

Tips on BRFSS



Notes for analysis:

BRFSS has a complex sampling design that must be accounted for in the analysis. This can be done with any of the major statistical packages (e.g. SAS, SPSS, R, Stata). For BRFSS, there are two variables that are essential to use in the analysis. See below for examples of code.

Stratification variable: STRAT_STSTR

Weighting variable: FINAL_WEIGHT

HHDW protocol is to code all 'Don't Know / Not Sure / Refused / Missing' or "Unknown" values as missing.

Notes for reporting:

Estimates are considered unstable and cannot be reported if either of these rules is broken:

- The unweighted total responses to a question <50, or
- The relative standard error (standard error/mean) of the estimate is > 0.3

Only weighted data can be released in a report – weighted counts, weighted rates, etc. Unweighted data should not be reported.

Additional resources:

[BRFSS Home Page](#)

[BRFSS Data User Guide](#)

Suggested citation:

Hawaii Health Data Warehouse; Hawaii State Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), (appropriate data year or years)

Sample code for analysis:

The BRFSS sample design includes stratification, clustering, and weighting, each of which must be accounted for in the analysis. These are the stratification and weighting variables:

Stratification variable: STRAT_STSTR

Weighting variable: FINAL_WEIGHT

Although BRFSS uses a two-step sampling design, there is no need to specify a clustering variable like the primary sampling unit (PSU) because Hawaii is assigned only one PSU- the entire state.

SAS

```
PROC surveyfreq (or surveymeans);
```

```
strata STRAT_STSTR;
```

```
weight FINAL_WEIGHT;
```

SPSS

```
CSPLAN ANALYSIS
```

```
/PLAN FILE='plan location'
```

```
/PLANVARS ANALYSISWEIGHT=FINAL_WEIGHT
```

```
/PRINT PLAN
```

```
/DESIGN STRATA= STRAT_STSTR
```

```
/ESTIMATOR TYPE=WR.
```

SUDAAN

```
PROC crosstab;
```

```
Nest STRAT_STSTR;
```

```
Weight FINAL_WEIGHT;
```

STATA

```
Svysset [pweight=FINAL_WEIGHT],
```

```
strata(STRAT_STSTR)
```