Alzheimer's & Healthy Aging

Description of Organization

The [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)](#) is the nation's premier system of health-related telephone surveys that collect state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services. Established in 1984 with 15 states, BRFSS now collects data in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories. BRFSS completes more than 400,000 adult interviews each year, making it the largest continuously conducted health survey system in the world.[1]

Description of Dataset

This specific dataset contains information on aggregated results (percentages) to specific survey questions relevant to determining the possibility of Alzheimer's or healthy aging. Each row can be thought of as the results to a specific survey question for a specific year and state, filtered by up to three levels of stratification (age range, gender, and race/ethnicity). To better understand this, suppose you have a specific question:

> **Question:** What percentage of adults have a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more?

This question does not take into account year, state, age range (other than adults, who are anyone over the age of 18), gender, or race/ethnicity.

Below is an example of the same question, this time considering specific criteria:

> **New Question:** What is the percentage of ***Hispanic females from the ages of 50-64*** that are currently obese with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more?

To answer this question, you would look for rows where the Topic was related to BMI, StratificationCategory1 is "Age Group" and Stratification1 is "50-64", StratificationCategory2 is "Gender" and Stratification2 is "Female," and so on. To further understand how this dataset is used, review the [CDC's Alzheimer's and Healthy Aging](#) portal, which uses the Aging Data [dataset](#).

Potential Stakeholders

- Alzheimer's advocacy and support groups
- Federal, state and local governing health bodies
- ***Explore the dataset and brainstorm additional potential stakeholders***

Potential Questions

- What states' populations are most at risk of developing Alzheimers?
- Which groups of people show significant signs of developing Alzheimers?

---

[1] https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/

- ***Explore the dataset and brainstorm additional potential questions the data can answer***

Special Considerations

- Very large number of rows, extensive data clean up / reduction is necessary.
- Data may not be completely intuitive at first glance (sorting by specific columns can help make sense of the data and what each row represents).
- Requires some level of transformation before loading to the database you're designing.

Related Links

- [Original data source (data.gov)](#) - ***NOTE:*** *the data on this page may change. You **must** use the file in Canvas for your project.*
- [Data dictionary (CDC)](#)
- [BRFSS](#) - Information about the survey and data collection
- [CDC's Alzheimer's and Healthy Aging](#) - visualizes this data