

Folic Acid Surveillance Surveys

Vermont (Updated 11/2012)

Criteria	Comments
Title of the state or local Folic Acid Survey	Vermont Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
Geographic area covered	Vermont statewide
Contact information at BDR	
Name of person:	Peggy Brozicevic
Agency:	Vermont Department of Health
State:	Vermont
Email address:	peggy.brozicevic@state.vt.us
Phone:	802-863-7298 
Survey sample size:	approximately 1100 per year
General description of survey or dataset (target population, frequency of administration, years covered, data collection methods, reason for data collection)	This is an ongoing survey of women who have recently given birth. Datasets are weighted and analysed annually. Data collection in Vermont began in 2001. PRAMS is primarily a mail survey with phone follow-up for non-responders. The purpose of the survey to collect information about the behaviors and experiences of women before, during and shortly after pregnancy.
Cost of survey	Folic acid questions are incorporated into the general survey, so no additional cost.
Questions included in the survey (most current, changes over time, state specific changes)	The questions include whether the woman was taking a multivitamin or folic acid vitamin in the month before she got pregnant, and if so, how often; if the woman is taking a taking a multivitamin postpartum (at the time she completes the survey. Over the years additional state-added questions have been asked, including reasons for not taking a multivitamin, what would encourage them to take a multivitamin (e.g. doctor's advice), a knowledge question as to why a woman should take a multivitamin; and whether a health care provider recommended that they take a multivitamin.
Uses of data	Results have been used to assess how many women are taking a multivitamin prior to their pregnancy and after (in preparation for a subsequent pregnancy) and how that is changing over time; reasons why women don't take a multivitamin; what would encourage them to take a multivitamin; and assess knowledge that folic acid is taken to prevent birth defects. These results have been used in planning campaigns to encourage more women to take a multivitamin before pregnancy, and identifying target populations.
Results/Summary (may including links to reports or published articles)	The percent of women taking a multivitamin before pregnancy has increased over time and was 54% in 2010. This varies by age, education, etc.
Web site address (if available)	http://healthvermont.gov/research/PRAMS/prams.aspx
Comments (limitations, lessons learned)	Because of funding limitations VERmont no longer asks the folic acid questions on the BRFS. Likewise, Vermont no longer conducts a pre-post intervention survey of low income women.