



Getting to know BRFSS

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ADH GIS Users Group

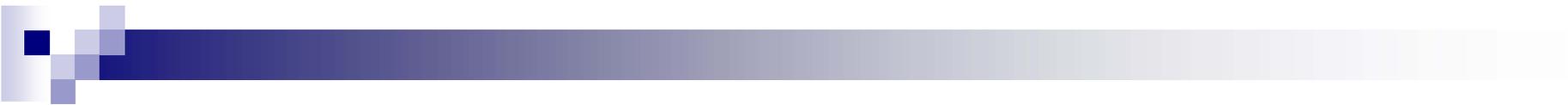




Objectives

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe the purpose of BRFSS
- Understand and utilize the BRFSS
- Identify two topics of personal interest
- Discuss BRFSS data mapping resources

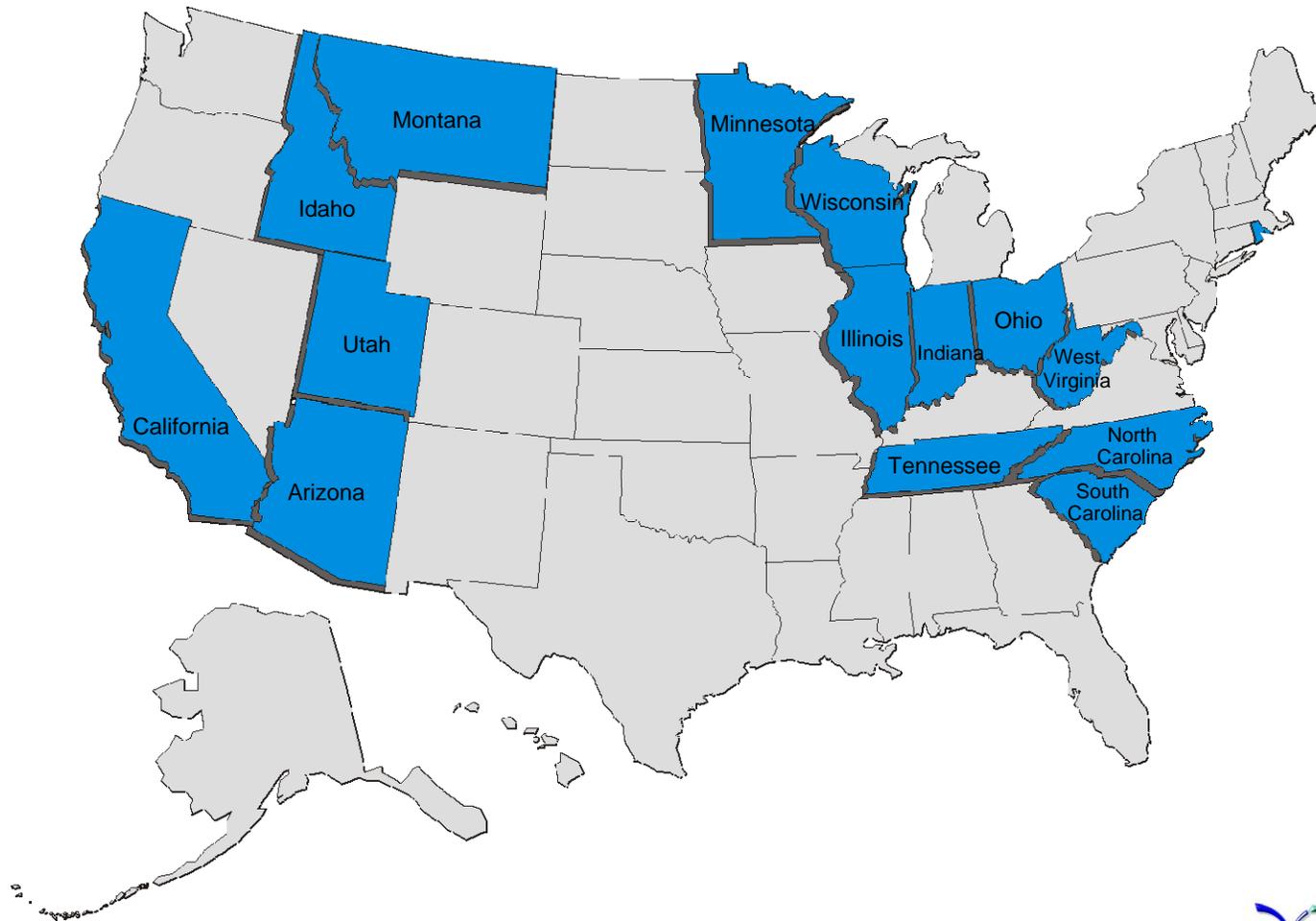


What is BRFSS?

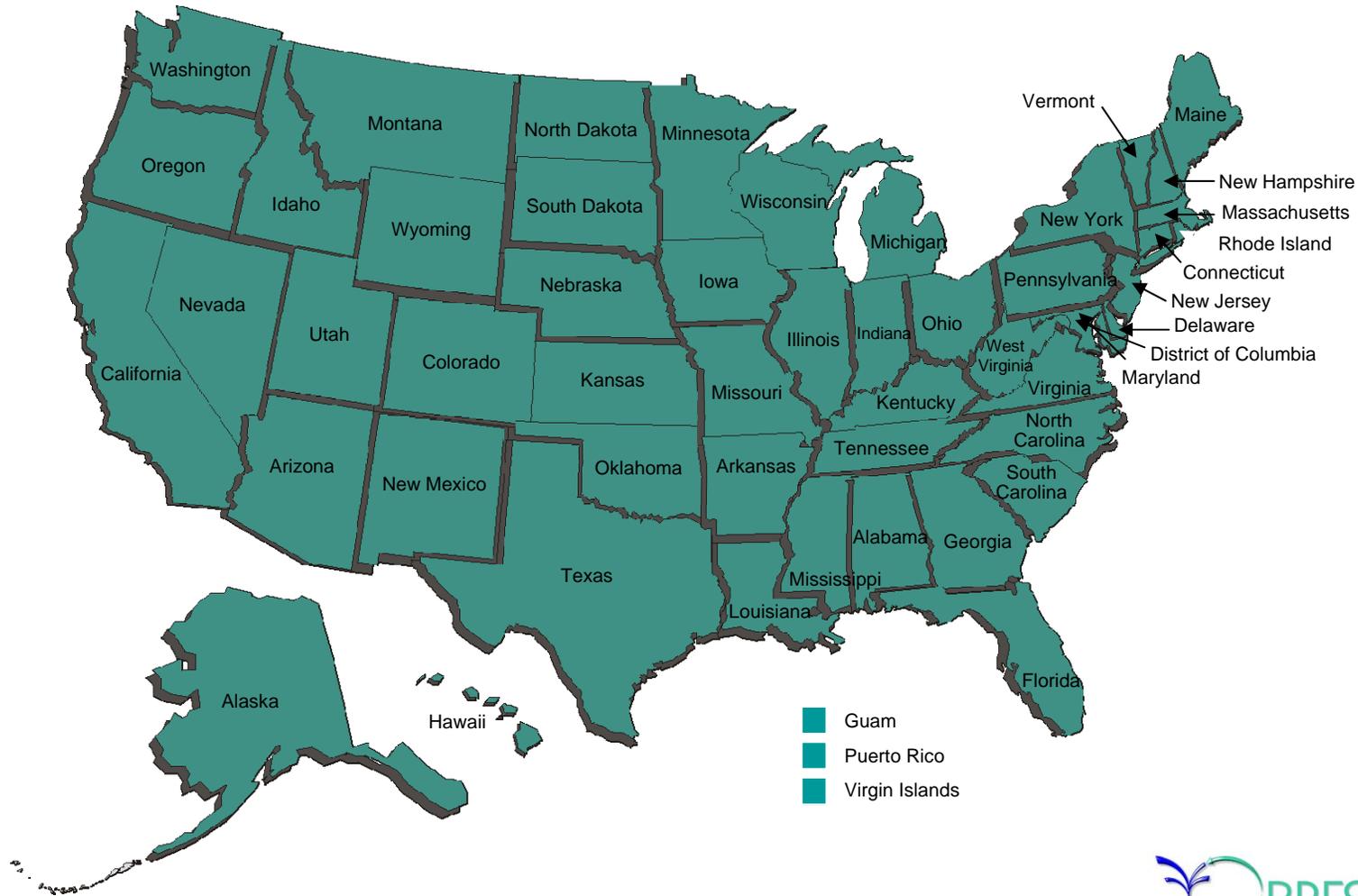
- **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System**
- Random digit dial telephone survey
- Adults ages 18 and older
- Measures behaviors that put health at risk
- Collaboration between CDC and States
- Arkansas BRFSS since 1991



