



2006

**Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
BRFSS Supplement: County Level Variables**

December 3, 2007

2006 BRFSS Supplement: County Level Variables

Objective:

The objective is to develop a county-level data set, to supplement the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) public use data file. The purpose of the data set is to identify reasonably current county-level variables that are likely to be correlated with BRFSS core health outcomes. The variables include data for all U.S. counties. Examples of variables include health care delivery information, health and vital statistics indicators, environmental measures, crime statistics, business indicators, and poverty/income figures. Twenty two variables have been identified, to be included in the county-level data set. Variables from multiple sources were included to provide an indication of what types of sources and data might be possible for future use.

Twenty-Two County Level Variables

County Variables:	
Variable Name	POP2006
Variable Label	COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATE, 2006
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	July 1, 2006, resident population estimate from U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program.
Variable Name	AIRQUAL
Variable Label	EPA GREEN BOOK NONATTAINMENT STATUS, 2004–2006
Source	Environmental Protection Agency Green Book Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Air Pollutants
Description	<p>Green Book Nonattainment Counties for 2004, 2005, or 2006 for at least one of the criteria air pollutants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-Hour Ozone • Carbon Monoxide • Nitrogen Dioxide • Sulfur Dioxide • Particulate Matter PM-10 • Particulate Matter PM-2.5 • Lead <p>1 = county is a nonattainment county in 2004, 2005 or 2006. 0 = county is not a nonattainment county in 2004, 2005 and 2006.</p>
Variable Name	BIRTHS
Variable Label	TOTAL BIRTHS PER 100,000 POPULATION, JULY 1, 2005–JULY 1, 2006
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Total births by county of residence (not occurrence) for July 1, 2005 – July 1, 2006, per 100,000 population.
Variable Name	BLACKS
Variable Label	PERCENT OF POPULATION AFRICAN-AMERICAN, 2004
Source	2006 Area Resource File

Description	Percent of the total resident population that is Black/African American as of July 1, 2004, from U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program
Variable Name	CRIME
Variable Label	CRIMES PER 100,000 POPULATION (90 LARGEST COUNTIES), 1996
Source	Bureau of Justice Statistics Offense Data for the Largest 90 Counties
Description	1996 crime data (murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson for the 90 largest population counties per 100,000 population in 1996. Crime data for Lake County, IL is not reported for 1996. CRIME variable is missing for Lake County and all counties that are not among the 90 largest population counties.
Variable Name	DEATHS
Variable Label	TOTAL DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION, JULY 1, 2005–JULY 1, 2006
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Total deaths by county of residence (not occurrence) for July 1, 2005 – July 1, 2006, per 100,000 population.
Variable Name	DENTISTS
Variable Label	DENTISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION, 1998
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Count of total private practice, non-Federal dentists per 100,000 population in 1998.
Variable Name	EDUCATN
Variable Label	LOW EDUCATION TYPOLOGY CODE, 2000
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	25 percent or more of residents 25 through 64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED in 2000. 1 = county meets typology, 0 = county does not meet typology.
Variable Name	EMPLOYMT
Variable Label	LOW EMPLOYMENT TYPOLOGY CODE, 2000
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Less than 65 percent of residents 21 through 64 years old were employed in 2000. 1 = county meets typology, 0 = county does not meet typology.
Variable Name	ERVISITS
Variable Label	EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2004
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Count of emergency room visits at short-term general hospitals per 100,000 population in 2004.
Variable Name	FASTFOOD
Variable Label	LIMITED-SERVICE EATING PLACES PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2005
Source	2005 County Business Patterns
Description	Count of business establishments in NAICS Industry Code 72221/ (Limited-Service Eating Places) per 100,000 population in 2005. FASTFOOD variable is missing for a county if data is not reported in County Business Patterns.

Variable Name	FITNESS
Variable Label	FITNESS & RECREATION SPORTS CENTERS PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2005
Source	2005 County Business Patterns
Description	Count of business establishments in NAICS Industry Code 713940 (Fitness and Recreation Sports Centers) per 100,000 population in 2005. FITNESS variable is missing for a county if data is not reported in County Business Patterns.
Variable Name	HISPS
Variable Label	PERCENT OF POPULATION HISPANIC/LATINO, 2004
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Percent of the total resident population that is Hispanic/Latino as of July 1, 2004, from the U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program.
Variable Name	HOSPADMI
Variable Label	SHORT TERM GENERAL HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2004
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Count of admissions at short-term general hospitals per 100,000 population in 2004.
Variable Name	HOSPBEDS
Variable Label	SHORT TERM GENERAL HOSPITAL BEDS PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2004
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Count of hospital beds at short-term general hospitals per 100,000 population in 2004.
Variable Name	HOSPS
Variable Label	SHORT TERM GENERAL HOSPITALS PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2004
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Count of short-term general hospitals per 100,000 population in 2004.
Variable Name	HOUSING
Variable Label	HOUSING STRESS TYPOLOGY CODE, 2000
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	30 percent or more of households had one or more of these housing conditions in 2000: lacked complete plumbing, lacked complete kitchen, paid 30 percent or more of income for owner costs or rent, or had more than 1 person per room. 1 = county meets typology, 0 = county does not meet typology.
Variable Name	LIQUOR
Variable Label	BEER, WINE & LIQUOR STORES PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2005
Source	2005 County Business Patterns
Description	Count of business establishments in NAICS Industry Code 445310 (Beer, Wine, and Liquor Stores) per 100,000 population in 2005. LIQUOR variable is missing for a county if data is not reported in County Business Patterns.
Variable Name	MDS

Variable Label	GENERAL PRACTICE OFFICE BASED MDs PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2005
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Count of general practice MDs (General Practice and Family Medicine, patient care, office based, non-Federal) per 100,000 population in 2005.
Variable Name	POPLOSS
Variable Label	POPULATION LOSS TYPOLOGY CODE, 2000
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Number of residents declined both between the 1980 and 1990 censuses and between the 1990 and 2000 censuses. 1 = county meets typology, 0 = county does not meet typology.
Variable Name	POVERTY
Variable Label	PERCENT OF PERSONS IN POVERTY, 2004
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Percent of the population living below the poverty level in 2004 based Small Area Income Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) from the U.S. Census Bureau.
Variable Name	SPECMDS
Variable Label	MEDICAL SPECIALIST MDs PER 100,000 POPULATION, 2005
Source	2006 Area Resource File
Description	Count of medical specialist MDs (Allergy and Immunology, Cardiovascular Disease, Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Pediatric Cardiology and Pulmonary Disease, patient care, office based, non-Federal) per 100,000 population in 2005.
Data Sources:	
2006 Area Resource File: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Evaluation and Analysis Branch, http://www.arfsys.com/index.htm	
2005 County Business Patterns: U.S. Census Bureau, http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html	
Environmental Protection Agency Green Book Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Air Pollutants: http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/greenbk/	
Bureau of Justice Statistics Offense Data for the Largest 90 Counties: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/dtdata.htm#County	