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Californians & healthy communities



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in collaboration with
The California Endowment

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides policymakers, the media, and the general public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. Inaugurated in April 1998, this is the 114th PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that has generated a database of responses from more than 242,000 Californians. This survey is conducted with funding from The California Endowment. It is PPIC's first to examine closely residents' perceptions, policy preferences, and attitudes toward underlying local conditions affecting the overall health of Californians—healthy communities.

Congress and President Obama enacted the contentious national health care reform law last year—one of the most significant changes in national health care policy in recent times. But policymakers and the public are still grappling with rising health care costs and health service delivery issues. In California, health and human services is the second-largest area of state spending, after K–12 education; with ongoing economic and fiscal crises and a \$25 billion state budget deficit, these services could face significant cuts. With concern rising about the ability to meet the cost, coverage, and delivery obligations now and in the future, interest in preventive care is also rising. The overall health of residents depends not only on receiving medical treatment, but can also be affected by community factors such as safety from violence, good jobs, good air quality, healthy food choices, having places to walk and exercise, and good public schools. This survey provides insight into how Californians perceive these elements of their local communities.

This report presents the responses of 2,504 California adults, interviewed in multiple languages on landline and cell phones, on these specific topics:

- Perceptions and attitudes about the state's overall conditions and approval ratings of elected state officials; opinions about health care policy at the national and state levels; assessments of personal health and happiness; residents' satisfaction with their jobs, financial situation, housing, health care, and quality of life in their community; ratings of local services, including police protection, public schools, health care services, roads and sidewalks, grocery stores, and effectiveness of city government; perceptions of local problems such as unemployment, violence, air pollution, lack of places to walk and exercise, and lack of healthy food choices.
- Residents' understanding of healthy communities and their own community's impact on health; findings about what factors residents believe contribute to health, such as good jobs, schools, air quality, public safety, healthy food choices, and places to get exercise; perceptions of disparities between the lower-income and other areas of their region, and whether their local governments are adequately addressing the issues that contribute to healthy communities; and opinions about obesity, personal weight, and preventive health care.
- Time trends, national comparisons, and variations in perceptions, attitudes, and preferences about healthy communities across racial/ethnic groups (Asians, blacks, Latinos, and non-Hispanic whites), across five major regions of the state (Central Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles County, Inland Empire, and Orange/San Diego Counties), across socioeconomic and political groups, and among those with and without health insurance.

This report may be downloaded free of charge from our website (www.ppic.org). For questions about the survey, please contact survey@ppic.org. Try our PPIC Statewide Survey interactive tools online at <http://www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp>.

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PST on Wednesday, February 9, 2011.

Para ver este comunicado de prensa en español, por favor visite nuestra página de internet:
<http://www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp>

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Most Say They're Healthy—But Demographic Disparities Loom Large

CALIFORNIANS WANT MORE EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION, UNIVERSAL CARE FOR KIDS

SAN FRANCISCO, February 9, 2011—Californians have generally positive views of their health, with eight in 10 characterizing it as good to excellent. Most residents rate community conditions that contribute to their health—particularly grocery stores and restaurants—as good or excellent. And most are at least somewhat satisfied with the quality of health care they receive. But there are stark differences in the way key demographic groups view their health and the quality of life in their communities. These are among the key findings of a survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) with support from The California Endowment.

This is PPIC's first survey to look extensively at attitudes about health care and the factors that determine the overall health of a community. It was conducted at a time of intense debate—over the national reform law passed last year, over significant statewide cuts in health and human services, and over rising health care costs and service delivery issues at all levels of government.

When asked to weigh in on health policy issues, most Californians say that health care services in their local communities should put more emphasis on prevention than treatment and nearly all say universal health care for children is important in preventing illness.

“As Californians and governments at all levels struggle with health care costs and the prospect of cuts in services, most residents view prevention as important, and they see that local conditions can indeed make a difference in their health,” says Mark Baldassare, PPIC CEO and survey director.

When residents are asked whether the health services in their communities have the right balance between treatment and prevention, 60 percent want more emphasis on prevention, 13 percent want more emphasis on treatment, and 21 percent say the balance is right. Across regions and demographic groups, majorities want more emphasis on prevention. But across political lines, Democrats (67%) and independents (63%) are far more likely than Republicans (44%) to want more emphasis on prevention.

There is more consensus on universal health care for children: nearly all (91%) say it is very important (76%) or somewhat important (15%) in preventing illness. Across all parties, regions, and demographic groups, more than eight in 10 consider it to be at least somewhat important in preventing illness.

HALF SUPPORT NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM LAW

On national health care reform, Californians (51%, 36% oppose) are slightly more likely than adults nationwide (45%, 50% opposed in a recent ABC News/*Washington Post* poll) to support the law enacted by Congress and President Obama last year.

Californians are also much more likely to view obesity as a very serious public health problem. While 75 percent hold this view, 57 percent of adults nationwide do, according to a December 2009 CBS News poll. California adults differ by political party about how the issue should be addressed. Most Democrats (62%) say it is both an individual and government responsibility, while most Republicans (63%) say it is an individual responsibility. The vast majority of Californians (87%) say a person's weight can greatly improve chances for a long and healthy life and 10 percent say weight can improve those chances a little.

When it comes to the state's health care system, most Californians think major changes (59%) or minor changes (24%) are needed, while just 11 percent say the system is basically fine as it is. Those who are uninsured (69%) are more likely than those with health insurance (57%) to say that major changes are needed. A vast majority are concerned (53% very, 31% somewhat) that the state's budget gap will cause significant spending cuts to health and human services.

WEALTHIER SAY THEY'RE HEALTHIER

A plurality of Californians (46%) say their health is excellent (22%) or very good (24%), while 35 percent call their health good. Far fewer characterize their health as only fair (13%) or poor (5%). But dramatic differences emerge across key groups.

- **Income.** Among Californians in households earning \$80,000 or more, 70 percent say their health is very good or excellent compared with 48 percent of middle-income residents and just 31 percent of those in households making less than \$40,000.
- **Education level.** Of college graduates, 67 percent rate their health as very good or excellent compared to 56 percent of those with some college education, and 28 percent of those with a high school education or less.
- **Racial or ethnic group.** A majority of whites (58%) say they are in very good or excellent health, while less than half of Asians (45%), 38 percent of blacks, and 31 percent of Latinos say the same.
- **Health insurance status.** Half (51%) of those with health insurance say their health is excellent or very good. Just 31 percent of those without insurance rate their health this way.

MAYBE MONEY CAN BUY HAPPINESS

How happy are Californians with their lives? Nearly eight in 10 are very happy (32%) or pretty happy (47%) with things in their lives these days. One in five (20%) are not too happy. Again, differences across income groups emerge. Just 25 percent of lower-income residents are very happy, compared to 31 percent of middle-income residents and 41 percent of upper-income residents. The percentage saying they are very happy increases slightly with education. Whites (37%) are more likely than blacks (29%), Latinos (27%), and Asians (25%) to be very happy. Among U.S.-born citizens, 34 percent are very happy, as are 30 percent of naturalized citizens and 23 percent of immigrants who are not citizens.

Most adults are very satisfied (40%) or somewhat satisfied (35%) with the quality of their health care, and 22 percent are dissatisfied. Satisfaction increases with income, education, and age. Among whites, 51 percent are very satisfied. Fewer blacks (37%), Latinos (30%), and Asians (27%) say the same.

When asked about the quality of life in their local community, most residents are very satisfied (36%) or somewhat satisfied (44%), and 19 percent are dissatisfied. Upper-income residents (53%) are far more likely to be very satisfied than those who are middle (33%) and lower (26%) income.

HIGH MARKS FOR LOCAL SERVICES, AMENITIES

Californians generally give good or excellent ratings to their local grocery stores and restaurants (86%), parks and playgrounds (79%), police protection (78%), medical and health care services (72%), public

schools (59%), and roads and sidewalks (54%). Across parties, regions, and demographic groups each service gets a positive rating from about half or more residents.

Among the services residents were asked to rate, local roads and sidewalks get the lowest rating: 46 percent say they are not so good or poor. A third (33%) say local schools are not so good or poor. Blacks (43%) are much more likely than other racial and ethnic groups to express this view about schools.

When Californians are read a list of specific problems, unemployment is by far the biggest concern, with 59 percent calling it a big problem in their community. Far fewer see other issues as big problems: violence and street crime (23%); air pollution and other environment pollutants (23%); lack of places to safely walk, bike, and exercise (13%); and lack of grocery stores and restaurants with healthy food choices (10%). Again, the response to these questions varies widely: Blacks (41%) and Latinos (36%) are far more likely than whites (16%) and Asians (12%) to say violence is a big problem in their community. Strong majorities across regions and most demographic groups say that a lack of grocery stores and restaurants that offer healthy food choices is not much of a problem, but blacks are divided, with 49 percent saying it is a big problem or somewhat of one, and 47 percent saying it is not a problem.

What specific factors contribute a lot to the overall health of people in their communities? Most say good jobs (60%), good public schools (55%) and safe options for walking, biking and getting exercise (54%). Half say safety from violence and street crime and healthy food choices in local grocery stores and restaurants (50% each).

Californians recognize that not all communities are equal. Eight in 10 think lower-income areas of their region have far more (58%) or slightly more (22%) violence and street crime than other areas in their region. Californians also feel lower-income areas in their regions have less access to quality health care (60%); fewer local grocery stores and restaurants offering healthy choices (55%); fewer parks, playgrounds and places to safely walk, bike, and exercise (60%); and worse public schools (59%).