BRFSS in the U.S., 1984



BRFSS in the U.S., 1997 - Present





Who Uses BRFSS Data?

- State and Local Health Departments
- Healthcare Professionals
- Federal Agencies
- Students & Researchers
- Media
- Epidemiologists
- Community health program planners



How are BRFSS Data Used?

- Assess health needs of the population
- Implement, evaluate and improve public health strategies
- Identify health disparities
- Prepare grant proposals
- Publish scientific articles in professional journals
- Inform Policymakers
- Track Healthy People 2010 Progress



BRFSS Survey Process

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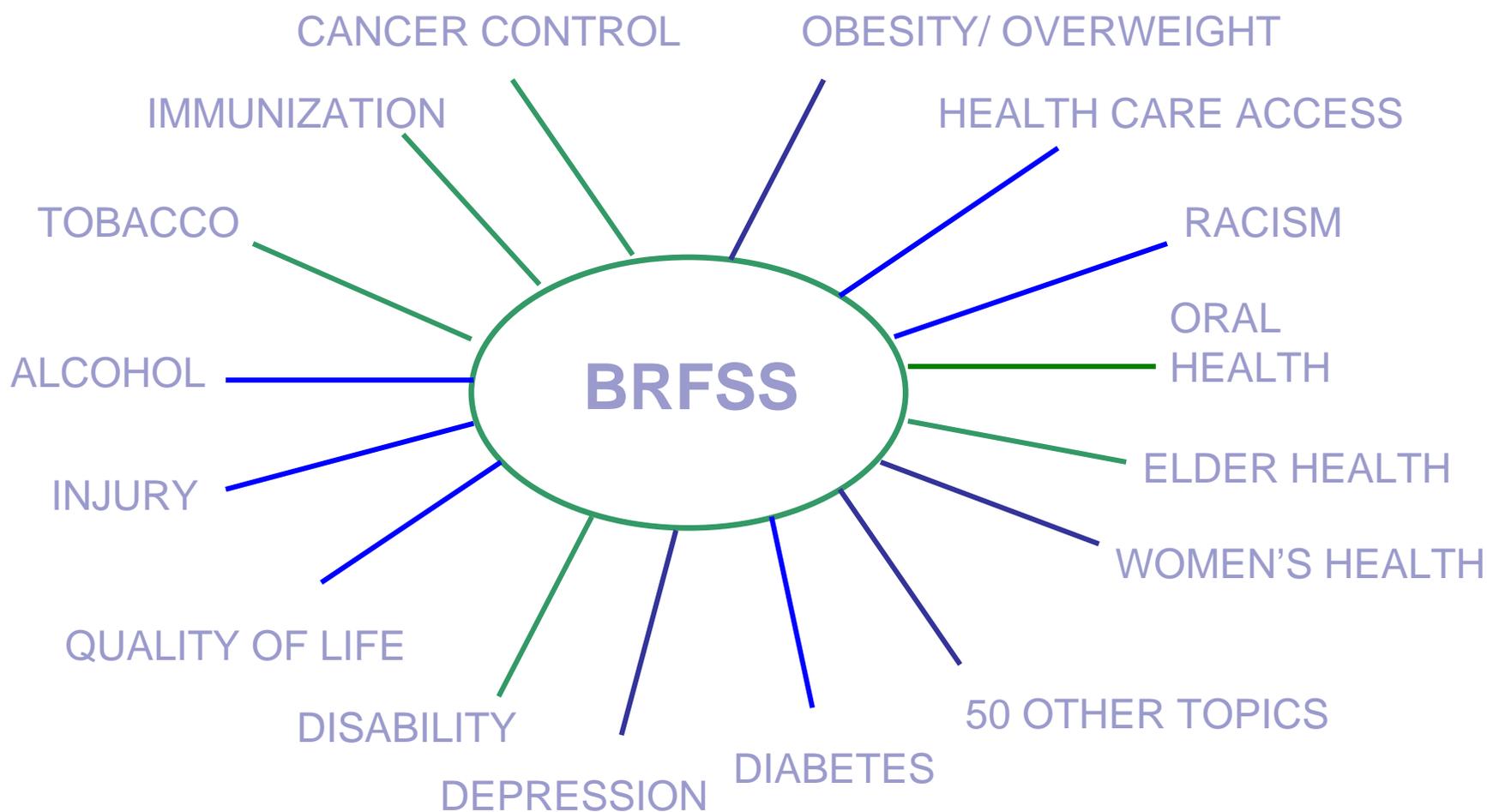


