

Title

Lifetime and Current Asthma Prevalence Among Adults, California

Abstract

This dataset contains the estimated percent of California adults with lifetime and current asthma (asthma prevalence), by year. The data are derived from the California Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

Data Sources

The California Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual survey that is a collaboration between the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS monitors health-related factors contributing to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in California's population. It is a statewide, random digit dial telephone survey conducted with adults age 18 and over. Data are collected monthly from a random sample of California non-institutionalized adults. The survey is offered in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese. The sample size and response rate vary annually. BRFSS respondents differ to some extent from the California population by age, sex, and race/ethnicity. As a result, the sample is weighted so that the age, sex, and race/ethnicity composition in the data reflects that of the 2010 California adult population, thereby making the results generalizable to the California adult population. More information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>.

In 2012, the survey methodology of the BRFSS changed significantly so that the survey would be more representative of the general population. Several changes were implemented: 1) the survey included both cell and landline random-digit dial components, 2) residents of college housing were eligible to complete the survey, and 3) new methods were used to calculate the survey weights. *Due to these changes, estimates from 1984 – 2011 are not comparable to estimates from 2012 and beyond.* CDPH and CDC recommend not conducting analyses where estimates from 1984 – 2011 are compared with analyses using the new methodology, beginning in 2012. This includes analyses examining trends and changes over time.

Measures

Asthma prevalence is the percentage of people who have asthma in a specific population during a certain time frame. A person has lifetime asthma if he or she has been diagnosed with asthma by a health care provider at any time in the past; lifetime asthma prevalence is estimated by 'yes' responses to the survey question, "Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had asthma?" A person has current asthma if he or she had a prior diagnosis of asthma and reports still having asthma (not everyone with asthma continues to have asthma symptoms); current asthma prevalence is estimated by including those with both lifetime asthma prevalence *and* 'yes' responses to the survey question, "Do you still have asthma?"