# Health Risk Behaviors of Kansans:

Results from 2005 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



# Health Risk Behaviors of Kansans 2005

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#### Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Mission

To protect the health and environment of all Kansans by promoting responsible choices.

Through education, direct services and the assessment of data and trends, coupled with policy development and enforcement, KDHE will improve health and quality of life. We prevent illness, injuries and foster a safe and sustainable environment for the people of Kansas.

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# **BRFSS** Overview

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a random digit dial telephone survey among non-institutionalized adults age 18 years and older. In addition, adult respondents provide limited data on a randomly selected child in the household via surrogate interview. The BRFSS is coordinated and partially funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is the largest continuously conducted telephone survey in the world. It is conducted in every state, the District of Columbia, and several United States territories. The first BRFSS survey in Kansas was conducted as a point-in-time survey in 1990, and Kansas has conducted the BRFSS survey annually since 1992.

The 2005 survey consisted of 223 questions and took an average of 17 minutes to complete. Survey topics on the 2005 Kansas BRFSS included: health status, healthy days health related quality of life, health care access, exercise, diabetes, hypertension awareness, cholesterol awareness, cardiovascular disease prevalence, asthma, immunizations, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, demographics, veteran's status, disability, arthritis burden, fruits and vegetables, physical activity, HIV/AIDS, emotional support and life satisfaction, public opinions regarding health (August - December only), random child selection, child immunization supplement-flu vaccination shortage, childhood asthma prevalence, adult asthma history, osteoporosis, arthritis management, chronic joint symptoms and possible arthritis, preventive counseling-skin cancer, epilepsy, falls, environmental factors, outdoor air quality and activity, seatbelts, motor vehicle safety, diabetes accessories, smoking cessation, secondhand smoke policy, secondhand smoke work policy, cardiovascular health, actions to control high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke, durable power of attorney for health care decisions and chronic pain.

The overall goal of the BRFSS is to develop and maintain the capacity for conducting population-based health risk surveys via telephone in Kansas. BRFSS data are used for the following:

- Monitor the leading contributors to morbidity and premature death
- Track health status and assess trends
- Measure knowledge, attitudes, and opinions
- Program planning
  - Needs assessment
  - Development of goals and objectives
  - Identification of target groups
- Policy development
- Evaluation

Data from BRFSS are weighted to account for the complex sample design and nonresponse bias such that the resulting estimates will be representative of the underlying population as a whole as well as for target subpopulations.

For more information about the Kansas BRFSS, including past questionnaires and data results, please visit: <u>http://www.kdheks.gov/brfss/index.html</u>

# Leading Health Indicators

The Healthy People 2010 is a comprehensive nationwide plan consisting of goals and objectives related to health promotion and disease prevention. In Healthy People 2010, Leading Health Indicators are the major public health concerns and were chosen by Healthy People 2010 based on their relevance to broad public health topics and availability of data to measure their progress.

The Leading Health Indicators are:

- Physical Activity
- Overweight and Obesity
- Tobacco Use
- Substance Abuse
- Responsible Sexual Behavior
- Mental Health
- Injury and Violence
- Environmental Quality
- Immunization
- Access to Health Care

This document contains data on the Leading Health Indicators, which were measurable using 2005 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance (BRFSS).

For more information about Healthy People 2010, please visit <u>http://www.healthypeople.gov/</u>

For information about Healthy Kansans 2010, please visit <a href="http://www.healthykansans2010.org/">http://www.healthykansans2010.org/</a>

For more information about Leading Health Indicators, please visit <u>http://www.healthypeople.gov/LHI/</u>

# PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Regular physical activity throughout the lifespan is important in preventing premature death. Regular physical activity can decrease the risk of numerous chronic diseases and conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and certain types of arthritis. Regular physical activity also improves flexibility and joint mobility, decreases body fat, and aids in weight loss and weight maintenance (1).

