


Folic Acid Surveillance Surveys

National Health Care Professional Survey (2004)

Title	Knowledge and Practice of Folic Acid among Health Care Professionals
Geographic Area Covered	National Coverage
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Sample Size	OB/GYN: 362 FP: 249 CNM: 200 NP: 101 PA: 55 RN: 144
General Description (target population, frequency of administration, years covered, data collection methods, reason for data collection)	Target Population: Physicians and non-physician providers who provide direct patient care to women of reproductive age Frequency: Annual with alternate years being physicians and then non-physicians commencing in 2002 Data collection methods: Random sample telephone survey Reason for data collection: To determine knowledge of various aspects of folic acid and recommendation patterns among health care professionals
Cost	~ \$85,000-90,000
Questions Included (most current, changes over time, state specific changes)	Questions covered include: Issues addressed at a well-woman exam; perceived nutritional requirements and perceived benefits of folic acid; appropriate time to consume folic acid; information and communication resources
Uses of Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care provider education • NCFCA Programming activity
Results/Summary (including published articles)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The studies demonstrate the need to continue and expand efforts to educate providers of health services among reproductive age women about folic acid. 2. A unified message focused on the role of a multivitamin and diet for female adults of all ages may be most effective in addressing this issue among both providers and consumers. 3. Folic acid use could increase and neural tube defects decrease if providers promoted the folic acid message at every available opportunity. <p>Several oral presentations and posters have been completed. A manuscript on the 2002 data has been prepared for publication.</p>
Web site address (if available)	None
Comments (limitations, lessons learned)	Attempting to influence and change behavior among health care professionals regarding the recommendation of folic acid to women of childbearing age will be a time-consuming effort.