Questionnaire

- Core questions:
 - Asked by all states
- Optional modules:
 - Specialized topic questions states can choose to include
- State-added questions:
 - State-specific questions to address state and local issues



Questionnaire Topics of Interest....



BRFSS Methodology

- 1) Select household w/ telephone
- 2) Randomly select one adult 18+
- 3) Using Computer-Aided Telephone Interviewing System

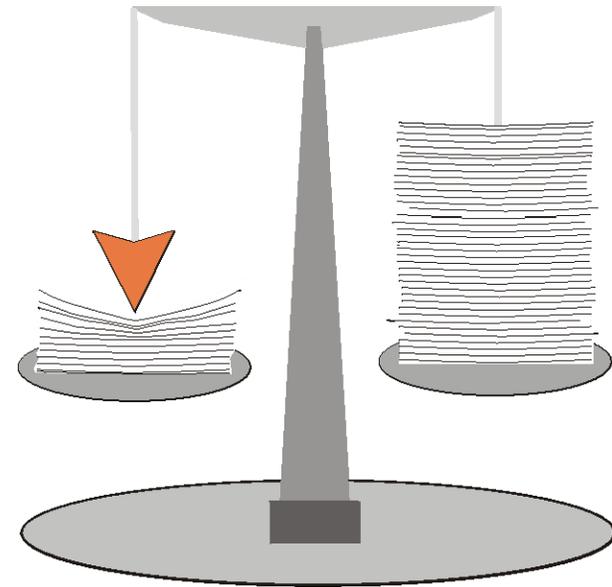


Data Collection

- Arkansas BRFSS contracts with ClwR
- Interviews are monitored to maintain and ensure data quality.
- Data are sent to state & CDC
- CDC aggregates monthly data for the entire year.
- Final data are available by March of the following survey year.

Weighting

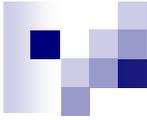
To compensate for unequal selection probability



To ensure that data can be used to develop population estimates

Data Analysis

- BRFSS uses a Disproportionate Stratified Sampling method
- SAS/SUDAAN/SPSS software is recommended for conducting data analysis.
- Confidence intervals are important measures of the role of chance.