## Types of Physical Activity

- **Moderate** physical activity involves small increases in heart rate and breathing rate, e.g., walking, gardening, vacuuming, etc.
- **Vigorous** physical activity involves large increases in heart and breathing rate, e.g., running, aerobics, etc.
- Leisure time physical activity is defined as physical activities or exercises, other than the regular job, such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise.

## **Recommendations For Physical Activity**

Recommendations for physical activity have evolved over the years. The first recommendations emphasized vigorous physical activity. Current recommendations emphasize not only vigorous physical activity, but also moderate physical activity and the integration of the two into an individual's lifestyle (2).

#### Physical Activity Levels

- **Recommendation:** Moderate physical activity 30 minutes or more per day, 5 or more days per week OR vigorous physical activity 20 minutes or more per day, 3 or more days per week.
- **Insufficient:** Some activity but not enough to meet the recommendation.
- Inactive: No physical activity.



**Physical Activity Status Among** 

Adults 18 Years and Older









- About 1 in 2 (49%) adults meet the recommendation for physical activity.
- One in four (25%) adults meet the recommendation for vigorous physical activity.
- About 1 in 3 (38%) adults meet the recommendation for moderate physical activity.
- 24% of adults do not participate in leisure time physical activity.



#### Percentage of Adults Not Participanting in Leisure time Physical Activity 2001-2005

## Leisure Time Physical Activity Among Certain Subpopulations

Percentage of Adults Who Do Not Participate in Leisure Time Physical Activity by Race and Ethnicity





- 29% of African American adults and 23% of White adults do not participate in leisure time physical activity.
- 45% of Hispanic adults do not participate in leisure time physical activity.



#### One in four adult females and one in four adult males do not participate in leisure time physical activity.





- Among adults ages 18-24 years, 18% do not participate in leisure time physical activity.
- Among adults ages 65 years and older, 36% do not participate in leisure time physical activity.

#### Leading Health Indicator Physical Activity 2005 Kansas BRFSS

#### Percentage of Adults Who Do Not Participate in Leisure Time Physical Activity by Average Hours Worked



#### Percentage of Adults Who Do Not Participate in Leisure Time Physical Activity by Annual Household Income



 Among adults with an annual household income of less than \$15,000, 40% do not participate in leisure time physical activity.

## Leisure Time Physical Activity and Health Conditions



- Percentage of Adults Who Do Not Participate in Leisure Time Physical Activity by Health Condition
- Two out of five adults living with a disability do not participate in leisure time physical activity.
- Two out of five adults with diabetes do not participate in leisure time physical activity.
- About one-third of adults with hypertension do not participate in leisure time physical activity.

Leading Health Indicator Obesity 2005 Kansas BRFSS

## OBESITY

Poor diet and physical inactivity, risk factors for obesity, are the second actual leading cause of death in the United States (3). Obesity is a condition that raises the risk of morbidity from hypertension, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, and certain types of cancers (4). In Kansas, an estimated \$657 million per year in medical costs is associated with obesity (5).

There are many measurements to assess obesity including body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference. BMI is a weight status indicator which measures weight for height in adults and correlates with total body fat content. While BMI is used in population assessment, BMI is not ideal to assess obesity in individuals who are very muscular or who are under 5 feet tall (6).

A BMI calculator is available at

http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/bmi tbl

**BMI Classifications:** 

- Obese: BMI greater than or equal to 30 kg/m2
- Overweight: BMI 25 to less than 30 kg/m2
- Normal/Underweight: BMI less than 25 kg/m2

30% 24% 23% 23% 23% 22% 21% 25% 19% Percentage 18% 16% 20% 15% 13% 13% 12% 12% 15% 10% 5% 0% 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 Year

- The prevalence of obesity in Kansas has increased by 85% since 1992.
- In 2005, approximately 1 out of 4 adult Kansans are obese.

## **Obesity and Health Conditions**

• One in two adults with diabetes are obese.



#### Percentage of Adults Who Are Obese, 1992-2005

Leading Health Indicator Obesity 2005 Kansas BRFSS

## **Obesity Among Certain Subpopulations**



- More than one-third (37%) of African American adults are obese (BMI  $\ge 30$ ).
- One in four Hispanic adults and one in four Non-Hispanic adults are obese.