WHERE SHOULD LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOOST EFFORTS? JOB CREATION, SCHOOLS

At a time when the state is considering shifting some revenue and responsibility for services to the local level, how do Californians view the performance of their local governments? Half of adults say their city or local government is doing an excellent (7%) or good (44%) job solving local problems, 30 percent say their city's performance is not so good, and 10 percent say it is poor. Majorities say their local government is not doing enough to increase job opportunities (68%) or to improve the quality of public schools in their communities (53%).

MORE KEY FINDINGS

■ **Brown job approval dips**—page 7

Governor Jerry Brown's job approval rating among California adults is at 34 percent, down from 41 percent in the PPIC survey conducted earlier in January. Today, more are unsure (49%) how to rate his job performance (39% earlier in January). The legislature's approval rating is similar (24% approve today, 26% earlier in January).

■ **Half say communities play positive role in health**—page 17

Half of Californians say conditions in their community are having a very positive effect (19%) or somewhat positive effect (30%) on their overall health. Far fewer see a somewhat negative (10%) or very negative (4%) effect, and 34 percent say conditions in their communities have no effect on their health.

■ **Nearly half want to lose weight**—page 24

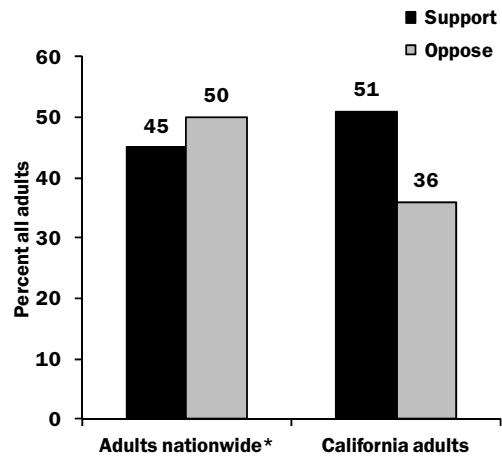
Asked about their own weight, 48 percent say they want to lose weight (51% women, 45% men), 45 percent want to stay at their current weight, and only 6 percent want to gain weight.

RESIDENTS' PERCEPTIONS & ATTITUDES

KEY FINDINGS

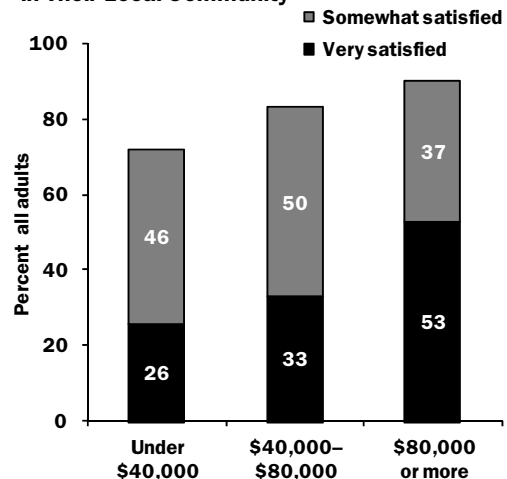
- Californians cite jobs and the economy as the state's top issue and majorities say the state is headed in the wrong direction and bad economic times are ahead. Half (49%) are unsure how to rate Governor Brown's job performance; 34 percent approve and 17 percent disapprove. One in four approve of the legislature. *(page 7)*
- Californians (51%) are slightly more likely than adults nationwide (45%) to support the changes to the national health care system that were enacted last year. Six in 10 think there should be major changes to the state's system. Just over half are very concerned about spending cuts to health and human services. *(page 8)*
- A plurality of adults (46%) say their health is excellent (22%) or very good (24%) and 35 percent call their health good; far less say it is only fair (13%) or poor (5%). *(page 9)*
- A third say they are very happy with their life today; 47 percent say they are pretty happy, while one in five are not too happy. Happiness—and satisfaction with one's quality of life, job, housing situation, and quality of health care—rises as income levels increase. *(pages 10, 11)*
- Most rate specific local community conditions as good or excellent. Grocery stores and restaurants get the highest ratings, while public schools and roads and sidewalks get the lowest. *(pages 12, 13)*
- Six in 10 say unemployment is a big problem in their community. Far fewer consider other issues—such as violence and air pollution—to be a big problem. The perceived seriousness of these issues varies across regional, racial/ethnic, and other demographic groups. *(pages 14, 15)*

National Health Care Reform Law

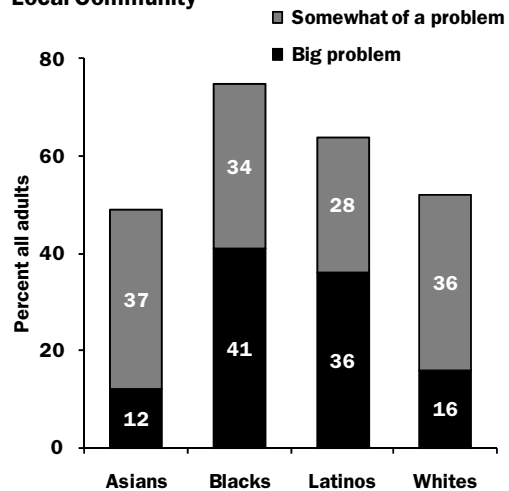


*ABC News/Washington Post poll, January 2011

Satisfaction with Quality of Life in Their Local Community



Violence and Street Crime in Their Local Community



OVERALL MOOD

We asked a series of questions about the state of the state, in seeking to understand the broader context for quality-of-life ratings and local community perceptions. Californians continue to mention jobs and the economy (57%) as the most important issue facing the state.

Most Californians (54%) expect bad economic times in the next 12 months; 34 percent expect good times. At least half across parties expect bad times, but Republicans (70%) are the most pessimistic (57% independents, 51% Democrats). Most whites (61%), Asians (56%), and blacks (53%) expect bad times, while Latinos are divided (46% good, 44% bad). While at least six in 10 middle-income (household incomes of \$40,000–under \$80,000) and upper-income residents (\$80,000 or more) expect bad times, lower-income residents (under \$40,000) are more optimistic (41% good, 47% bad).

When it comes to the direction of the state, Californians remain pessimistic, with over half saying wrong direction (55%). Republicans (74%) and independents (58%) say wrong direction, while Democrats are divided (46% right, 42% wrong). Fewer than four in 10 across regions think California is going in the right direction. At least half of whites (60%), blacks (53%), and Latinos (52%) say wrong direction, while Asians are more optimistic (45% right, 39% wrong).

“Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?”

	All Adults	Region					Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Right direction	34%	31%	39%	34%	34%	29%	32%
Wrong direction	55	56	47	52	57	64	56
Don't know	12	12	14	15	9	7	12

Half of Californians (49%) are unsure of how to rate Governor Brown’s job performance; 34 percent approve and 17 percent disapprove. Earlier in January, 41 percent approved, 19 percent disapproved, and 39 percent were unsure. Half of Democrats approve of his performance, while others are mostly unsure (Republicans: 26% approve, 28% disapprove, 45% don’t know; independents: 33% approve, 16% disapprove, 51% don’t know). San Francisco Bay Area residents (43%) are the most likely—and Inland Empire residents (24%) the least likely—to approve. More than four in 10 across regions and demographic groups are unsure of how to rate the governor’s job performance.

Californians disapprove of the California Legislature by a two to one margin (52% disapprove, 24% approve); one in four are unsure. Ratings were similar earlier in January. Across parties, Republicans (74%) are the most likely to disapprove, followed by independents (59%) and Democrats (49%). Majorities in the Central Valley (59%), Orange/San Diego Counties (57%), and the Inland Empire (54%) disapprove, while somewhat fewer in the San Francisco Bay Area (48%) and Los Angeles (46%) disapprove. Fewer than four in 10 across demographic groups approve of the legislature.

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>Overall, from what you know so far, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?</i>	Approve	34%	51%	26%	33%	41%
	Disapprove	17	10	28	16	17
	Don't know	49	40	45	51	43
<i>Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?</i>	Approve	24	31	11	20	20
	Disapprove	52	49	74	59	63
	Don't know	24	19	15	21	17

HEALTH CARE POLICY

Most Californians think the state's health care system is in need of major (59%) or minor changes (24%); fewer (11%) say it is basically fine the way it is. Californians held similar views the last time we asked this question in September 2009. Throughout 2007, as discussions to reform the system were underway and before national health care reform was passed, more Californians said major changes were needed. Today, Democrats (62%) and independents (61%) are somewhat more likely than Republicans (53%) to say major changes are needed to the state's health care system. Majorities across regional and demographic groups (between 54% and 64%) hold this view. Residents without health insurance (69%) are more likely than those with health insurance (57%) to say major changes are needed.

“Do you think California’s health care system is in need of major changes or minor changes or that it is basically fine the way it is?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Major changes	59%	62%	53%	61%	61%
Minor changes	24	27	29	25	26
Fine the way it is	11	7	11	10	8
Don't know	6	4	8	4	5

More than eight in 10 Californians are very (53%) or somewhat (31%) concerned that the state's budget gap will cause significant spending cuts to health and human services. Concern was similar in February 2009. Across parties today, Democrats (61%) are much more likely than independents (48%) and Republicans (46%) to be very concerned. Lower-income (56%) and middle-income (56%) residents are more likely than upper-income residents (46%) to be very concerned about cuts to health and human services. Women are much more likely than men (60% to 46%) to be very concerned and concern is higher among residents age 35 and older than among younger residents. Blacks (70%) are much more likely than Latinos (55%), Asians (54%), and whites (49%) to express a high level of concern.

