Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

The Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (KS BRFSS) is coordinated and partially funded by CDC, and is the largest continuously conducted telephone survey in the world. It is carried out in every state, the District of Columbia (DC) and several United States territories. The first BRFSS survey in Kansas was a point-in-time survey in 1990, and Kansas has conducted the BRFSS survey annually since 1992.

Conducted among non-institutionalized adults 18 years and older living in private residences and college housing. The inclusion of cell phone interviews in addition to landline interviews and increasing of cellphone interviews every year helps to reach more people.

Collects more than 10,000 surveys in even years and 20,000 in odd years to produce reliable estimates.

Wide sponsorship by Bureau of Health Promotion, other KDHE programs and non-profit organizations.

Data collected on major health topics, including:

- Health-related behaviors, including tobacco use, alcohol use, physical activity and nutrition
- Chronic conditions, including diabetes, cancer, arthritis, asthma and cardiovascular diseases
- General health and health-related quality of life
- Health care access
- Immunization
- Injury and Seatbelt Use
- Emerging/high priority health issues such as opioid use disorder, mental illness, adverse childhood experiences, access to care, H1N1, and influenza-like illness

KS BRFSS is the only source of population-based data for several public health indicators in Kansas and is used to:

- Plan public health programs
- Identify populations at risk and emerging health problems
- Track health objectives and monitor changes in health risk behaviors and diseases
- Evaluate programs
- Grant making, grant seeking, and funding allocations

Used by health officials, colleges/universities, private organizations and researchers.

Department of Health and Environment
KS Local BRFSS Data

Beginning in 2009, the Kansas BRFSS expanded in response to a growing demand from local health officials for local level health risk statistics. This significant enhancement is made possible by a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF), a private philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans.

Data is available for more than 40 indicators with sub-population data by gender, age, race, ethnicity, education, income, disability, weight category, exercise, smoking and health insurance status.

Kansas BRFSS produces local data for 42 Counties and 16 Public Health Preparedness Regions

“Without this data we would be unable to properly support evidence-based initiatives and measure our performance.”
-Local Health Department Public Information Officer

“The local BRFSS is vital and essential for LHDs to apply for grant funding, planning and providing for the needs of our community.”
-Local Health Department Director

Local BRFSS staff provides training, technical assistance and consultations to LHD administrators, staff and data users on the use and interpretation of data for public health activities and effective ways to tailor the data to meet individual needs.

102 of 105 LHDs have used local Kansas BRFSS data for one or more public health activities:
- Community health assessment and monitoring
- Scientific evidence-based decision making and planning of public health interventions
- Leveraging financial resources
- Monitoring public health programs

Local data are available through:
- An interactive web site
- Various health reports
- Topical fact-sheets
- Presentations
- Special data requests