

California BRFSS At- A- Glance

The California Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a statewide telephone survey in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since 1984. BRFSS monitors self-reported health behaviors and risk factors among non-institutionalized adults aged 18 and older. The data has been used by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), researchers, and various organizations to monitor health and behavioral trends, make decisions on how to prioritize interventions for preventable chronic diseases, and to allocate resources.

What's included in the BRFSS questionnaire?



Core Module:

Standard questions covering a variety of health topics and demographic information.



Optional Modules:

Additional modules provided by CDC and chosen by CDPH on a rotating bases.



State Added Questions:

Questions developed in partnership with collaborators to meet state, local, and program needs.

What kind of data does BRFSS collect?

Demographic Information

• Age, race/ethnicity, income, marital status, education level, and other demographic characteristics.

Risk Behaviors

• Tobacco use, alcohol use, physical activity, and other lifestyle factors.

Chronic Health Conditions

Cancer screening, diabetes, asthma and other chronic diseases.

CDPH and Partners use BRFSS data to:

- Research associations between health behaviors and risk factors.
- Develop and evaluate public health strategies and responses to improve health outcomes and behaviors.
- Apply for grants and develop reports, educational materials, and promote health and preventative health behaviors.
- Address health risks, prevention, and inequities.



For more information, please contact us at brfsshelp@cdph.ca.gov or visit the California Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System website.

*The survey does not collect direct identifiers such as name, phone number, or address, and responses are kept confidential.