“As you may know, the state government has an annual budget of around \$85 billion and currently faces a multibillion dollar gap between spending and revenues. How concerned are you that the state’s budget gap will cause significant spending cuts in health and human services?”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Very concerned	53%	54%	70%	55%	49%
Somewhat concerned	31	28	23	33	33
Not too concerned	8	15	3	4	10
Not at all concerned	6	3	4	5	7
Don't know	1	–	–	3	1

Half of Californians (51%) support—and 36 percent oppose—the changes to the national health care system that were enacted by Congress and the Obama administration last year. Before health care reform passed, about half of Californians expressed support for the proposed changes (51% September 2009, 52% December 2009, 50% March 2010). Californians are slightly more likely than adults nationwide to support health care reform, according to a January ABC News/*Washington Post* poll (45% support, 50% oppose). In California, Democrats (73%) support the changes, Republicans (73%) oppose them, and independents are divided (48% support, 42% oppose).

PERSONAL HEALTH

Californians hold fairly positive views of their personal health, with 22 percent saying their health is excellent, 24 percent saying it is very good, and 35 percent saying it is good. Fewer than one in five say their health is only fair (13%) or poor (5%). Adults nationwide provided similar ratings of personal health in a December 2010 Kaiser Family Foundation poll (49% excellent/very good, 31% good, 20% only fair/poor).

However, dramatic differences in ratings of personal health occur across some of California's key demographic groups. Across income categories, 70 percent of those in households earning \$80,000 or more annually say their health is very good or excellent, compared to 48 percent of middle-income residents and just 31 percent of those in households making less than \$40,000. Education level appears tied to health status as well: two in three college graduates (67%) rate their health as very good or excellent, compared to 56 percent of those with some college education and 28 percent of those with a high school education or less. Residents with full-time (53%) or part-time (48%) work are more likely to rate their health as very good or excellent than those who are unemployed and looking for work (39%).

Across racial/ethnic groups, a majority of whites (58%) rate their personal health as very good or excellent; fewer than half of Asians (45%), blacks (38%), or Latinos (31%) say the same. Residents born in the United States (54%) are far more likely than naturalized citizens (37%) or immigrants who are not citizens (27%) to say they are in very good or excellent health. The percentage saying their health is very good or excellent declines with age (ages 18–34, 55%; ages 35–54, 47%; ages 55 and older, 37%). Ratings of personal health are highest in Orange/San Diego Counties (54%) and lowest in Los Angeles (41%).

Among residents with health insurance 51 percent say their health is excellent or good; among those without health insurance only 31 percent say the same.

“In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?”

		Excellent	Very good	Good	Only fair	Poor
All Adults		22%	24%	35%	13%	5%
Age	18–34	28	27	35	9	2
	35–54	22	25	34	15	4
	55 and older	16	21	38	16	9
Race/Ethnicity	Asians	24	21	31	18	6
	Blacks	13	25	41	16	5
	Latinos	16	15	45	19	6
	Whites	27	31	31	7	4
Education	High school or less	14	14	44	20	7
	Some college	23	33	31	9	4
	College graduate	35	32	25	7	2
Household income	Under \$40,000	15	16	43	19	7
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	18	30	37	10	4
	\$80,000 or more	38	32	22	7	2
Health insurance	Yes	25	26	33	12	4
	No	13	18	44	18	6

QUALITY OF LIFE

When asked about their lives today, nearly eight in 10 Californians say they are very happy (32%) or pretty happy (47%), while one in five are not too happy (20%). According to a January 2010 Pew Research Center poll, 28 percent of adults nationwide reported being very happy, 54 percent said they were pretty happy, and 16 percent said they were not too happy.

Differences across demographic groups emerge again on this question. Just 25 percent of lower-income residents say they are very happy, while 31 percent of middle-income and 41 percent of upper-income residents report being very happy. There are stark differences between those with jobs (34% full-time, 29% part-time) and those who are unemployed and looking for work (9%) in saying they are very happy; 41 percent of the unemployed say they are not too happy. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (37%) are the most likely to say they are very happy, followed by blacks (29%), Latinos (27%), and Asians (25%). One in three U.S.-born citizens (34%) and 30 percent of naturalized citizens say they are very happy; among immigrants who are not citizens, 23 percent are very happy, 35 percent are pretty happy, and 41 percent are not too happy. The percentage saying they are very happy increases somewhat as education levels rise. Among those who have health insurance, 35 percent report being very happy; just 19 percent of the uninsured say the same.

**“Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life—
are you very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?”**

		Very happy	Pretty happy	Not too happy
All Adults		32%	47%	20%
Age	18–34	31	53	15
	35–54	28	46	25
	55 and older	37	43	19
Race/Ethnicity	Asians	25	56	19
	Blacks	29	46	26
	Latinos	27	39	33
	Whites	37	51	11
Education	High school or less	27	40	32
	Some college	32	55	12
	College graduate	38	51	10
Household income	Under \$40,000	25	42	32
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	31	53	14
	\$80,000 or more	41	51	7
Health insurance	Yes	35	47	17
	No	19	49	30

What about finances? Six in 10 Californians are very (21%) or somewhat (40%) satisfied with their financial situation; fewer are dissatisfied (20% somewhat, 17% very). Most lower-income residents (57%) and nearly half of those with a high school education or less (48%) are dissatisfied. Among the unemployed, 77 percent are dissatisfied; most part-time (52%) and full-time (70%) workers are at least somewhat satisfied. Solid majorities of whites (72%) and Asians (61%) are at least somewhat satisfied with their financial situation, while blacks and Latinos are split between satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

QUALITY OF LIFE (CONTINUED)

Among Californians who are currently employed, 46 percent are very satisfied and 36 percent are somewhat satisfied with their jobs. About one in five are dissatisfied (10% somewhat, 7% very). Satisfaction increases as income and education levels rise and is far higher among full-time workers (52%) than part-time workers (29%).

In terms of their housing situation, eight in 10 are very (46%) or somewhat (34%) satisfied. At least half of upper- and middle-income residents (59%, 50%) are very satisfied, compared to 33 percent of lower-income residents. College graduates (55%) and those with some college education (52%) are much more likely to be very satisfied than those with a high school education or less (35%). Homeowners are far more satisfied than renters (61% to 28% very satisfied) and those who have lived at their residence at least five years (52% very satisfied) are more satisfied than those who have lived in their homes a shorter time (37%). The percentage who are very satisfied with housing increases with age. Most whites (59%) are very satisfied; fewer than half of blacks (44%), Asians (39%), or Latinos (28%) say the same.

“Please tell me whether, on the whole, you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the following aspects of your life. How about your housing situation?”

	All Adults	Household Income			Home	
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	Owners	Renters
Very satisfied	46%	33%	50%	59%	61%	28%
Somewhat satisfied	34	39	33	26	26	43
Somewhat dissatisfied	11	13	11	9	6	16
Very dissatisfied	9	14	6	6	7	12
Don't know	–	–	–	–	–	–

Three in four Californians are very (40%) or somewhat satisfied (35%) with the quality of health care they receive; 22 percent are dissatisfied. The percentage who are very satisfied rises as income, education, and age increase. Satisfaction is highest among whites (51% very), while fewer blacks (37%), Latinos (30%), and Asians (27%) feel the same. Californians with health insurance are more than three times as likely as the uninsured to be very satisfied with their health care quality (47% to 14%).

“How about the quality of health care you receive?”

	All Adults	Household Income			Health Insurance	
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	Yes	No
Very satisfied	40%	30%	40%	54%	47%	14%
Somewhat satisfied	35	36	35	33	37	28
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	13	13	9	10	19
Very dissatisfied	10	17	10	3	5	33
Don't know	2	3	2	2	1	7

When asked about the quality of life in their local community, eight in 10 Californians are very (36%) or somewhat (44%) satisfied; 19 percent are dissatisfied. Upper-income residents (53%) are far more likely than middle- and lower-income residents (33%, 26%) to be very satisfied. The percentage who are very satisfied rises as education and age increase. Homeowners are much more likely than renters to be very satisfied (43% to 28%). Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (45%) are more likely to be very satisfied than blacks (32%), Asians (29%), and Latinos (25%). Parents of children age 18 or younger (30%) are less likely to be very satisfied than others (40%) with the quality of life in their local community.

RATING LOCAL COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

Californians give generally positive evaluations of their local services: majorities give an excellent or good rating to their local grocery stores and restaurants (86%), parks and playgrounds (79%), police protection (78%), medical and health care services (72%), public schools (59%), and roads and sidewalks (54%). However, more Californians give not so good or poor ratings to local public schools (21% not so good, 12% poor) and roads and sidewalks (30% not so good, 16% poor) than to other services. Across parties, regions, and demographic groups, each service gets a positive rating from about half or more residents.

“Now I'd like to ask how you would rate some of the public services in your local community. For each one, please tell me if you think they are excellent, good, not so good, or poor. How about...?”

	Local grocery stores and restaurants	Local parks and playgrounds	Local police protection	Local medical and health care services	Local public schools	Local roads and sidewalks
Excellent	30%	25%	24%	19%	15%	12%
Good	56	54	54	53	44	42
Not so good	10	12	14	17	21	30
Poor	2	5	5	5	12	16
Don't know	1	4	3	5	8	1

Among the six services residents were asked to rate, local roads and sidewalks receive the lowest rating: 46 percent say they are not so good or poor. Los Angeles residents (50%) are most likely to give negative ratings, followed by Central Valley (48%), San Francisco Bay Area (46%), Inland Empire (43%), and Orange/San Diego Counties (36%) residents. Asians (33%) are the least likely racial/ethnic group to give a low rating; upper-income adults (38%) are less likely than others to say roads are not so good or poor.

