Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

- Random-digit dialed survey of non-institutionalized adults (18+)
- Measures health behaviors and outcomes
- Funded by CDC
- In SC since 1984
- Cell phones introduced in 2011
BRFSS

• **Advantages**
  - Weighted for state population
  - Can compare to other states & nation
  - Multiple years of data (1984-2010; 2011-present)
  - Stratification possibilities

• **Limitations**
  - Single year estimates unavailable for small areas
  - Self-report & social desirability biases
BRFSS: 2015 data example

Exercise in past 30 days by body mass index category

- Underweight
- Normal weight
- Overweight
- Obese
BRFSS: 2015 data example

Chronic conditions by race/ethnicity

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Heart attack

Categories:
- Non-Hispanic White
- Non-Hispanic Black
- Other
BRFSS: 2015 data examples

• Ever had any HPV vaccination
  • 7.6% (±1.1%) of males
  • 18.5% (±1.2%) of females

• Among those who lived with a problem drinker/alcoholic before they were 18,
  • 22.6% (±2.2%) of males reported binge drinking in past 30 days
  • 12.4% (±1.3%) of females reported binge drinking in past 30 days
To request BRFSS data

• Contact Chelsea Lynes
  • lynescl@dhec.sc.gov
  • 803-898-1047

• Available
  • Data sets
    • Formal request process
    • Up to three weeks to receive
  • Simple statistics (frequency tables)
    • Informal request process
    • Done within one week
BRFSS

• All South Carolina specific surveys available on DHEC website
(http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/SCPublicHealthStatisticsMaps/BehavioralRiskFactorSurveys/CoreComponentsOfSurvey/)

• CDC BRFSS website:
(http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/)
Children’s Health Assessment Survey (CHAS)

- BRFSS respondents who are eligible
  - indicate they have children living in their home
  - consent to completing CHAS interview

- Called back within one week of BRFSS interview

- Administered in SC since 2012
CHAS

• Advantages
  • Weighted for state population
  • Unique to SC
  • BRFSS and CHAS responses can be linked

• Limitations
  • BRFSS and CHAS respondents not necessarily the same person
  • Self-report & social desirability biases
  • Sample size (<10% of BRFSS)
  • Only statewide estimates available
CHAS: 2015 data example

Obesity by age group

- Ages 2-4
- Ages 5-9
- Ages 10-14
- Ages 15-17
CHAS: 2015 data example

School type by gender

- Public school
- Private school
- Home schooled
- Not in school

Boys vs. Girls
To request CHAS data

- Contact Chelsea Lynes
  - lynescl@dhec.sc.gov
  - 803-898-1047

- Available
  - Data sets
    - Formal request process (linked to BRFSS or not)
    - Up to three weeks to receive
  - Simple statistics (frequency tables)
    - Informal request process
    - Done within one week
Thank you!