• One in four adult males and one in four adult females in Kansas are obese.

Percentage of Adults Who Are Obese by

**Annual Household Income** 



 Among adults with an annual household income less than \$15,000, 30% are obese.

Percentage of Adults Who Are Obese by Age 40% 32% Percentage 28% 26% 30% 22% 19% 15% 20% 10% 0% 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 + Age (in years)

 About one in three (30%) adults ages 55-64 years old are obese.



• One in four adults who work 40 or more hours per week at a job or business are obese.

#### Percentage of Adults Who Are Obese by Average Hours Worked

Leading Health Indicator Tobacco Use 2005 Kansas BRFSS

# TOBACCO USE

In 2000, the leading preventable cause of death in the United States was tobacco, resulting in an estimated 430,000 deaths per year (3). Smoking may complicate health problems and is a risk factor for numerous health problems including coronary heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, stroke, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, low birth weight babies, and cancer of the lung, larynx, mouth, esophagus, and bladder (7). In Kansas, an estimated \$724 million per year in medical costs is associated with smoking (8).

• In 2005, 18% of adult Kansans currently smoke cigarettes.



#### Percentage of Adults by Smoking Status





#### Current Smoking and Health Conditions

• One in five (20%) adults with current asthma currently smoke cigarettes.

#### Percentage of Current Cigarettes Smokers by Health Conditions



## Current Smoking Among Certain Subpopulations

Percentage of Current Smokers by Age



• One in four adults ages 18-24 years currently smoke cigarettes.





19% of adult males and 17% of adult females currently smoke cigarettes.

#### Percentage of Current Smokers by Race and Ethnicity



- About 1 in 4 (27%) adult Kansans who are multi-racial currently smoke cigarettes.
- 16% of adult Hispanics and 18% of adult Non-Hispanics currently smoke cigarettes.



 Among adults who currently work 40 or more hours per week at a job or business, 20% currently smoke cigarettes.

#### Percentage of Current Smokers by Annual Household Income



About one-third (31%) of adults with an annual household income less than \$15,000 currently smoke cigarettes.

Leading Health Indicator Substance Abuse 2005 Kansas BRFSS

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE: ALCOHOL

Alcohol is the third leading actual cause of death in the United States and is estimated to be responsible for approximately 85,000 deaths each year (3). In the United States, over \$100 billion each year is associated with alcohol abuse; 70% of these costs are in the form of lost productivity and 10% for medical treatment (9). Types of alcohol consumption include acute (binge) and chronic (heavy) drinking.

#### Heavy Alcohol Consumption

Heavy alcohol consumption is defined as more than two drinks per day for men and more than one drink per day for women during the past 30 days.

Heavy drinking is associated with a number of chronic health conditions, including chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, gastrointestinal cancers, heart disease, stroke, pancreatitis, depression, and a variety of social problems (10).





#### Binge Drinking

Binge drinking is defined as consumption of five or more drinks on an occasion.

Binge drinking is associated with a number of adverse health effects including: motor vehicle crashes, falls, burns, drowning, hypothermia, homicide, suicide, child abuse, domestic violence, sudden infant death syndrome, alcohol poisoning, hypertension; myocardial infarction, gastritis, Pancreatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, meningitis, and poor control of diabetes (10).



Year

## Heavy Alcohol Consumption and Binge Drinking Among **Certain Subpopulations**

- 6% of 18-24 year old Kansans reported heavy • alcohol consumption during the past 30 days.
- Approximately one in four adults ages 18-24 • years reported binge drinking on an occasion in the past 30 days.

**Heavy Alcohol Consumption and Binge Drinking by Age** 40% Heavy Drinking 30% Binge Drinking Percentage 23% 19% 20% 14% 11% 10% 6% 6% <sub>1%</sub>2% 3% 3% 3% 3%

35-44



#### Heavy Alcohol Consumption and Binge Drinking by Gender

4% of males ages 18 years and • older reported heavy alcohol consumption in the past 30 days.