Local public schools also fare worse than other local services, with one in three Californians saying they are not so good or poor. Negative ratings are given by 36 percent of residents in Los Angeles, 34 percent in the Central Valley, 32 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area, 31 percent in the Inland Empire, and 28 percent in Orange/San Diego Counties. Blacks (43%) are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to call their local public schools not so good or poor. The views of parents with children age 18 or younger (34% not so good/poor) is similar to those without children (31% not so good/poor).

Asked to rate local medical and health care services, 22 percent call them not so good or poor. Among racial/ethnic groups, blacks (37%) rate these services more negatively than Asians (27%), Latinos (27%), and whites (17%). Low marks are more likely among those earning less than \$80,000 than among those earning \$80,000 or more. As education levels rise, low ratings fall. Adults without health insurance (36%) are far more likely than the insured (19%) to rate medical and health care services poorly.

“How about...?”

<i>Percent saying “not so good/poor”</i>		Local roads and sidewalks	Local public schools	Local medical and health care services
All Adults		46%	33%	22%
Race/Ethnicity	Asians	33	32	27
	Blacks	42	43	37
	Latinos	49	30	27
	Whites	47	32	17
Household income	Under \$40,000	45	30	27
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	51	36	25
	\$80,000 or more	38	33	14

RATING LOCAL COMMUNITY CONDITIONS (CONTINUED)

One in five Californians rate their local police protection as not so good or poor. Less than three in 10 across party, regional, and demographic groups rate it negatively, with some differences. Negative ratings are slightly lower in Orange/San Diego Counties (12%) and the Inland Empire (13%) than elsewhere (18% San Francisco Bay Area, 22% Los Angeles, 24% Central Valley). Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (29%) are most likely to give negative ratings, while whites (14%) are least likely. Lower-income adults are more likely than those with middle- and upper-incomes to give a low rating.

Local parks and playgrounds are also mostly assessed positively, with just 17 percent of residents saying they are not so good or poor; fewer than one in four across regions and demographic groups give parks and playgrounds a low rating.

Of the six services surveyed, local grocery stores and restaurants are the least likely to receive negative ratings. Less than one in five across regions and demographic groups have a negative impression of their local grocery stores and restaurants.

“How about...?”				
<i>Percent saying “not so good/poor”</i>	Local police protection	Local parks and playgrounds	Local grocery stores and restaurants	
All Adults	19%	17%	12%	
Race/Ethnicity	Asians	20	17	12
	Blacks	29	22	11
	Latinos	23	22	16
	Whites	14	14	9
Household Income	Under \$40,000	24	19	18
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	16	19	11
	\$80,000 or more	14	12	6

Half of Californians think the performance of their city (or local) government in solving local problems is excellent (7%) or good (44%); four in 10 call it not so good (30%) or poor (10%). Partisans give similar positive ratings (54% Democrats, 53% Republicans, 52% independents). About half across most demographic groups give an excellent or good rating; ratings are somewhat higher among college graduates (58%), Asians (60%), and upper-income residents (62%). Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (50%) are most likely to say the performance of their city government is not so good or poor (42% Latinos, 40% whites, 30% Asians). Middle- and lower-income residents (43% each) are more likely than upper-income residents (33%) to give negative ratings. Central Valley residents are fairly divided (48% not so good/poor; 42% excellent/good); in other regions, most give positive ratings.

“How about the performance of your city (or local) government in solving local problems?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Excellent	7%	5%	11%	6%	8%
Good	44	49	42	46	48
Not so good	30	31	28	29	29
Poor	10	10	11	11	10
Don't know	9	6	7	8	5

PERCEIVED LOCAL PROBLEMS

When it comes to local community problems unemployment stands out, with 59 percent calling it a big problem. Far fewer say other conditions are big problems: violence and street crime (23%); air pollution and other types of environmental pollutants (23%); access to places to safely walk, bike, and get physical exercise (13%); and access to grocery stores and restaurants with healthy food choices (10%). Majorities say unemployment, violence, and air pollution are at least somewhat of a problem, but don't think a lack of places to get physical exercise or a lack of food services with healthy choices are much of a problem.

"I am going to read you a list of problems other people have told us about. For each, please tell me if you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your local community today. How much of a problem are...?"

	Unemployment	Violence and street crime	Air pollution and other types of environmental pollutants	The lack of places to safely walk, bike, and get physical exercise	The lack of grocery stores and restaurants with healthy food choices
Big problem	59%	23%	23%	13%	10%
Somewhat of a problem	29	33	32	21	16
Not much of a problem	9	43	44	66	73
Don't know	3	1	1	–	1

Six in 10 adults and about six in 10 across political parties think unemployment is a big problem in their local communities. Yet the perception that unemployment is a big problem diverges starkly across regional and demographic groups. Seventy-three percent of Central Valley residents call unemployment a big problem, followed by six in 10 in the Inland Empire (62%) and Los Angeles (60%), 56 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area, and half in Orange/San Diego Counties (51%). Across racial/ethnic groups, three in four blacks (76%) and two in three Latinos (67%) call unemployment a big problem, compared to 55 percent of whites and half of Asians. More than six in 10 of those without a college degree (65% high school or less; 62% some college) cite this issue as a big problem, compared to fewer than half of college graduates (47%). The percentage calling unemployment a big problem decreases sharply as income rises. Among those who are unemployed and looking for work 77 percent think this problem is big; 61 percent of part-time workers and 56 percent of full-time workers agree.

"How much of a problem is unemployment?"

	All Adults	Household Income		
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Big problem	59%	69%	59%	44%
Somewhat of a problem	29	24	29	39
Not much of a problem	9	5	9	13
Don't know	3	2	3	4

Far fewer (23%) call violence and street crime a big problem in their local community; 33 percent say this is somewhat of a problem and 43 percent say it is not much of a problem. Partisans hold similar views on the extent of this problem. However, there are differences across regions: a majority in Orange/San Diego Counties (54%) say this issue is not much of a problem, but majorities in all other regions call it at least somewhat of a problem. Central Valley and Los Angeles residents (30% each) are the most likely to say violence is a big problem. Blacks (41%) and Latinos (36%) are far more likely than whites (16%) and Asians (12%) to say violence is a big problem in their local community. The perception that violence is a big problem decreases as income and education levels rise.

PERCEIVED LOCAL PROBLEMS (CONTINUED)

Twenty-three percent of Californians call air pollution and other environmental pollutants a big problem in their community, 32 percent say this is somewhat of a problem, and 44 percent think it is not much of a problem. Majorities of Democrats (26% big, 34% somewhat) and independents (21% big, 35% somewhat) say air pollution is a problem, while 62 percent of Republicans say it is not much of a problem. Majorities in Los Angeles (67%) and the Central Valley (63%) say it is at least somewhat of a problem; more Orange/San Diego County residents think this issue is not a problem (55%) than a problem (44%), while residents in the other two regions are divided. Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (41%) are the most likely to say air pollution is a big problem, followed by Latinos (29%), whites (19%), and Asians (16%).

“How much of a problem are air pollution and other types of environmental pollutants?”

	All Adults	Region				
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire
Big problem	23%	29%	16%	36%	11%	19%
Somewhat of a problem	32	34	32	31	33	33
Not much of a problem	44	37	51	32	55	48
Don't know	1	–	1	1	–	–

It is not much of a problem to find safe places in the community to walk, bike, and get physical exercise according to 66 percent of Californians; a third say it is a big (13%) or somewhat of a problem (21%). Strong majorities across parties say it is not much of a problem and at least six in 10 across regions agree. While majorities across demographic groups think access to places to exercise is not much of a problem, disparities are present among groups. Seventy-six percent of Asians and 72 percent of whites say this issue is not much of a problem, compared to slight majorities of blacks (55%) and Latinos (54%). Men (73%) are much more likely than women (59%) to say it is not a problem. College graduates and adults earning \$40,000 or more are much more likely than those without a college degree and lower-income adults to say this issue is not a problem.

“How much of a problem is the lack of places to safely walk, bike, and get physical exercise?”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Big problem	13%	5%	18%	21%	10%
Somewhat of a problem	21	18	28	25	17
Not much of a problem	66	76	55	54	72
Don't know	–	1	–	1	–

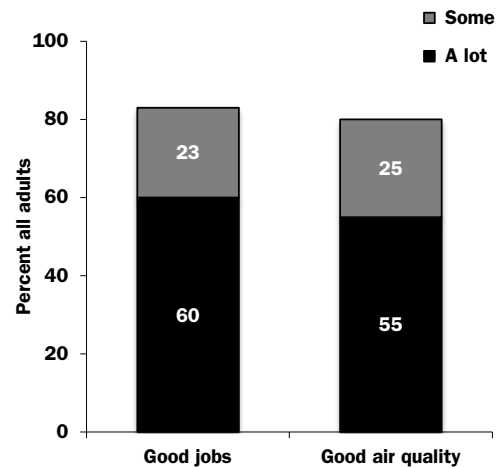
While 26 percent of Californians believe it is a big (10%) or somewhat of a problem (16%) in their community to find grocery stores and restaurants that offer healthy food choices, an overwhelming majority (73%) say it is not much of a problem. Strong majorities across regions agree; residents of Orange/San Diego Counties and the San Francisco Bay Area (79% each) are the most likely to say it is not a problem while Los Angeles residents (65%) are the least likely to say this. While majorities of whites (84%), Asians (73%), and Latinos (60%) say it is not much of a problem, blacks are divided (49% big or somewhat of a problem, 47% not a problem). Majorities across other demographic groups say it is not much of a problem. Men (78%) are much more likely than women (67%) to say finding healthy choices is not a problem; adults age 35 and older are more likely than younger adults to say it is not a problem. The percentage saying it is not much of a problem rises as education and income levels increase.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & POLICY PREFERENCES

