



Dear North Dakota Resident:

Within the next few weeks, your household will receive a request to complete a telephone survey. This important survey is being conducted by the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey is part of a program called the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS for short). The survey is about the health and health practices of North Dakota (N.D.) adults. We are not telemarketers and are not selling anything.

We depend on the survey to help us target programs and activities to improve the health and safety of North Dakotans. Using the information you provide, we hope to learn more about the people in N.D.

Only a small number of adults across the state are asked to take part in this important survey so we ask you to please participate when you are called. Each N.D. household has a chance of being chosen. Your telephone number was chosen at random by a computer. The interviewer will ask how many men and women 18 years and older live in your household. Then, a computer will randomly pick one of these adults to interview. We need people of all backgrounds to participate regardless of health status, age, race or gender so that the data represents all N.D. adults.

Clearwater Research of Boise, Idaho, will be calling on behalf of the NDDoH. You will receive the interview call from either their Boise Idaho call center or San Marcos Texas call center. It will take approximately 20 minutes to complete the survey. Taking part in the survey is voluntary. All answers are confidential. We do not know and will not ask for your name. All information you provide will be grouped with information from other adults in N.D. You will not be asked for anything like a social security number or bank account information.

Survey results are used to evaluate and guide public health programs for a safer and healthier N.D. Your participation is extremely important. We value and appreciate your time. Please tell us if you receive this call at a bad time and the interviewer will gladly call back at a better time.

If you have any questions or would like more information please call us at 701.328.3322 or toll-free at 1.855.NDBRFSS (632.7377) and ask for Alice Musumba. A list of frequently asked questions is available on the reverse side of this letter. If you have access to the Internet, more information is available at <http://ndhealth.gov/brfss> and at www.cdc.gov/brfss.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and valuable assistance.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Dwelle, MD, MPHTM, CPH
State Health Officer

Phone: 701.328.2372

Alice Musumba
Program Director, BRFSS

Fax: 701.328.4727

North Dakota BRFSS Frequently Asked Questions

How did you get my telephone number and/or address?

Telephone numbers are generated randomly by a computer. We have no way of knowing whose number we are calling or if it is a business, residential or unlisted number. If the telephone number can be matched via a national address-matching database, we send the household a letter explaining they have been selected for participation in the study.

How will the survey information be used?

BRFSS data may be used to identify emerging health problems; establish and track health objectives; develop, implement, and evaluate a broad array of disease prevention activities; and support health-related legislative efforts. This study is part of a nationwide study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The information is used to design, implement and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention programs at all levels of government.

What kinds of questions are asked? Are you going to ask personal questions?

There are questions about the leading causes of premature death and disability such as cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes as well as questions on other public health topics. Responses to health questions are evaluated with other factors such as income, education, age and access to health care to see if there are patterns associated with health status and economic factors. Most respondents do not consider the questions to be sensitive. You can refuse to answer any question you do not want to answer.

How are my answers kept confidential?

Your answers to BRFSS questions are combined with everyone else's so that responses cannot be traced back to individuals. No one person's responses will ever be singled out.

Who participates in the BRFSS Study?

In 2012, over 5,000 North Dakotans were randomly and anonymously selected and called. Everyone's experiences are important and we seek to talk to a broad cross-section of North Dakotans.

Who pays for the BRFSS Study?

BRFSS was established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1984. Currently, North Dakota, along with 49 other states, the District of Columbia and three territories, participate in the BRFSS with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC provides the North Dakota Department of Health with funding to carry out the survey.

How do I know the survey is legitimate?

If you would like to verify the legitimacy of the study, you may contact Alice Musumba with the North Dakota Department of Health at 1.855-NDBRFSS (632.7377), or log on to the North Dakota BRFSS website (www.ndhealth.gov/brfss). Information also is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (www.cdc.gov/brfss).