

Sources for Alaska Obesity-Related Surveillance Data

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Description

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of an epidemiological surveillance system that was established in 1990 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Alaska has participated since 1995. The purpose of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is to help monitor the prevalence of behaviors that put Alaskan youth at risk for the most significant health and social problems that can occur during adolescence and adulthood, in order to assist in prevention and intervention planning and evaluation. The YRBS survey is an anonymous, paper-and-pencil, school-based survey of high school students administered every other year. The YRBS program is administered in Alaska by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Website <http://www.hss.alaska.gov/dph/chronic/school/YRBS.htm>

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Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Description

The State of Alaska began the Standard BRFSS in 1991 as a point-in-time study and has continued yearly since. The Alaska BRFSS is a collaborative project between the CDC and the Alaska Division of Public Health. Trained interviewers call randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers across Alaska to collect data using the BRFSS questionnaire. The survey asks adults age 18 and older questions about lifestyle habits which may shape health; the survey is voluntary and anonymous. Indicators from the Standard BRFSS survey are combined with data from a second survey, the Alaska Supplemental BRFSS when possible. This second survey was state developed and is funded by the Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program and focuses largely on tobacco use and attitudes. It has been collected in Alaska since 2004. Combining the Supplemental BRFSS survey with the Standard BRFSS allows for a larger sample size for analysis and more stable estimates. The BRFSS data have proven to be instrumental in formulating policy, proposing legislation for health initiatives and to focus resources on emergent and critical health concerns.

Website <http://www.hss.alaska.gov/dph/chronic/hsl/brfss/>

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Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

Description

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a survey of mothers of newborns that has been on-going in Alaska since 1990. PRAMS is a collaborative project between the CDC and the Alaska Division of Public Health. It collects all kinds of information about behaviors and circumstances of Alaskan mothers and their infants surrounding the pregnancy and postpartum period. Sampled mothers are asked to participate by mail. Phone interviews are attempted with women who do not respond by mail. Outside of what Vital Records can provide, PRAMS is the premier source of population-based data on maternal and infant issues for Alaska. Unintended births, breastfeeding, domestic violence, prenatal substance use, and depression are some of the topics covered in PRAMS.

Website <http://www.epi.alaska.gov/mchepi/prams/>

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Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS)

Description

The Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS) is a three-year follow-up survey to PRAMS. CUBS attempts follow-up with all mothers living in Alaska who completed PRAMS and whose infant was living with them at that time. The CUBS program began sending out surveys in 2006. Phone interviews are attempted with women who do not respond by mail. Topics covered on CUBS include child development, nutrition and eating habits, general and specialized health care utilization and access, and child care, as well as items specific to maternal experiences.

Website <http://www.epi.alaska.gov/mchepi/cubs/>

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Alaska Student Weight Status Surveillance System (SWSSS)

Description

SWSSS is comprised of Alaska student weight status data obtained voluntarily from a combination of Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) grantee school districts and other districts that have contributed their data as a means of monitoring obesity trends. Participating school districts provide DHSS de-identified student data (i.e., measured height and weight, age, and sex). DHSS conducts the analysis to generate body mass index (BMI), BMI percentile, and the associated weight status classifications of underweight, healthy weight, overweight and obese.

Website <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Chronic/Pages/Obesity/weightstatus.aspx>

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Alaska School Health Profiles (Profiles)

Description

The School Health Profiles (Profiles) is a system of surveys assessing school health policies and practices in Alaska. Profiles surveys are conducted every 2 years by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services among middle and high school principals and lead health education teachers. The Profiles monitors the status of: school health education requirements and content ; physical education and physical activity; school health policies related to HIV infection/AIDS, tobacco-use prevention, and nutrition; asthma management activities; family and community involvement in school health programs; and school health coordination.

Website **n/a. Results available by request**

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