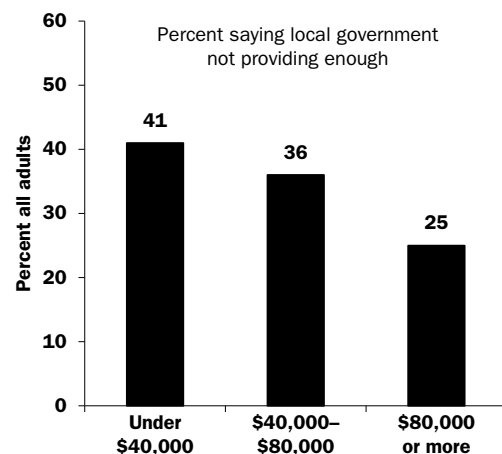
KEY FINDINGS

- Half of Californians say conditions in their local communities positively affect their health; 34 percent say such conditions don't affect their health at all. *(page 17)*
- At least half of Californians say good jobs, safety from violence, good schools, good air quality, healthy food choices, and safe areas for walking and exercise contribute a lot to the overall health of people in their local community. *(pages 18, 19)*
- On disparities in conditions between lower-income areas and other areas of their region, most adults (58%) say there is far more violence in lower-income areas. They see other disparities as well—such as in schools and access to health care—but say they are not as great. *(pages 20, 21)*
- Majorities say their local governments are not doing enough to improve schools or increase job opportunities, with differences across racial/ethnic groups. Most say local governments are doing the right amount to reduce violence, but blacks and Latinos are much more likely than whites and Asians to say action falls short. *(pages 22, 23)*
- Strong majorities say obesity is a very serious public health problem, but there is a partisan divide about who holds the most responsibility for addressing it. About half of Californians would like to lose weight, with 62 percent of those adults saying they are on a program to do so. *(page 24)*
- Six in 10 adults say health care services in their local community should give more emphasis to prevention than to treatment. Three in four say universal health coverage for children is very important in preventing illness. *(page 25)*

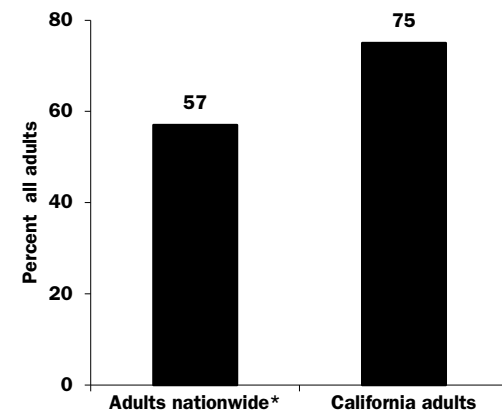
Factors Contributing to the Overall Health of People in Their Local Community



Opportunities for Walking, Biking, Physical Exercise



Percent Saying Obesity Is a Very Serious Public Health Problem in the U.S.



*CBS News poll, December 2009

IMPACT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON HEALTH

Half of Californians think that the conditions in their local community are having a very (19%) or somewhat (30%) positive effect on their overall health; 14 percent think they have a somewhat (10%) or very negative (4%) effect, while 34 percent say that the conditions in their local community have no effect at all on their health. Across regions, residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (56%), Orange/San Diego Counties (52%), and Los Angeles (50%) are more likely than those in the Central Valley (39%) and the Inland Empire (38%) to say that local community conditions have a positive effect on their health.

Asians (57%) are the most likely racial/ethnic group to say their community positively impacts their health, followed by Latinos (51%), whites (45%), and blacks (44%). About half of men, women, and adults across age and income groups think local community conditions have a positive effect on their health. Among Californians who have health insurance, and among those who do not, half hold this view. Among those who are very satisfied with the quality of life in their local community, 62 percent say conditions have a positive effect on their health. Among those who are somewhat satisfied with their local quality of life, 45 percent say conditions have a positive effect.

“In general, do you think that conditions in your local community are having a positive effect, a negative effect, or no effect at all on your health? (if positive or negative: Would that be very or somewhat?)”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Very positive effect	19%	17%	10%	21%	18%
Somewhat positive effect	30	40	34	30	27
Somewhat negative effect	10	8	12	12	9
Very negative effect	4	2	9	4	3
No effect at all	34	31	34	29	39
Don't know	3	2	1	3	3

When asked about the term “healthy communities,” 80 percent of Californians say they understand what it means very (39%) or somewhat well (41%); 17 percent say not very (12%) or not at all well (5%). Across regions, more than seven in 10 say they understand the term very or somewhat well, with Orange/San Diego County residents (84%) the most likely to hold this view followed by residents in the Central Valley (82%), Los Angeles (81%), the San Francisco Bay Area (79%), and the Inland Empire (73%).

At least three in four across demographic groups say they understand very or somewhat well what “healthy communities” means. Four in 10 across education groups say they understand this very well. Some differences emerge across racial/ethnic groups: blacks (59%) are most likely to say they understand this very well, then Latinos (43%), whites (38%), and Asians (28%).

“If you read or heard somebody talking about ‘healthy communities,’ how well do you feel that you understand what they mean by those two words?”

	All Adults	Education		
		High school or less	Some college	College graduate
Very well	39%	39%	39%	39%
Somewhat well	41	41	43	39
Not very well	12	12	10	14
Not at all	5	4	5	6
Don't know	3	4	2	2

COMMUNITY FEATURES AND HEALTH

Residents were asked the degree to which some specific factors contribute to the overall health of people in their local communities. When asked about good jobs, six in 10 say they contribute a lot (60%) to health and one in four say they contribute some (23%); fewer say they contribute not much (8%) or not at all (6%) to health. Six in 10 across parties believe good jobs contribute a lot to health. San Francisco Bay Area residents (68%) are the most likely to share this view, while those in the Central Valley (55%) are the least likely. Majorities of whites (65%), Latinos (59%), and Asians (57%) think this factor contributes a lot, compared to four in 10 blacks. The percentage saying good jobs contribute a lot increases with education and income; unemployed adults looking for work are less likely than are those who are employed to say good jobs contribute a lot to health.

A majority (55%) also view good public schools as an element contributing a lot to the overall health of people in their community. Similar patterns emerge regionally on this issue, with San Francisco Bay Area adults (63%) being the most likely—and those in the Central Valley (49%) least likely—to hold this view. Again, disparities emerge across racial/ethnic groups: about six in 10 Latinos and Asians and 55 percent of whites think good public schools contribute a lot to people’s health, while just 36 percent of blacks agree. Those aged 18 to 54 are more likely than older adults to say good public schools contribute a lot; college graduates and those earning at least \$40,000 are more likely than others to agree.

“How much do good public schools contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?”

	All Adults	Education		
		High school or less	Some college	College graduate
A lot	55%	53%	52%	62%
Some	24	26	24	22
Not much	11	13	11	7
Not at all	4	3	6	4
Don’t know	5	4	6	4

Half of adults think safety from violence and street crime contributes a lot to the overall health of people in their community. Most independents (54%), Democrats (53%), and Republicans (49%) view safety as contributing a lot to health. Once more, San Francisco Bay Area residents (58%) are the most likely to think this feature contributes a lot to health, while those in the Central Valley (42%) are the least likely. On this issue, racial/ethnic groups hold similar views, with at least 47 percent responding that safety from violence contributes a lot to health. Women (54%) are somewhat more likely than men (46%) to hold this view. The percentage saying safety from violence contributes a lot to health rises with income.

“How much does safety from violence and street crime contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?”

	All Adults	Household Income		
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
A lot	50%	45%	53%	60%
Some	26	31	24	21
Not much	16	16	17	12
Not at all	6	7	5	6
Don’t know	1	1	1	1

COMMUNITY FEATURES AND HEALTH (CONTINUED)

Half of Californians perceive that healthy food choices in local grocery stores and restaurants contribute a lot to the overall health of people in their community. Partisans differ: 56 percent of Democrats say healthy food options contribute a lot to health compared 43 percent of independents and Republicans. San Francisco Bay Area residents (56%) are the most likely—and Inland Empire residents (42%) the least likely—to say healthy choices contribute a lot. Racial/ethnic differences are not as sharp on this issue as on others: Latinos (54%) are most likely to say it contributes a lot, followed by whites (50%), Asians (45%), and blacks (44%). Women (56%) are much more likely than men (44%) to say healthy food choices contribute a lot. Uninsured adults (60%) are more likely than those with health insurance (40%) to say this. Those with some college (46%) are the least likely education group to say healthy food choices contribute a lot to health.

“How much do healthy food choices in local grocery stores and restaurants contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?”

	All Adults	Education		
		High school or less	Some college	College graduate
A lot	50%	51%	46%	54%
Some	33	33	35	31
Not much	11	11	12	9
Not at all	4	4	4	4
Don't know	2	1	3	2

Asked about the extent to which having safe options for walking, biking, and getting exercise contribute to overall health, a majority of adults (54%) say it contributes a lot. Partisans agree on this issue. San Francisco Bay Area and Inland Empire residents (59% each) are the most likely to say it contributes a lot; about half of residents in Los Angeles (53%) and the Central Valley and Orange/San Diego Counties (51% each) say the same. Whites (59%) are the most likely racial/ethnic group to say a lot, followed by Latinos (54%), Asians (50%), and blacks (43%). College graduates are somewhat more likely than non-college graduates to say a lot; lower-income adults (51%) are somewhat less likely than middle- and upper-income (58%, 59%) adults to think safe exercise options contribute a lot to health.

“How much do safe options for walking, biking, and getting exercise contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?”

