

Surveillance Data Sources: Health Surveys

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a state-based system of health surveys that collects information on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access primarily related to chronic disease and injury. More than 350,000 adults are interviewed each year, making the BRFSS the largest telephone health survey in the world.

<i>Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)</i>	
Performed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By state health departments • Data are collected via phone monthly in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam
Includes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Core Component: Questions that must be asked by all states and cannot be modified. There are three types of Core questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fixed Core questions are asked by all states and include queries about current behaviors that affect health and questions on demographic characteristics. ○ Two sets of Rotating Core questions addressing different topics are asked in alternating years by all states. ○ Up to five test questions can be added to the cores as Emerging Core questions to determine their value in future surveys. 2) Optional Modules: sets of questions on specific topics that states may elect to use on their questionnaires. The modules are optional, but must be used without modification. 3) State-Added Questions: questions that individual states have developed for inclusion. These questions are not funded by the CDC and are not part of the official BRFSS questionnaire.
Relevance to Diabetes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core survey contains diabetes modules • A recently developed optional prediabetes module is also available
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produces state-specific data • Relies on self-reported data, which underestimates prevalence due to undiagnosed medical conditions and individuals not reporting undesirable health status indicators • Data from individuals cannot be linked to Medicare or death records
For More Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/