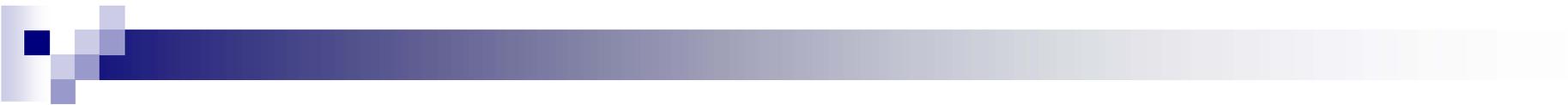


Strengths/Weaknesses

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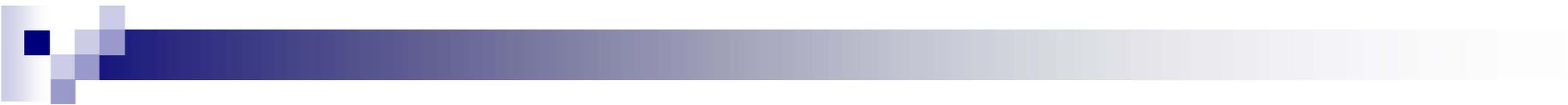
Strengths

- State and County Estimates
- State based survey
- Timeliness
- Cost
- SMART-BRFSS (Statistical Metro-/Micropolitan Risk Trends) – Cities & counties with 500+ observations
- GIS and mapping capability – State and county-level
- Linking to other data sources – EPA & Census data
- Launching follow-up surveys of subpopulations identified in BRFSS – Asthma Follow-up



Weaknesses

- Self Reported
- Small cell sizes
- Telephone coverage
- Technology barriers
- Non-response
- Recall bias
- Language barriers
- Non-institutionalized population



BRFSS Mapping

- Allows users to visually display the prevalence of behavioral risk factors
- Available at these levels: county, MSA, city, ZIP code equivalent, state, public health region, congressional district and other geographic levels

Accessing BRFSS Data

- Submit requests to latonya.bynum@arkansas.gov
Tables, charts, fact sheets, maps, or data files
- AR BRFSS County Estimates: www.brfss.ar.gov
Click on Data & Statistics tab
Click on County Data
Click on report of choice (2004 – 2007:xls)
- CDC BRFSS: www.cdc.gov/brfss
Click on Prevalence Data and Trends Data
Click on SMART: City and County Data
Click on BRFSS Maps

Recommended Citations

National:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data*. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **[appropriate year]**.

State or County:

[Report Name]. *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*, Health Statistics Branch, Arkansas Department of Health, **[appropriate year]**.

How to add questions to the BRFSS...

- \$1,000 - \$1,500 per question
- July 1 planning for next survey begins
- Proposals are due by September
- Proposals are reviewed by SAC committee in October
- Pre-testing of state added questions begins late October
- December questionnaire is finalized



Quiz Question 1:

What does BRFSS stand for?

- a. Behavior Ready For Sure Surveillance
- b. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- c. Best Real Time Surveillance System



Quiz Question 2:

Which websites have BRFSS data?

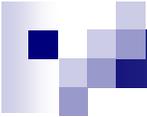
- a. <http://www.brfss.ar.gov>
- b. <http://www.sas.com>
- c. <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>
- d. Both a & c



Quiz Question 3:

What ways are BRFSS data used?

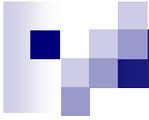
- a. Assess the health needs of the population
- b. Identify health disparities
- c. Prepare grant proposals
- d. Improve public health strategies
- e. All of the above
- f. None of the above



Quiz Question 4:

Can BRFSS data be mapped?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know
- d. Not sure



D more more more more



Thanks for your attention!!!

Questions



Contact Information

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AR BRFSS website:

<http://www.brfss.arkansas.gov>

CDC BRFSS website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>