

What is RRFSS?

The Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) is an ongoing local health telephone survey conducted collaboratively since 2001 by numerous Ontario health units and the Institute for Social Research at York University



Why your Health Organization needs RRFSS:

"The health unit is seeking information about the current level of public awareness about its programs and services, and satisfaction with them. RRFSS is currently seen as the most appropriate source for obtaining necessary information"

"RRFSS meets the need of Public Health for timely and useful information to inform service planning for a broad range of public health programs as required by the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS)."

"ISR has staff that are trained and skilled at going the extra mile ... This increases both data quality and data collection efficiencies compared to one-off surveys that often require Research Ethics Board approval"

(RRFSS- participating Health Units, 2017)

Partners

The following organizations are key contributors to the success of the RRFSS:

- Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA)
- Institute for Social Research (ISR), York University
- Participating Health Units
- Public Health Ontario (PHO)

RRFSS Mission Statement:

The Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System provides data...

- To meet the Ontario Public Health Standards
- To respond to local needs, and
- To monitor emerging public health issues.

For further information contact:

**Lynne Russell,
Ontario Coordinator
Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance
System**

Institute for Social Research
York University, TEL5056,
4700 Keele Street, Toronto
Ontario M3J 1P3

Phone: (416)736-2100 Ext 22556
E-Mail: lynnerussell@rrfss.ca



**Rapid Risk Factor
Surveillance System**
**"Your 'best friend' for local
health survey data!"**



Visit us at:

www.rrfss.ca

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Did you know...

- RRFSS is the longest running local surveillance system in the world continuously collecting data for Health Units for over 15 years
- 29 Health Units in Ontario have used RRFSS to collect their local health unit specific data since it began in 2001
- RRFSS partners with ISR to collect their survey data and ISR is the largest university-based survey research centre in Canada with over 50 years' experience in survey research



- RRFSS is a non-profit survey (i.e., all RRFSS costs are used to pay interviewers and staff) and is HST exempt
- RRFSS saves members money by sharing survey costs such as CATI setup and data collection methods among members as well as the continuous running of the survey - making the overall cost of a RRFSS survey approx. 15-20% less than an independent ISR health survey
- RRFSS continues to keep the 'rapid' in RRFSS with members receiving their survey data 3 times per year and new questions can be developed and available within 12 weeks

Survey Content Flexibility

With the elimination of a large set of mandatory core questions there is survey flexibility to...



... ask any content or questions from over 300 ready to use health related modules (sets of questions)
...develop new questions (including health unit specific questions) at any time during the year
...change survey content 3 times per year and adapt it to emerging issues
...do shorter or 'themed' surveys that can be topic specific

Total Survey Cost Flexibility

RRFSS has worked to make the survey possible for any budget. Survey costs can be lower or increased by adjusting:

- 1) Survey length e.g. 10, 12, 15 minute surveys
- 2) Sample size e.g. 720, 960, 1200 completed interviews
- 3) Survey mode e.g. landline, cell phone, web survey
- 4) Survey method e.g. refusal conversions, number of call backs

A RRFSS ten minutes survey, for example, can cost as little as \$23,000!

What's new with RRFSS?

- RRFSS is multi-mode with landline, cell phone and web survey options
- RRFSS can collect data at the smallest geographic 'granular' level down to 6 digit postal code or neighbourhood level



- RRFSS includes youth sample options to health units such as including youth ages 16 to 17 years old in the survey or oversampling those under 30 years old



- Health organizations can join RRFSS 3 times per year: January, May, September. Please contact the RRFSS Coordinator, Lynne Russell for more information