	All Adults	Household Income		
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
A lot	54%	51%	58%	59%
Some	29	30	29	29
Not much	11	13	9	8
Not at all	4	5	3	4
Don't know	1	1	1	–

Fifty-five percent of adults also see good air quality contributing a lot to overall health. There are some partisan differences, with Democrats (58%) being more likely than Republicans (51%) and independents (47%) to say clean air contributes a lot. Adults across regions hold similar views—majorities say good air quality contributes a lot. Similar racial/ethnic disparities emerge on this factor as on others, with fewer than half of blacks (41%) saying that it contributes a lot while majorities of others say it doesn't. At least half across other demographic groups say clean air contributes a lot to overall health.

ARE LOWER-INCOME COMMUNITIES DIFFERENT?

Most Californians recognize that there are community factors that have a great impact on peoples' overall health, and that not all communities are equal. Eight in 10 Californians think that lower-income areas of their region have more violence and street crime than other areas—58 percent say far more and 22 percent say slightly more. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (63%) are the most likely to say there is far more violence in lower-income areas; Latinos (57%), blacks (51%), and Asians (45%) follow. The perception that lower-income areas experience more violence varies across income groups: 49 percent of those with household incomes under \$40,000 say there is far more violence; by comparison, solid majorities of middle- and upper-income (62%, 72%) residents hold this view. Similar trends emerge with education level: 52 percent of those with a high school education or less, 60 percent of those with some college education, and 65 percent of college graduates say the less well-off areas of their region have far more violence than other areas. Six in 10 across political parties say these areas have far more violence.

“Do you think the lower-income areas of your region have more violence and street crime than the other areas of your region, or not? (if yes: Would you say far more or slightly more?)”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Yes, far more	58%	45%	51%	57%	63%
Yes, slightly more	22	27	28	20	21
No	16	20	19	20	13
Don't know	4	8	3	2	3

Six in 10 Californians think people in the lower-income areas of their region have less access to quality health care. Compared to their perceptions of violence, they are much less likely to consider this difference in access to health care a big one—37 percent say people in lower-income areas have far less access and 23 percent say slightly less. One in three (34%) say there is no difference. Majorities across regions and demographic groups say those in lower-income areas have slightly less or far less access to quality health care. Lower-income residents are the most likely across income groups to say there is slightly less or far less access. Nearly half of blacks (48%) and 43 percent of Latinos say people in lower-income areas have far less access to quality health care; fewer whites (33%) and Asians (27%) agree. Four in 10 whites say there is no difference in access to health care. Across regions, Los Angeles residents (48%) are most likely to say far less access. Democrats (43%) are more likely than independents (33%) and Republicans (25%) to say so; half of Republicans say no difference.

“Do you think people in the lower-income areas of your region have less access to quality health care than people in the other areas of your region, or not? (if yes: Would you say far less or slightly less?)”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Yes, far less	37%	27%	48%	43%	33%
Yes, slightly less	23	34	30	25	19
No	34	29	15	27	41
Don't know	6	10	6	4	7

Most Californians say the lower-income areas of their region have fewer local grocery stores and restaurants offering healthy food choices than other areas of their region—31 percent say far fewer, 24 percent say slightly fewer. Across racial/ethnic groups, most perceive a disparity in the number of stores

ARE LOWER-INCOME COMMUNITIES DIFFERENT? (CONTINUED)

and restaurants with healthy options, but Latinos (36%) and blacks (35%) are the most likely to say there are far fewer options. Most Republicans (53%) say there is no difference between lower-income and other areas of their region when it comes to healthy food options; majorities of Democrats and independents say otherwise. At least half across income and demographic groups perceive at least a slight disparity.

“Do you think the lower-income areas of your region have fewer local grocery stores and restaurants that offer healthy food choices than the other areas of your region, or not? (if yes: Would you say far fewer or slightly fewer?)”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Yes, far fewer	31%	21%	35%	36%	30%
Yes, slightly fewer	24	36	35	25	20
No	38	38	29	36	42
Don't know	6	5	2	3	8

Six in 10 Californians say the lower-income areas of their regions have far fewer (35%) or slightly fewer (25%) parks, playgrounds, and places to safely walk, bike, and get physical exercise than the other areas of their region. Republicans (46%) are much less likely than independents (61%) and Democrats (67%) to say there is a difference between lower-income and other areas in their region. Majorities across racial/ethnic groups think lower-income areas have fewer places for playing and exercising; blacks (45%) and Latinos (40%) are most likely to say there are far fewer, followed by whites (33%) and Asians (28%). Majorities across income, education, and other demographic groups perceive at least a slight disparity; the percentage declines with age.

“Do you think the lower-income areas of your region have fewer parks, playgrounds, and places to safely walk, bike, and get physical exercise than the other areas of your region, or not? (if yes: Would you say far fewer or slightly fewer?)”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Yes, far fewer	35%	28%	45%	40%	33%
Yes, slightly fewer	25	33	20	27	22
No	36	35	34	31	38
Don't know	5	4	1	1	7

Regarding air quality, one in three Californians say it is far worse (15%) or slightly worse (17%) in the lower-income areas of their region than in other areas. Most Californians (63%) believe the lower-income areas of their region do not have worse air quality; majorities across parties agree, but Republicans (79%) are the most likely to hold this view. Across regions, majorities say there is no difference, but Los Angeles residents (53%) are the least likely to hold this view. At least half across demographic groups say there is no difference, except among blacks, a majority of whom (54%) think air quality is worse in lower-income areas. The share saying air quality is worse in lower-income areas declines as income falls.

Six in 10 Californians say the public schools in the lower-income areas of their region are worse than the public schools in other areas of their region—34 percent say far worse, 25 percent slightly worse. Two in three Democrats and independents say schools are slightly or far worse in lower-income areas; 50 percent of Republicans agree. Majorities across demographic groups say schools are worse in the lower-income areas; the percentage holding this view rises with education and income.

ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A majority of Californians (53%) say their local government is not doing enough to improve the quality of public schools in their community, while 36 percent say local government is doing the right amount; just 5 percent say they are doing too much. Fifty-nine percent of Democrats, 52 percent of independents, and 47 percent of Republicans say efforts fall short. Across racial/ethnic groups, two in three blacks (67%) think their local government is not doing enough to improve local public schools, while fewer Latinos (56%), whites (51%), and Asians (47%) agree. The percentage saying local efforts fall short declines with age (60% 18–34; 52% 35–54; 45% 55 and older); at least half across education and income groups think local government is not doing enough. A majority of parents of public school children (57%) say local governments are not doing enough to improve public school quality. Across regions, Los Angeles residents (58%) are the most likely to say this, followed by those in the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley (53% each), Orange/San Diego Counties (50%), and the Inland Empire (46%).

“Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to improve the quality of public schools in your local community?”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Doing too much	5%	3%	4%	10%	2%
The right amount	36	42	24	32	39
Not enough	53	47	67	56	51
Don't know	6	8	5	2	8

Californians are less critical of local government when it comes to reducing violence and street crime. Half of Californians (50%) think their local government is doing the right amount to reduce violence and street crime, while 42 percent think it is not doing enough. At least half across parties think their local governments are doing the right amount. Across income groups, a plurality of those with incomes under \$40,000 (48%) say local efforts are inadequate, while majorities of middle-income (53%) and upper-income (64%) residents say local governments are doing the right amount to reduce violence. Similarly, the percentage saying “not enough” is higher among residents with less education (48% high school or less; 41% some college; 32% college graduates). Across racial/ethnic groups, 57 percent of blacks and 50 percent of Latinos say local efforts to reduce violence and street crime are not going far enough; by comparison, 58 percent of whites and 63 percent of Asians say they are doing the right amount.

Among those who say violence and street crime are big problems in their local community, 73 percent say local government is not doing enough. Among those who say violence is not much of a problem in their community, 71 percent say their local governments are doing the right amount to reduce it.

“Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to reduce violence and street crime in your local community?”

	All Adults	Household Income		
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Doing too much	6%	10%	3%	1%
The right amount	50	41	53	64
Not enough	42	48	42	32
Don't know	2	2	2	3

ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CONTINUED)

When it comes to increasing access to healthy foods in their local community, nearly half of Californians (49%) say their local governments are doing the right amount; 37 percent say they are not doing enough. Republicans (60%) are the most likely to say their local governments are doing the right amount, followed by independents (54%) and Democrats (49%). Opinion varies across demographic groups. Most blacks (58%) and Latinos (52%) say their local governments are not doing enough to increase access to healthy foods, while most whites (58%) and Asians (61%) say they are doing the right amount. College graduates (58%) and those with middle (53%) and higher (58%) incomes are more likely than less educated and lower-income residents to say their local governments are doing enough. Residents with health insurance (52%) are much more likely than uninsured residents (37%) to say local government are doing enough.

“Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to increase access to healthy foods in your local community?”

	All Adults	Household Income		
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Doing too much	8%	8%	7%	7%
The right amount	49	42	53	58
Not enough	37	44	36	28
Don't know	6	5	4	7

Most Californians (54%) think local efforts to increase opportunities for walking, biking, and physical exercise are adequate; 36 percent say their local government is not doing enough. More than half across parties think their local governments are doing the right amount, but Republicans (64%) are the most likely to say this. About half of blacks (50%) and Latinos (49%) say local efforts fall short, while solid majorities of whites (62%) and Asians (72%) say efforts are adequate. Upper-income residents (68%) are more likely than middle- and lower-income (52%, 48%) residents to say local government is doing the right amount to increase opportunities for physical activity. Across age groups, about 55 percent say local governments are doing the right amount; this perception increases as education increases.

“Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to increase opportunities for walking, biking, and physical exercise in your local community?”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Doing too much	7%	1%	9%	10%	7%
The right amount	54	72	39	39	62
Not enough	36	24	50	49	29
Don't know	3	3	2	2	3

When it comes to increasing job opportunities, 68 percent of adults say their local government is not doing enough; just 21 percent say they are doing the right amount. Majorities across parties agree that their local governments are not doing enough, with Democrats (72%) the most likely to express this view. Majorities across demographic groups say local efforts fall short when it comes to job creation, including 88 percent of blacks, 76 percent of Latinos, and 62 percent of both whites and Asians. The share that say local government is not doing enough is higher among those with a high school education or less (74%), those making less than \$80,000 (75% under \$40,000; 70% \$40,000 to under \$80,000), and those who are unemployed (83%) or working part-time (76%).

OBESITY AND HEALTH

Three in four Californians (75%) think obesity is a very serious public health problem. Adults nationwide (57%) were much less likely to express this view in a December 2009 CBS News poll. In California, majorities across political parties say obesity is a very serious problem, but Democrats—at 83 percent—are the most likely to say this. Strong majorities of Californians across regions and demographic groups agree that obesity is a very serious public health problem.

“Please tell me how serious a public health problem you think obesity is, that is, people being seriously overweight in this country.”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Very serious	75%	83%	65%	71%	75%
Somewhat serious	21	14	29	22	21
Not very serious	3	2	4	4	3
Not at all serious	1	–	1	2	1
Don't know	1	1	–	1	–

Nearly all Californians (93%) think obesity is something that can be controlled through diet and exercise. In the CBS News poll, results were similar among adults nationwide (89%). At least nine in 10 Californians across regions and demographic groups think obesity can be controlled. Still, there are differing views about who bears the primary responsibility for addressing this issue. Forty-three percent say individuals and families are responsible, just 2 percent say the public and government, and 54 percent say a combination of both is responsible. Opinions are divided along partisan lines: most Democrats (62%) say addressing obesity is both an individual and government responsibility, while most Republicans (63%) say it's an individual responsibility. Majorities across most demographic groups say it's a shared responsibility. A vast majority of Californians (87%) believe that a person's weight can greatly improve their chances for a long and healthy life and another 10 percent say weight can improve those chances a little. More than eight in 10 across parties, regions, and demographic groups agree.

So how do Californians feel about their own weight? Forty-eight percent would like to lose weight, 45 percent would like to stay at their current weight, and only 6 percent would like to gain weight. In a November 2010 Gallup poll, adults nationwide were more likely to want to lose weight (54%) than stay at their current weight (39%). In California, between 45 and 50 percent across racial/ethnic groups would like to lose weight. Women would prefer to lose weight rather than stay at their current weight (51% to 43%), while men are divided (45% lose weight, 46% stay at current weight). Younger Californians (50%) would prefer to stay at their current weight, while those age 35–54 (53%) and 55 and older (54%) want to lose weight. Of those who would like to lose weight, 62 percent say they are trying to do so through some kind of special effort, such as a diet or exercise program.

“Would you like to lose weight, stay at your current weight, or put on weight?”

	All Adults	Household Income			Gender	
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	Men	Women
Lose weight	48%	47%	49%	50%	45%	51%
Stay at current weight	45	46	44	43	46	43
Put on weight	6	7	6	5	9	4
Don't know	1	–	1	1	–	1

IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING ILLNESS AS A POLICY APPROACH

When provided a brief description of two approaches to health and sickness (“treatment—which seeks to cure sickness” and “prevention—which seeks to prevent sickness”), most Californians (60%) think that health care services in their local communities should give more emphasis to prevention; 13 percent say more emphasis should be given to treatment, while 21 percent say health care services currently have the right balance. Democrats (67%) and independents (63%) are far more likely than Republicans (44%) to prefer a greater emphasis on prevention; 36 percent of Republicans say “right balance.” Across regions and demographic groups, majorities prefer giving more emphasis to prevention.

Most Californians (87%) think health care policies that try to prevent illness play a very (57%) or somewhat (30%) important role in the overall health of residents in their local community. More than three in four across parties, regions, and demographic groups say preventive health policies are very or somewhat important to the health of residents in their community. Democrats (62%) are more likely than independents (54%) or Republicans (45%) to say they are very important. Los Angeles residents (62%) are the most likely—and Central Valley residents (53%) the least likely—to say very important. Blacks (67%) and Latinos (65%) are somewhat more likely than Asians (56%) and whites (53%), and women (62%) are more likely than men (53%) to say this. Of those who say local health services should give more emphasis to prevention, 62 percent say preventive policies are very important.

“Do you think that health care policies which seek to prevent illness play a very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important role in the overall health of residents in your local community?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Very important	57%	62%	45%	54%	57%
Somewhat important	30	29	33	31	30
Not too important	6	4	10	7	6
Not at all important	3	2	7	4	4
Don't know	4	3	5	4	3

Nearly all Californians (91%) say universal children’s health coverage is very (76%) or somewhat (15%) important in preventing illness. Across all parties, regions, and demographic groups, more than eight in 10 consider universal children’s health coverage to be at least somewhat important in preventing illness. The percentage saying it is very important is much higher among Democrats (86%) than among independents (70%) or Republicans (59%). Blacks (89%) and Latinos (87%) are more likely than Asians (72%) and whites (69%) to say universal children’s health coverage is very important in preventing illness. Uninsured residents (86%) are more likely than insured residents (73%) to say very important. The share saying it is very important declines with education and is higher among lower-income residents.

“How important is universal children’s health coverage in preventing illness?”

	All Adults	Race/Ethnicity			
		Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
Very important	76%	72%	89%	87%	69%
Somewhat important	15	23	9	8	19
Not too important	4	3	–	2	5
Not at all important	2	1	–	1	3
Don't know	3	1	2	1	4

REGIONAL MAP



METHODOLOGY

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance from Sonja Petek, project manager for this survey, survey research associates Dean Bonner and Nicole Willcoxon, and survey intern David Ezekiel. This survey was conducted with funding from The California Endowment as part of a grant to study healthy communities. We benefitted from discussions with PPIC staff, The California Endowment staff, Professor Ralph Catalano of U.C. Berkeley, and others; however, the methods, questions, and content of this report were determined solely by Mark Baldassare and the survey staff.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 2,504 California adult residents, including 2,003 interviewed on landline telephones and 501 interviewed on cell phones. Live interviewing took place on weekday nights and weekend days between January 18 and February 1, 2011. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender.

Cell phone interviews were included in this survey to account for the growing number of Californians who use them. These interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as eight times to increase the likelihood of reaching an eligible respondent. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving). Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the potential cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Landline and cell phone interviewing was conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese), Vietnamese, and Korean, according to respondents’ preferences. We chose these languages because Spanish is the dominant language among non-English-speaking adults in California, followed in prevalence by the three Asian languages. Accent on Languages, Inc. translated the survey into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever. Abt SRBI Inc. translated the survey into Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean, and conducted all telephone interviewing.

With assistance from Abt SRBI we used recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2006–2008 American Community Survey (ACS) for California to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California’s adult population. The survey sample was comparable to the ACS figures. Abt SRBI used data from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey and data from the 2006–2008 ACS for California, both to estimate landline and cell phone service in California and to compare the data against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration in the state. The landline and cell phone samples are then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing adjusts for any differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 2.9 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total sample of 2,504 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 2.9 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for subgroups is larger: For the 1,627 registered voters, it is ± 3.2 percent; for the 1,196 likely voters, it is ± 3.6 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

Throughout the report, we refer to five geographic regions that account for approximately 90 percent of the state population. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “San Francisco Bay Area” includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. “Los Angeles” refers to Los Angeles County, “Inland Empire” refers to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and “Orange/San Diego” refers to Orange and San Diego Counties. Residents from other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes for these less populated areas are not large enough to report separately.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites and for Latinos, who account for about a third of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asians, who make up about 13 percent of the state’s adult population, and non-Hispanic blacks, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in another party are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated by their responses to survey questions on voter registration, past voting, and current interest in politics.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to results from surveys conducted by ABC News/*Washington Post*, CBS News, Gallup, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at <http://www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf> and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

CALIFORNIANS AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

January 18–February 1, 2011

2,504 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 2.9\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE

PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?
[code, don't read]
 - 57% jobs, economy
 - 14 state budget, deficit, taxes
 - 7 education, schools
 - 4 immigration, illegal immigration
 - 3 crime, gangs, drugs
 - 3 health care, health costs
 - 9 other
 - 3 don't know
2. Overall, from what you know so far, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?
 - 34% approve
 - 17 disapprove
 - 49 don't know
3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?
 - 24% approve
 - 52 disapprove
 - 24 don't know
4. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?
 - 34% right direction
 - 55 wrong direction
 - 12 don't know
5. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?
 - 34% good times
 - 54 bad times
 - 11 don't know
6. Changing topics, overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by *[rotate]* (1) Congress *[and]* (2) the Obama administration?
 - 51% support
 - 36 oppose
 - 13 don't know
- 6a. Do you think California's health care system is in need of major changes or minor changes or that it is basically fine the way it is?
 - 59% major changes
 - 24 minor changes
 - 11 fine the way it is
 - 6 don't know

6b. As you may know, the state government has an annual budget of around \$85 billion and currently faces a multibillion-dollar gap between spending and revenues. How concerned are you that the state's budget gap will cause significant spending cuts in health and human services?

- 53% very concerned
- 31 somewhat concerned
- 8 not too concerned
- 6 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

7. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, only fair, or poor?

- 22% excellent
- 24 very good
- 35 good
- 13 only fair
- 5 poor
- don't know

8. Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life—are you very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

- 32% very happy
- 47 pretty happy
- 20 not too happy
- 1 don't know

Please tell me whether, on the whole, you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the following aspects of your life.