Age (in years)

45-54

55-64

65 +

18% of males ages 18 years and older binge drank on an occasion in the past 30 days.



0%

18-24

25-34





- Heavy alcohol consumption within the past 30 days was reported by 3% of multiracial and by 3% • of white adults.
- Binge drinking within the past 30 days was reported by about 1 in 6 (17%) multiracial adults.
- Binge drinking was reported by 9% of Hispanic and 13% of non-Hispanic adults.

Leading Health Indicator Immunizations 2005 Kansas BRFSS

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

In 2004, influenza and pneumonia were the 8th leading cause of death in the United States (13). Most of these deaths could have been prevented with proper vaccination. Influenza vaccination is 70-90% effective in preventing illness among healthy adults less than 65 years old. Among healthy adults 65 years and older, the influenza vaccination is 30-40% effective in preventing illness are related death (14).

## Influenza Vaccination (Also Known as Flu Shot)

It is recommended that the following adult groups receive an influenza vaccination every year: (14):

- Adults ages 50 years and older
- Persons ages 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart problems
- Pregnant females
- Adults with children < 6 months in their home
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities
- Health care workers who have direct patient contact
- Out of home caregivers

• Influenza recommendations for children can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr54e713a1.htm







 Two-thirds of adults ages 65 years and older received an influenza vaccination during the past 12 months.





- About one-third (35%) of adults with asthma received an influenza vaccination in the past 12 months.
- Among adults with diabetes, 57% received an influenza vaccination in the past 12 months.

Leading Health Indicator Immunizations 2005 Kansas BRFSS

## Pneumococcal Vaccination (Also Known As Pneumonia Shot)

It is recommended that the following adult groups receive a pneumococcal vaccination (2):

- Adults ages 65 years and older
- Persons ages 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart problems
- Persons ages 2-64 years living in environments or social conditions in which the risk for invasive pneumococcal disease or its complications is increased



\* At risk adults are those who have diabetes, asthma or who are 65 years of age or older.

 In 2005, about more than half (55%) of adults in Kansas who have diabetes, or asthma, or who are 65 years and older have ever received a pneumococcal vaccination.



Percentage of Adults Ages 65 Years and

Percentage of Adults Who Have Received a Pneumococcal Vaccination by Health Condition



- More than two-thirds (67%) of adult Kansans ages 65 years and older reported that they have ever received a pneumococcal vaccination.
- About one-third (37%) of adults with asthma have ever received a pneumococcal vaccination.
- Among adults with diabetes, 57% have ever received a pneumococcal vaccination.

# **ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE:**

Access to health care can be defined as "the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best possible health outcomes", which includes both use and effectiveness of services such as health information and preventive treatment (15). Access to quality care is necessary to eliminate health disparities, increase the number of years of life and increase the quality of life.



 In 2005, 87% of adults ages 18 years and older had some type of health care coverage including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs or governmental plan such as Medicare.

 In 2005, 84% of adults ages 18 years and older had at least one person they think of as their personal doctor or health care provider.



## Health Care Access and Health Conditions

- About 88% adults with asthma and 90% of adults with diabetes have health care coverage.
- Among adults with a disability, 87% have health care coverage.



#### Percentage of Adults 18 Years and Older With Health Care Coverage by Health Condition

## Health Care Access Among Certain Subpopulations

Percentage of Adults 18 Years and Older Who Have Health Care Coverage by Average Hours Worked



• Among adults ages 18 years and older who reported not working any hours at a job or business, 91% have health care coverage.





 71% of adults ages 18 years and older with an annual household income level of less than \$15,000 have health care coverage.

Percentage of Adults Ages 18 Years and Older With Health Care Coverage by Race and Ethnicity



- About two-thirds (65%) of adults ages 18 years and older who are Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, American Indian or other have health care coverage.
- 55% of Hispanics ages 18 years and older have health care coverage.



Percentage of Adult 18 Years and Older With Health Care Coverage by Age

 74% of Kansans ages 18-24 years have some type of health care coverage compared to 98% of Kansans ages 65 years and older who have some type of health care coverage.

Percentage of Adults Ages 18 Years and Older Who Have Health Care Coverage by Gender



• About 4 in 5 men and women ages 18 years and older have health care coverage.

## Medical Costs

In 2005, 12% of adult Kansans ages 18 years and older who needed to see a doctor in the past 12 months but could not because of the cost.



 About 1 in 4 (28%) of Kansans ages 18 years
and older with an annual income less than \$15,000 needed to see a doctor during the past 12 months but could not because of the cost.





9% of Kansans ages 18 years and older who reported not working any hours per week at a job or business needed to see a doctor during the past 12 months but could not because of the cost.

#### Percentage of Adults Ages 18 Years and Older Who Needed to See a Doctor But Could Not Because of the Cost by Race and Ethnicity



#### **Race and Ethnicity**

- About 1 in 4 African Americans and 1 in 4 adults with more than one race needed to see a doctor during the past 12 months but could not because of the cost.
- About 1 in 4 (26%) Hispanics and 11% of Non-Hispanics needed to see a doctor during the past 12 months but could not because of the cost.



• 10% of males and 14% of females ages 18 years and older needed to see a doctor during the past 12 months but could not because of the cost.

# ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AMONG ADULTS: 18 – 64 YEARS OLD:



 In 2005, 84% of adults ages 18-64 years had some type of health care coverage including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs or governmental plan such as Medicare.

Health Care provider Status Among Adults Ages 18 - 64



# years had at least one person they think of as their personal doctor or health care provider.

In 2005, 81% of adults ages 18-64

## **Medical Costs**

In 2005, 14% of adult Kansans ages 18 - 64 years who needed to see a doctor in the past 12 months but could not because of the cost.

## Health Care Access and Health Conditions

- About 4 in 5 adults ages 18 –64 years with diabetes and current asthma have health care coverage.
- Among adults ages 18-64 with a disability, 82% have health care coverage.



#### Percentage of Adults 18-64 Years With Health Care Coverage by Health Condition

## Health Care Access Among Certain Subpopulations



 Among adults ages 18 – 64 years who re ported not working any hours at a job or business, 80% have health care cover-



About two-thirds (63%) of adults ages 18 - 64 years with an annual household income level of less than \$15,000 have health care coverage.





- About two-thirds (63%) of adults ages 18 64 years who are Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, American Indian or other have health care coverage.
- About half (53%) of Hispanics ages 18 64 years have health care coverage.



Percentage of Adults Ages 18 - 64 Years

 74% of Kansans ages 18-24 years have some type of health care coverage compared to 92% of Kansans ages 55 – 64 years.



 About 4 in 5 men and women ages 18 - 64 years have health care coverage.

# Featured Issues in 2005

Featured issues are public health topics, which are not leading health indicators but are public health concerns in the state of Kansas. These issues were selected based on disease prevalence, public health impact, and availability of data in the 2005 Kansas BRFSS survey.

To view other health topics not featured in this report, please visit: <u>http://www.kdheks.gov/brfss/Questionnaires/quest2005.html</u>

Featured Issue Osteoporosis 2005 Kansas BRFSS

# **OSTEOPOROSIS**

Osteoporosis is a disease that causes bones to lose mass and become brittle, which can lead to rounded shoulders, loss of height, and bone fractures (16). In the United States, an estimated 10 million adults over the age of 50 years have osteoporosis (17). In United States, average annual direct care expenditure for osteoporosis related fractures was approximately \$15 billion per year. Risk Factors for Osteoporosis

The amount of bone mass a person has as a young adult and the rate at which it is lost with increasing age determines a person's risk for osteoporosis (16). There are many factors associated with osteoporosis: Low calcium intake, physical activity, more than 2 alcoholic drinks per day (heavy alcohol consumption), tobacco use, use of cortisone or thyroid hormones, reduced levels of estrogens, heredity, anorexia nervosa or bulimia, and female gender.

