

Common Problems and Solutions in 2009 BRFSS Data



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009
Pranesh Paul Chowdhury, MBBS, MPH
Behavioral Surveillance Branch,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Common Problems in 2009 BRFSS Data

- **Invalid response**
- **Valid but doubtful response**
- **Missing a part of a section**
- **Other problems**



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Invalid Responses in 2009 BRFSS Data

**There is a response- but it is not
valid for the question asked**



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Examples of Invalid Responses

- **M18.07 In an average week, how many hours do you provide care for [CATI: code from Q3] because of his/her health problem, long-term illness, or disability? (CRGVHRS)?**
 - 1-168 = Years
 - 777 = Don't know/Not Sure
 - 999 = Refused
- **CRGVHRS had response of 0**



Examples of Invalid Responses

- **Questionnaire version problem (QSTVER)**
 - No split questionnaire then QSTVER=0
 - If split questionnaire –QSTVER is 1 or 2
- **But it is not possible to have 0,1,2, or missing response of QSTVER in a year**



Examples of Invalid Responses

- **M15.03 Did your doctor say your recent tetanus shot included the pertussis or whooping cough vaccine? (TNSASHOT)**

1 = Yes (included pertusis)

2 = No (did not include pertusis)

7 = Don't know/Not Sure

9 = Refused

- **TNSASHOT had invalid response of 3**



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Valid But Doubtful Response in 2009 BRFSS Data

**The response is valid but the
number is doubtful**



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Example of Valid But Doubtful Response

- **Not counting juice, how often do you eat fruit ?
(FRUIT)**
 - 1 __ _ Per day
 - 2 __ _ Per week
 - 3 __ _ Per month
 - 4 __ _ Per year
 - 5 5 5 Never
 - 7 7 7 Don't know / Not sure
 - 9 9 9 Refused
- **The response is 110- eats 10 servings of fruits needs verification**



Example of Valid But Doubtful Response

- **C12Q07. How many children less than 18 years of age live in your house hold? (CHILDREN)**
 - The response is 8; need verification because 88 means none
- **Number of adults at home (NUMADULT) was 2 and number of residential phones (NUMPHON2) was 6; 6 phones for only 2 adults needs verification**
- **NUMADULT and NUMPHON2 is essential for weighting**



Missing a part of a Section in 2009 BRFSS Data

**Respondents skip a question or a
set of questions of a section and
or module**



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Missing a part of a Section in 2009 BRFSS Data

- There are 4 cell phone questions in the demographic section of land line survey (CPDEMO1, CPDEMO2, CPDEMO3, CPDEMO4)
- Some 110 and 120 had missing values in all of the questions
- These questions give us idea about cell phone usage in U.S. which is important for our cell phone survey



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Other Common Problems in 2009 BRFSS Data

**These problems do not fall
in any category**



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Other Common Problems in 2009 BRFSS Data

- **Inadequate number of attempts**
 - **Number of attempts is < 15 makes it difficult to assign final disposition code**
 - **All supervisors should make sure that 15 attempts/appropriate are completed**



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Other Common Problems in 2009 BRFSS Data

- **Invalid final disposition code**
 - **Interim disposition codes (like 505, 510, 525, 530, 535, 540, etc.) at the place of final disposition code (DISPORIG)**
 - **Correct final disposition code is 110, 120, 220, 345, 410 etc.**



Other Common Problems in 2009 BRFSS Data

- **Module data not collected in all months**
 - If a module data is not collected for all the months then the module data will not be included in final data set
 - need to move the data to state added question section
 - All modules must be used for all months



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Other Common Problems in 2009 BRFSS Data

- **Missing value in a response**
 - **Missing county of residence (CTYCODE)**
 - **Missing number of adults (NUMADULT)**
 - **CTYCODE and NUMADULT are important for weighting our data**



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE



Solution to Common Data Problems in 2009

- **Consistently** run PC-Edits before data submission
- Make follow up calls to verify warnings if necessary
- Contact us if you have any questions or you need any clarifications



6th Annual BRFSS Training Workshop, Atlanta, 2009

SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE

