

## FloridaCHARTS Newsletter - Summer 2008

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### ***New 2007 County Behavioral Risk Factor data released***

Information from the 2007 [County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#) (BRFSS) survey is now available on FloridaCHARTS. The county-level BRFSS is a telephone surveillance system sponsored by the Florida Department of Health. The Florida Department of Health uses the data to monitor health and behavior trends, respond to emerging issues, and inform health-related policy and intervention decisions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also sponsor a national, state-level survey. Like the Florida county-level survey, the state-level BRFSS is designed to collect data on risk behaviors and preventive health practices related to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States. In 2007, 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia conducted the BRFSS, completing over 430,000 surveys. For more information on the BRFSS, the survey questionnaire and data analysis, visit the [Florida BRFSS website](#).

### ***FloridaCHARTS staff meets with Caribbean health officials***

In June of 2008, Florida Department of Health staff involved in the creation and maintenance of FloridaCHARTS met with members of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC). The centre is administered on behalf of 21 member countries by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization's regional office. CAREC staff requested the two-day meeting to learn what goes into the creation of a website like FloridaCHARTS. The CAREC staff will use FloridaCHARTS as a model for a similar site that provides health data to their 21 member countries.



### ***Community health assessment addresses disparities in Miami-Dade County***

The [Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Miami-Dade County](#) report was developed as part of the Mobilize for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) project to be used as a resource for Community Health Status Assessment. Created by the Health Council of South Florida at the request of the Miami-Dade County Health Department, this report is intended to give the reader a sense of the "big picture" concerning racial and ethnic health disparities in Miami-Dade County. This report uses data from the FloridaCHARTS Website, the 2007 Living Healthy Longer Survey, and Prevention Quality Indicators from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, with comparisons to Healthy People 2010 targets.

### ***Statistical notes***

A confidence interval is a range around a measurement that conveys how precise the measurement is. For most public health data, the measurement in question is a proportion or rate (the percent of Floridians who exercise regularly or the lung cancer incidence rate). Confidence intervals are often seen on the news when the results of polls are released.

For example, the table below from the 2007 BRFSS shows that "15% of all county residents engage in heavy or binge drinking." The precise statistical definition of the 95% confidence interval is that if the survey were conducted 100 times, respondents would answer within the calculated range (11.4 to 19.5%) 95 times. Only 5 times would you receive an answer outside this range.

Heavy or Binge Drinking	2007 County	
	Measure	95% CI
Overall	15.0	11.4 19.5
Men	19.1	13.1 27.0
Women	11.3	7.7 16.2
Non-Hisp. White	25.2	17.2 35.3
Non-Hisp. Black	5.3	2.0 13.4
Hispanic	13.6	9.2 19.8
Non-Hisp. White Men	23.7	13.1 39.0
Non-Hisp. White Women	26.5	15.8 40.9

It is important to note that the BRFSS data will not always display confidence intervals as an equal plus or minus value. The data from the survey is weighted and can produce confidence intervals that are not symmetrical. For example, the table above shows non-Hispanic black binge drinking at 5.3% with a range from 2.0 to 13.4.