- 5% of Kansans ages 18 years and older have doctor diagnosed osteoporosis.
- About 12% of adults over the age of 50 years have osteoporosis.
- About 18% of adults ages 65 years and older have osteoporosis.
- About 9% of women ages 18 years and older have osteoporosis.
- About 5% of Non-Hispanics, 5% of Whites and 6% of adults who are multiracial have osteoporosis.
- About 11% of adults whose annual income is less than \$15,000 have osteoporosis.

## Osteoporosis and Health Conditions

- Among Kansans with Arthritis, 13% have osteoporosis.
- Among Kansans living with a disability, 12% have osteoporosis.







Percentage of Adults 18 Years and

Older Who Have Osteoporosis, 2005

95%

## Falls and Osteoporosis

For individuals with Osteoporosis, falls increase their risk of fracturing bones (17).

#### Percentages of Falls and Injuries During the Past Three Months Among Adults Ages 50 Years and Older With and Without Osteoporosis



- The prevalence of falls during the past three months is higher among adults ages 50 years and older with osteoporosis (18%) as compared to the adults ages 50 years and older without osteoporosis (11%).
- The prevalence of injury during the past three months is higher among adults ages 50 years and older with osteoporosis (44%) as compared to the adults ages 50 years and older without osteoporosis (27%).

Featured Issue Public Opinion on Seat Belt Laws 2005 Kansas BRFSS

# PUBLIC OPINION ON SEAT BELT LAWS

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury deaths among children and young adults in the United States (18). Each year motor vehicle crashes claim the lives of approximately 41,000 Americans (19). Motor vehicle crashes also result in approximately 500,000 hospitalizations and 4 million emergency visits yearly in the United states (19). Annually, society bears approximately \$150 billion yearly, including \$52.1 billion in property damage, \$42.4 billion in lost productivity, and \$17 billion in medical expenses (19).

## Most Effective Factor for Reducing Fatal and Nonfatal Injuries in Motor Vehicle Crashes

Among many factors, the use of a safety belt is identified as the single most effective means of reducing fatal and nonfatal injuries in motor vehicle crashes (20). According to the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, lap and shoulder belts shown to be 45% effective at reducing fatalities in passenger cars and 50% to 83% effective at reducing serious injuries to the head, chest, and extremities (19).

## Public Opinion on Laws Requiring Drivers and Front Seat Passengers to Wear Seat Belts



## **Opinions About These Laws Among Certain Subpopulations**

About 3 in 4 adults favor these

About 16% adults favor these

Only 8% of adults do not favor

Only 1% don't know/not sure

laws to some extent.

about these laws.

•

•

•

laws a lot.

these laws.

- Higher percentage of females (83%) as compared to males (67%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of those with more than high school education (81%) as compared to those with high school or less education (72%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of those with annual income \$75,000 or more (82%) as compared to those with less than \$35,000 (72%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of urban dwellers (79%) as compared to rural dwellers (68%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of Hispanics (87%) as compared to Non-Hispanics (75%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of those ages 65 years and older (81%) as compared to those 18-64 years of age (74%) favor these laws.

Featured Issue Public Opinion on Seat Belt Laws 2005 Kansas BRFSS

## Public Opinion on Laws Requiring Back Seat Adult Passengers to Wear Seat Belts

- The question regarding opinion on laws requiring back seat adult passengers to wear seat belt was asked among those adults who responded in favor of laws that require drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts.
- About 4 in 5 (79.5%) adults who favor the of laws that require drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts think that such laws should also be applied to back seat adult passengers.
- About 15% of these adults do not favor the laws for back seat passengers.
- About 6% don't know/not sure about these laws.

Opinions of Adult Kansans Regarding Laws Requiring Back Seat Adult Passengers to Wear Seat Belts 5.7% 14.8% 14.8% Do Not Favor Laws Don't Know/Not Sure

Note: Opinions regarding laws requiring back seat adult passengers to wear seat belts are asked among respondents who favor laws that require drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts.

79.5%

## **Opinions About These Laws Among Certain Subpopulations**

- Higher percentage of Hispanics (93%) as compared to Non-Hispanics (79%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of those with annual income \$75,000 or more (84%) as compared to those with less than \$35,000 (80%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of non-smokers (81%) as compared to current smokers (69%) favor these laws.

## Public Opinion on Laws Regarding the Primary Enforcements of Seat Belt Laws by Police Officers

- When asked about the laws that allow a police officer to stop a vehicle if they observe a seat belt violation when no other traffic laws are broken, slightly more than half (52%) of the adult Kansans responded that they think police officers should be allowed to enforce such laws.
- Another 42% responded that police officers should not be allowed to enforce such laws.
- About 5% of adults reported either don't know or not sure about these laws.

Opinions of Adults 18 Years and Older Regarding the Primary Enforcement of Seat Belt Laws by Police Officers



## Opinions About These Laws Among Certain Subpopulations

- Higher percentage of females (58%) as compared to males (47%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of those with more than high school education (58%) as compared to those with high school or less education (49%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of those with annual income \$75,000 or more (61%) as compared to those with less than \$35,000 (48%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of Hispanics (69%) as compared to Non-Hispanics (51%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of smokers (55%) as compared to non-smokers (44%) favor these laws.
- Higher percentage of non-heavy drinkers (53%) as compared to heavy drinkers (29%) favor these laws.

## Summary - Opinions of Adult Kansans Regarding Seat Belt laws

Kansans have an overwhelming support for seat belts laws that : (a) require drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts, and (b) require back seat passengers to wear seat belts. On laws regarding primary enforcement of seat belts, adult Kansans had a divided opinion with approximately 52% in favor of this laws.

# **Technical Notes**

#### Questionnaire Design

The survey consists of three sections:

- Core questions are asked by all states. The order the questions appear and the wording of the questions are fairly consistent across all states. Types of core questions include fixed, rotating, and emerging health issues.
  - Fixed core: contains questions that are asked every year. Fixed core topics include health status, health care access, healthy days, life satisfaction, emotional satisfaction, disability, tobacco use, alcohol use, exercise, immunization, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, asthma, and cardiovascular disease.
  - Rotating core: contains questions asked every other year.
    - Odd years (2005, 2007, 2009, etc): fruits and vegetables, hypertension awareness, cholesterol awareness, arthritis burden, and physical activity.
    - Even years (2006, 2008, 2010, etc): women's health, prostate screening, colorectal cancer screening, oral health and injury.
  - Emerging Health Issues: contains late breaking health issue questions. At the end of the survey year, these questions are evaluated to determine if they should be a part of the fixed core.
- Optional Modules include questions on a specific health topic. The CDC provides a pool of questions from which states may select. States have the option of adding these questions to their survey. The CDC's responsibilities regarding these questions include development of questions, cognitive testing, and financial support to states to include these questions on the questionnaire, data management, limited analysis and quality control.
- State added questions are based on public health needs of each state. State added questions include questions not available as supported optional modules in that year or emerging health issues that are specific to each state. Any modifications made to the CDC support modules available in that year make the module a state added module. The CDC has no responsibilities regarding these questions.

Each year, stakeholders are invited to attend an annual planning meeting and propose optional modules and state added questions to be added to the survey. Then, a survey selection committee consisting of the BRFSS Coordinator, Director of Science and Surveillance/Health Officer II, and Office of Health Promotion Director meet to determine the questionnaire content. The survey selection committee uses a specific set of criteria to determine the questionnaire's content.

