

Dataset Title: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Overview: BRFSS uses telephone surveys to collect behavioral risk data at the state and local levels. It collects data on observable behaviors, like seatbelt usage, instead of attitudes towards such risk reduction strategies. It uses this data to plan, initiate, support, and evaluate programs that seek to promote health and halt the spread of diseases.

BRFSS has a section called “reactions to race,” where it asks participants to identify their race and determine how other people identify and treat them on account of their race. BRFSS then asks participants how often they think about their race and whether it affects their healthcare experiences.

Date: 1993-present, annually

Notes: The survey has been conducted nationwide since 1993, but it was conducted in some states beginning in 1984. The states participating in BRFSS annually can be found here: http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/all_years/states_data.htm#1990. Arizona, California, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin were the first states to participate in BRFSS (in 1984), for example. Previous questionnaires can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/questionnaires.htm#archive>.

Time dimension: Time-series approach

Sample: The sample is nationally representative, the national sample receives the core component, which includes basic demographic questions and questions on health status. However, states can opt-in to receive special modules on specific topics. Some of the questions below come from the “Reactions to Race” module that was first offered in 2004 when eight states opted in to field it (Ark, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Mississippi, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wisconsin)

Respondents were selected using Random Digit Dialing (RDD) on a combination of landlines and cell phone numbers. The study therefore includes people with only a cellular telephone, which is typically teenagers or adults, a population often missed in other surveys. Interviewers randomly selected one adult in the subset of U.S. households that was dialed using RDD.

Data Source: Telephone surveys or in-house interviews were conducted by interviewers on the state and local levels.

Self-Identified Race and Hispanic Origin Measures:

8.2 Are you Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin? (112-115)

If yes, ask: Are you...

Interviewer Note: One or more categories may be selected.

- 1 Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a
- 2 Puerto Rican
- 3 Cuban
- 4 Another Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin

8.3 Which one or more of the following would you say is your race? (116-143)

Interviewer Note: Select all that apply.

Interviewer Note: If 40 (Asian) or 50 (Pacific Islander) is selected read and code subcategories underneath major heading.

Please read:

10 White

20 Black or African American

30 American Indian or Alaska Native

40 Asian

- 41 Asian Indian
- 42 Chinese
- 43 Filipino
- 44 Japanese
- 45 Korean
- 46 Vietnamese
- 47 Other Asian

50 Pacific Islander

- 51 Native Hawaiian
- 52 Guamanian or Chamorro
- 53 Samoan
- 54 Other Pacific Islander

CATI note: If more than one response to Q8.3; continue. Otherwise, go to Q8.5.

8.4 Which one of these groups would you say best represents your race?

Interviewer Note: If 04 (Asian) or 05 (Pacific Islander) is selected read and code subcategory underneath major heading.

(144-145)

- 10 White**
- 20 Black or African American**
- 30 American Indian or Alaska Native**
- 40 Asian**
 - 41 Asian Indian
 - 42 Chinese
 - 43 Filipino
 - 44 Japanese
 - 45 Korean
 - 46 Vietnamese
 - 47 Other Asian
- 50 Pacific Islander**
 - 51 Native Hawaiian
 - 52 Guamanian or Chamorro
 - 53 Samoan
 - 54 Other Pacific Islander

Observed Race Measures: None

Reflected Race Measures (exclusively from the module on Reactions to Race)



Module 16: Reactions to Race

Earlier I asked you to self-identify your race. Now I will ask you how other people identify you and treat you.

1. How do other people usually classify you in this country? Would you say: White, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, or some other group?

(412)

- 1 White
- 2 Black or African American
- 3 Hispanic or Latino
- 4 Asian
- 5 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- 6 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 8 Some other group (please specify) _____
- 7 Don't know / Not sure
- 9 Refused

INTERVIEWER NOTE: If the respondent requests clarification of this question, say: "We want to know how OTHER people usually classify you in this country, which might be different from how you classify yourself."

Phenotype Measures: N/A

Race or Ethnic origin of Respondent's Parents: N/A

Interviewer Characteristics: N/A

Other Race Measures:

2. How often do you think about your race? Would you say never, once a year, once a month, once a week, once a day, once an hour, or constantly?

(413)

- 1 Never
- 2 Once a year
- 3 Once a month
- 4 Once a week
- 5 Once a day
- 6 Once an hour
- 8 Constantly
- 7 Don't know / Not sure
- 9 Refused

INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: The responses can be interpreted as meaning "at least" the indicated time frequency. If a respondent cannot decide between two categories, check the response for the lower frequency. For example, if a respondent says that they think about their race between once a week and once a month, check "once a month" as the response.

Collected by: Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Weblinks:

<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/about/index.htm>

Additional state-specific questions should be directed to your state's BRFSS state coordinator, who can be identified at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSCoordinators/coordinator.asp>

Citation of dataset:**Suggested Citation for Survey Questions:**

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

Suggested Citation for Online BRFSS Database:

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].