

## Folic Acid Surveillance Surveys

Massachusetts (Updated 10/2012)

Criteria	Comments						
Title of the state or local Folic Acid Survey	Massachusetts BRFSS						
Geographic area covered	Statewide						
Contact information at BDR							
Name of person:	Cathleen Higgins						
Agency:	MA Dept Public Health						
State:	MA						
Email address:	<a href="mailto:cathleen.higgins@state.ma.us">cathleen.higgins@state.ma.us</a>						
Phone:	(617) 624-5510						
Survey sample size:	2000: 2,010 women aged 18-44; 2,534 women aged 18-49 2004: 2,534 women aged 18-44; 2,968 women aged 18-49						
General description of survey or dataset (target population, frequency of administration, years covered, data collection methods, reason for data collection)	Standard BRFSS questions and methodology used. Folic acid and vitamin questions administered in 2000 and 2004.						
Cost of survey	Last annual contract (for 2012) was more than \$1,000,000. Cost goes up every year due to increase in sample size (overall sample of 4,000 in 2000 v 20,000 in 2012) and such changes as implementation of multimodal survey (cellphone and landline users, mail survey, etc.)						
Questions included in the survey (most current, changes over time, state specific changes)	Standard module						
Uses of data	Birth Defects annual report since 2003						
Results/Summary (may including links to reports or published articles)	MA BRFSS 2004 <table border="0"> <tr> <td>% recognize correct reason to take folic acid</td> <td>% take folic acid daily</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women 18-49 yrs 63.8% (58.9% ~ 68.6%)</td> <td>51.6% (47.4% ~ 55.9%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women 18-44 yrs 63.5% (58.1% ~ 69.0%)</td> <td>50.5% (45.7% ~ 55.3%)</td> </tr> </table>	% recognize correct reason to take folic acid	% take folic acid daily	Women 18-49 yrs 63.8% (58.9% ~ 68.6%)	51.6% (47.4% ~ 55.9%)	Women 18-44 yrs 63.5% (58.1% ~ 69.0%)	50.5% (45.7% ~ 55.3%)
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Web site address (if available)	Link to surveillance reports which publish folic acid awareness and use by maternal age: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/family-health/birth-defect/monitoring/surveillance-reports.html">http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/family-health/birth-defect/monitoring/surveillance-reports.html</a>						
Comments (limitations, lessons learned)	Due to resource issues, have not included folic acid/multivitamin modules in later years of BRFSS.						