[rotate questions 9 to 12]

9. How about your housing situation?

- 46% very satisfied
- 34 somewhat satisfied
- 11 somewhat dissatisfied
- 9 very dissatisfied
- don't know

9a. How about your financial situation?

- 21% very satisfied
- 40 somewhat satisfied
- 20 somewhat dissatisfied
- 17 very dissatisfied
- 1 don't know

10. **[of those currently employed]** How about your current job?

- 46% very satisfied
- 36 somewhat satisfied
- 10 somewhat dissatisfied
- 7 very dissatisfied
- don't know

11. How about the quality of life in your local community?

- 36% very satisfied
- 44 somewhat satisfied
- 12 somewhat dissatisfied
- 7 very dissatisfied
- 1 don't know

12. How about the quality of health care you receive?

- 40% very satisfied
- 35 somewhat satisfied
- 12 somewhat dissatisfied
- 10 very dissatisfied
- 2 don't know

Now I'd like to ask how you would rate some of the public services in your local community. For each one, please tell me if you think they are excellent, good, not so good, or poor.

[rotate questions 13 to 17a]

13. How about local police protection?

- 24% excellent
- 54 good
- 14 not so good
- 5 poor
- 3 don't know

14. How about local public schools?

- 15% excellent
- 44 good
- 21 not so good
- 12 poor
- 8 don't know

15. How about local parks and playgrounds?

25% excellent
 54 good
 12 not so good
 5 poor
 4 don't know

16. How about local roads and sidewalks?

12% excellent
 42 good
 30 not so good
 16 poor
 1 don't know

17. How about local medical and health care services?

19% excellent
 53 good
 17 not so good
 5 poor
 5 don't know

17a. How about local grocery stores and restaurants?

30% excellent
 56 good
 10 not so good
 2 poor
 1 don't know

18. How about the performance of your city government in solving local problems? **[note: "local government" if respondent says they do not have a city government]**

7% excellent
 44 good
 30 not so good
 10 poor
 9 don't know

I am going to read you a list of problems other people have told us about. For each, please tell me if you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your local community today.

[rotate questions 19 to 23]

19. How much of a problem are violence and street crime?

23% big problem
 33 somewhat of a problem
 43 not much of a problem
 1 don't know

20. How much of a problem is unemployment?

59% big problem
 29 somewhat of a problem
 9 not much of a problem
 3 don't know

21. How much of a problem are air pollution and other types of environmental pollutants?

23% big problem
 32 somewhat of a problem
 44 not much of a problem
 1 don't know

22. How much of a problem is the lack of grocery stores and restaurants with healthy food choices?

10% big problem
 16 somewhat of a problem
 73 not much of a problem
 1 don't know

23. How much of a problem is the lack of places to safely walk, bike, and get physical exercise?

13% big problem
 21 somewhat of a problem
 66 not much of a problem
 – don't know

Changing topics, I'm going to read some factors that affect people's lives. For each, please tell me if you think it contributes a lot, some, not much, or not at all to the overall health of people in your local community.

[rotate questions 24 to 29]

24. How much does safety from violence and street crime contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?

- 50% a lot
- 26 some
- 16 not much
- 6 not at all
- 1 don't know

25. How much do good jobs contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?

- 60% a lot
- 23 some
- 8 not much
- 6 not at all
- 3 don't know

26. How much does good air quality contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?

- 55% a lot
- 25 some
- 13 not much
- 5 not at all
- 2 don't know

27. How much do healthy food choices in local grocery stores and restaurants contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?

- 50% a lot
- 33 some
- 11 not much
- 4 not at all
- 2 don't know

28. How much do safe options for walking, biking, and getting exercise contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?

- 54% a lot
- 29 some
- 11 not much
- 4 not at all
- 1 don't know

29. How much do good public schools contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?

- 55% a lot
- 24 some
- 11 not much
- 4 not at all
- 5 don't know

Next, for each of the following, please think about the lower-income areas of your region or part of California as compared to the other areas of your region.

[rotate questions 30 to 35]

30. Do you think the lower-income areas of your region have more violence and street crime than the other areas of your region, or not? (**if yes:** Would you say far more or slightly more?)

- 58% yes, far more
- 22 yes, slightly more
- 16 no
- 4 don't know

31. Do you think the lower-income areas of your region have worse air quality than the other areas of your region, or not? (**if yes:** Would you say far worse or slightly worse?)

- 15% yes, far worse
- 17 yes, slightly worse
- 63 no
- 4 don't know

32. Do you think the lower-income areas of your region have fewer local grocery stores and restaurants that offer healthy food choices than the other areas of your region, or not? (**if yes:** Would you say far fewer or slightly fewer?)

- 31% yes, far fewer
- 24 yes, slightly fewer
- 38 no
- 6 don't know

33. Do you think the lower-income areas of your region have fewer parks, playgrounds, and places to safely walk, bike, and get physical exercise than the other areas of your region, or not? (**if yes:** Would you say far fewer or slightly fewer?)

- 35% yes, far fewer
- 25 yes, slightly fewer
- 36 no
- 5 don't know

34. Do you think people in the lower-income areas of your region have less access to quality health care than people in the other areas of your region, or not? (**if yes:** Would you say far less or slightly less?)

- 37% yes, far less
- 23 yes, slightly less
- 34 no
- 6 don't know

35. Do you think the public schools in lower-income areas of your region are worse than the public schools in the other areas of your region, or not? (**if yes:** Would you say far worse or slightly worse?)

- 34% yes, far worse
- 25 yes, slightly worse
- 33 no
- 8 don't know

Next, for each of the following, please think about your preferences for action by local government in your local community.

[rotate questions 36 to 39a]

36. Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to reduce violence and street crime in your local community?

- 6% doing too much
- 50 the right amount
- 42 not enough
- 2 don't know

37. Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to increase job opportunities in your local community?

- 4% doing too much
- 21 the right amount
- 68 not enough
- 7 don't know

38. Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to increase access to healthy foods in your local community?

- 8% doing too much
- 49 the right amount
- 37 not enough
- 6 don't know

39. Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to increase opportunities for walking, biking, and physical exercise in your local community?

- 7% doing too much
- 54 the right amount
- 36 not enough
- 3 don't know

39a. Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to improve the quality of public schools in your local community?

- 5% doing too much
- 36 the right amount
- 53 not enough
- 6 don't know

40. On another topic, there are two approaches to health and sickness. One approach—treatment—which seeks to cure sickness, and another approach—prevention—which seeks to prevent sickness. At the moment, do you think that health care services in your local community have the right balance between treatment and prevention—or should we be giving more emphasis to treatment, or more emphasis to prevention?

- 21% right balance
- 13 more emphasis to treatment
- 60 more emphasis to prevention
- 6 don't know

41. Do you think that health care policies which seek to prevent illness play a very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important role in the overall health of residents in your local community?

- 57% very important
- 30 somewhat important
- 6 not too important
- 3 not at all important
- 4 don't know

42. How important is universal children's health coverage in preventing illness? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 76% very important
- 15 somewhat important
- 4 not too important
- 2 not at all important
- 3 don't know

43. If you read or heard somebody talking about "healthy communities," how well do you feel that you understand what they mean by those two words?

- 39% very well
- 41 somewhat well
- 12 not very well
- 5 not at all
- 3 don't know

44. In general, do you think that conditions in your local community are having a positive effect, a negative effect, or no effect at all on your health? **(If positive or negative ask: Would that be a very or somewhat [positive/negative] effect?)**

- 19% very positive effect
- 30 somewhat positive effect
- 10 somewhat negative effect
- 4 very negative effect
- 34 no effect at all
- 3 don't know

45. Changing topics, please tell me how serious a public health problem you think obesity is, that is, people being seriously overweight in this country—is it very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious?

- 75% very serious
- 21 somewhat serious
- 3 not very serious
- 1 not at all serious
- 1 don't know

46. Which comes closer to your view of obesity—obesity is mostly something that can be controlled by diet and exercise; or, obesity is mostly something that cannot be controlled?

- 93% can be controlled
- 5 cannot be controlled
- 2 don't know

47. Who do you see as most responsible in addressing the issue of obesity in this country—individuals and families, public and government, or a combination of both?

- 43% individuals and family
- 2 public and government
- 54 combination of both
- 1 don't know

48. Would you like to lose weight, stay at your current weight, or put on weight?

- 48% lose weight [ask q48a]
- 45 stay at your current weigh [skip to q49]
- 6 put on weight [skip to q49]
- 1 don't know [skip to q49]

48a. [of those who would like to lose weight] Are you currently trying to lose weight through some kind of special effort on your part such as a special diet or exercise program?

- 62% yes
- 38 no
- don't know

49. How much do you think a person's weight can improve a person's chances of a long and healthy life?

- 87% a lot
- 10 a little
- 2 not at all
- 1 don't know

50. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?

- 66% yes [ask q50a]
- 34 no [skip to q51b]

50a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 44% Democrat [ask q51]
- 32 Republican [skip to q51a]
- 4 another party [specify] [skip to q52]
- 20 independent [skip to q51b]

51. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

- 55% strong
- 42 not very strong
- 3 don't know

[skip to q52]

51a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 55% strong
- 42 not very strong
- 3 don't know

[skip to q52]

51b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 22% Republican Party
- 45 Democratic Party
- 23 neither [volunteered]
- 10 don't know

52. Would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 11% very liberal
- 19 somewhat liberal
- 30 middle-of-the-road
- 22 somewhat conservative
- 13 very conservative
- 4 don't know

53. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics?

- 23% great deal
- 38 fair amount
- 28 only a little
- 10 none
- don't know

[d1-d16: demographic questions]

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