learned)	Women without telephones in their homes, institutionalized women, and women who do not speak English or Spanish are missing from the sample. Data cannot be examined at any geographic level smaller than the state.