Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Residents’ Perceptions and Attitudes
- Healthy Communities and Policy Preferences
- Conclusions
PPIC Statewide Survey Mission

- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
  - 242,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 100+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and Healthy Communities

- Funded by The California Endowment
- Residents’ perceptions
  - Health care policy; ratings of personal health, quality of life, local community conditions
  - Local problems
- Healthy communities & policy preferences
  - Community impact on health; disparities
  - Local government role, obesity, and prevention
- Telephone interviews, January 18–February 1
  - 2,504 adults; 1,196 likely voters
    - ± 2.9% margin of error for adults
    - ± 3.6% for likely voters
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Direction of California

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

- **All adults**: 34% Right direction, 55% Wrong direction, 12% Don't know
- **Central Valley**: 31% Right direction, 56% Wrong direction, 12% Don't know
- **San Francisco Bay Area**: 39% Right direction, 47% Wrong direction, 14% Don't know
- **Los Angeles**: 34% Right direction, 52% Wrong direction, 15% Don't know
- **Orange/San Diego**: 34% Right direction, 57% Wrong direction, 9% Don't know
- **Inland Empire**: 29% Right direction, 64% Wrong direction, 7% Don't know
- **Likely voters**: 32% Right direction, 56% Wrong direction, 12% Don't know
Overall Approval Ratings

Governor Brown

Approve: 49
Disapprove: 17
Don't know: 34

State Legislature

Approve: 24
Disapprove: 52
Don't know: 24
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 Congress and the Obama administration?

*ABC News/Washington Post poll, January 2011
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**: 100% want some changes
  - Minor changes: 24%
  - Major changes: 59%
- **Dem**: 100% want some changes
  - Minor changes: 27%
  - Major changes: 62%
- **Rep**: 100% want some changes
  - Minor changes: 29%
  - Major changes: 53%
- **Ind**: 100% want some changes
  - Minor changes: 25%
  - Major changes: 61%
- **Likely voters**: 100% want some changes
  - Minor changes: 26%
  - Major changes: 61%
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?
Personal Health Ratings

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

- **Very good**
- **Excellent**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $40,000</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000–$80,000</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insured</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Generally, how would you say things are these days in your life—are you very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

- **All adults**: 47% pretty happy, 32% very happy
- **Under $40,000**: 42% pretty happy, 25% very happy
- **$40,000–$80,000**: 53% pretty happy, 31% very happy
- **$80,000 or more**: 51% pretty happy, 41% very happy
- **Insured**: 47% pretty happy, 35% very happy
- **Uninsured**: 49% pretty happy, 19% very happy
Quality of Life in Local Communities

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 the quality of life in your local community?

- **All adults**: 44% very satisfied, 36% somewhat satisfied
- **Under $40,000**: 46% very satisfied, 26% somewhat satisfied
- **$40,000–$80,000**: 50% very satisfied, 33% somewhat satisfied
- **$80,000 or more**: 37% very satisfied, 53% very satisfied
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...?
Performance of City Government

How about the performance of your city government in solving local problems?

- Excellent/good
- Not so good/poor
- Don't know

% of respondents for different groups:
- All adults: 51% excellent/good, 40% not so good/poor, 9% don't know
- Dem: 54% excellent/good, 41% not so good/poor, 6% don't know
- Rep: 53% excellent/good, 39% not so good/poor, 7% don't know
- Ind: 52% excellent/good, 40% not so good/poor, 8% don't know
- Likely voters: 56% excellent/good, 39% not so good/poor, 5% don't know
Perceived Local Problems

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.

- Unemployment: 59% big problem, 23% somewhat of a problem
- Violence, street crime: 33% big problem, 23% somewhat of a problem
- Air pollution, environmental pollutants: 32% big problem, 23% somewhat of a problem
- Lack of places to walk, bike, get exercise: 21% big problem, 13% somewhat of a problem
- Lack of healthy food choices: 16% big problem, 10% somewhat of a problem
Unemployment in Local Communities

How much of a problem is unemployment?

- Somewhat of a problem
- Big problem

All adults: 29% somewhat of a problem, 59% big problem
Under $40,000: 24% somewhat of a problem, 69% big problem
$40,000–$80,000: 29% somewhat of a problem, 59% big problem
$80,000 or more: 39% somewhat of a problem, 44% big problem
Violence and Street Crime in Local Communities

How much of a problem are violence and street crime?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Somewhat of a problem</th>
<th>Big problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Impact of Local Communities on Health

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Positive effect</th>
<th>Negative effect</th>
<th>No effect at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. How much does ________ contribute to the overall health of people in your local community today?
Contributions to Health: Safety from Violence

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

% saying a lot

- **All adults**: 50%
- **Under $40,000**: 45%
- **$40,000–$80,000**: 53%
- **$80,000 or more**: 60%
Health Care in Lower-income Communities

Do you think 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?

- All adults: 37% Yes, slightly less, 23% Yes, far less
- Asians: 48% Yes, slightly less, 27% Yes, far less
- Blacks: 43% Yes, slightly less, 30% Yes, far less
- Latinos: 48% Yes, slightly less, 25% Yes, far less
- Whites: 33% Yes, slightly less, 19% Yes, far less
Healthy Food Options in Lower-income Communities

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?

- **All adults**: 31% slightly fewer, 24% far fewer
- **Asians**: 21% slightly fewer, 36% far fewer
- **Blacks**: 35% slightly fewer, 35% far fewer
- **Latinos**: 36% slightly fewer, 25% far fewer
- **Whites**: 30% slightly fewer, 20% far fewer
Role of Local Government

For each of the following, please think about your preferences for action by local government in your local community. Do you think your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to ______ in your local community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Doing too much</th>
<th>The right amount</th>
<th>Not enough</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve quality of public schools</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce violence and street crime</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase access to healthy foods</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase opportunities for exercise</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase job opportunities</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Government and Public Schools

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?

% saying not enough

<table>
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<th>Group</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Government and Physical Exercise

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?

% saying not enough

- All adults: 36%
- Asians: 24%
- Blacks: 50%
- Latinos: 49%
- Whites: 29%
Obesity in the United States

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?

% saying very serious

- Adults nationwide*: 57%
- California adults: 75%

*CBS News poll, December 2009
Californians and Their Weight

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Lose weight</th>
<th>Stay at current weight</th>
<th>Put on weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $40,000</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<td>49%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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?

- More emphasis to prevention: 6
- Right balance: 13
- More emphasis to treatment: 21
- Don't know: 60

All adults
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**
  - Somewhat important: 30%
  - Very important: 57%

- **Dem**
  - Somewhat important: 29%
  - Very important: 62%

- **Rep**
  - Somewhat important: 33%
  - Very important: 45%

- **Ind**
  - Somewhat important: 31%
  - Very important: 54%

- **Likely voters**
  - Somewhat important: 30%
  - Very important: 57%
Universal Children’s Health Coverage and Preventive Care

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>69</td>
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- Half support national health care law; majorities worry about state cuts to health and human services
- Californians generally healthy and happy, but perceptions vary across demographic groups
- Local services get high ratings, but most view unemployment, violence, pollution as problems
- Disparities perceived in lower-income areas; opinions vary across demographic groups
- Community factors seen as contributors to health; mixed views on local government’s role
- Obesity seen as a serious problem; preventive health policies are preferred approach
Upcoming PPIC Statewide Surveys

- March
  - Californians and Their Government
- April
  - Californians and Education
- May
  - Californians and Their Government
Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

Mark Baldassare or Sonja Petek: surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.

February 2011