



Colorado Child Health Survey

Project Information Sheet

Project overview

The Child Health Survey is a population-based survey that collects data regarding the health status and risk behaviors of children ages one to 14 years old. The survey consists of 6 main topic areas: demographics, access to health and dental care, health status and health behaviors, safety and injury, school policy and health education, mental health and behavioral health, and identification of children with special health care needs.

To reach parents of young children, a random digit dialing telephone survey method is used. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) currently employs this method and once a respondent has completed the BRFSS, the interviewer asks if they have a child in the target age range and their willingness to complete the Child Health Survey. Approximately 10 days later, the parent is called to complete the survey. At the end of the year, all the data are cleaned and weighted to reflect the general population of Colorado children one to 14 years of age.

The project is funded by partners who purchase questions. The Colorado Physical Activity and Nutrition Program of CDPHE and the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center share the cost of questions on nutrition and physical activity.

Benefits to the community

While population-based health surveys existed for new mothers (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System), high school aged youth (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) and adults (BRFSS), before 2004 there was no data collected for children. The Child Health Survey has since filled this data gap.

Accomplishments to date

- Pilot data collection and survey revision was conducted twice in 2003
- Approximately 1000 interviews completed in 2004 and 2005
- A summary report for 2004 is available (www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/pubs/childhealthsurveyRev.pdf) and others are currently drafted
- Some alternate questions are developed for 2007

Advisory Group

The survey was developed by the Health Statistics Section of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) in collaboration with a wide range of partners including Kaiser Permanente, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Div of DHS, Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Injury Control Research Center (CSU), Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center (UCHSC), JFK Partners (UCHSC), Caring for Colorado Foundation, the Colorado Children's Campaign and many programs at the CDPHE.

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