#### Sampling

The 2005 BRFSS was conducted using a disproportionate stratified sampling method. This method of probability sampling involved assigning sets of one hundred telephone numbers with the same area code, prefix and first two digits of suffix and all possible combinations of the last two digits ("hundred blocks") into two strata. Those hundred blocks that have at least one known listed household number are designated high density (also called "one-plus block"); hundred blocks with no known listed household numbers are designated low density ("zero blocks"). The high-density stratum is sampled at a higher rate than the low-density stratum resulting in greater efficiency. Approximately the same number of households is called each month throughout the calendar year to reduce bias caused by seasonal variation of health risk behaviors.

Potential working telephone numbers were dialed during three separate calling periods (daytime, evening, and weekends) for a total of 15 call attempts before being replaced. Upon reaching a valid household number, one household member ages 18 years and older was randomly selected. If the selected respondent was not available, an appointment was made to call at a later time or date. Because respondents were selected at random and no identifying information was solicited, all responses to this survey were anonymous. In 2005, 8,626 residents of Kansas were interviewed.

#### Response Rate

The CASRO (Council of American Survey Research Organizations) response rate for the 2005 Kansas BRFSS survey was 61.59%. The CASRO formula is based on the number of interviews completed, the number of households reached, and the number of household with unknown eligibility status. The CASRO response rate is used because in addition to those persons who refused to answer questions, lack of response can also arise because household members were not available despite repeated call attempts, or household members refused to pick up the phone based on what they discern from caller ID.

#### Limitations

As with any research method, the BRFSS has limitations.

- BRFSS is conducted among non-institutionalized adults residing in the private residences with land lines for telephones, therefore it excludes individuals without telephone service, those on military bases, and individuals in institutions.
- All information is self reported which may introduce bias such as recall bias, reporting bias, etc.
- Due to the sampling and population rate, it is often difficult to obtain subpopulation data such as county level data or data on minorities.

• BRFSS is not ideal for low prevalence conditions.

#### Weighting Procedures

Weighting is a process by which the survey data are adjusted to account for unequal selection probability and response bias and to more accurately represent the population from which the sample was drawn (to generate population-based estimates for the states and counties. The response of each person interviewed were assigned a weight which accounted for the density stratum, the number of telephones in the household, the number of adults in the household, non-response, non-coverage of households without telephones and the demographic distribution of the sample.

#### **Estimates**

Data results from the BRFSS are estimates of the real population prevalence. To account for sampling error and for the accuracy of the estimate, we calculate 95% confidence intervals. A confidence interval contains an upper and lower limit. We are 95% confident that the true population percentage is between the lower limit and the upper limit. The smaller the range between the lower limit and upper limit, the more precise the estimated percentage is. In other words, the narrower the confidence interval, the better.

#### Split Questionnaire

To accommodate increasing data needs, the Kansas BRFSS used a split questionnaire in 2005. CDC optional modules and state added questions are organized by topics into two sections: questionnaire A and questionnaire B. All 8,626 respondents answered questions from the core section. Then each telephone number was randomly assigned to questionnaire A and questionnaire B prior to being called. Approximately half of the respondents received questionnaire A and the remaining receive questionnaire B, (i.e. approximately 4,000 respondents for each questionnaire).

#### Advantages of a split questionnaire:

- Collect data on numerous topics within one data year
- Collect in-depth data on one specific topic
- Ability to keep questionnaire time and length to a minimum

#### Disadvantages of a split questionnaire:

- Complexity of data weighting; additional weighting factors are needed
- Variables on questionnaire A cannot be analyzed with variables on questionnaire B

#### Analysis of split questionnaire:

The sample size for each split of the questionnaire is approximately half of the total sample size. As mentioned above, each respondent is randomly assigned to questionnaire A or to questionnaire B. The questions regarding certain conditions are included in the core section (e.g., asthma, disability, high blood pressures, etc.). State added questions and optional modules for these conditions are included on questionnaire A or questionnaire B. Therefore, these additional questions on a specific health condition are asked from respondents who are assigned to that particular split questionnaire. This resulted in approximately half of the respondents who were identified with a particular condition from the core section responding to additional questions on the specific condition. Also, the number of adults with the specific health condition may vary on each question due to respondents terminating at various points in the survey.

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