



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Director's Office ♦ PO Box 4210 ♦ Helena, MT 59620 ♦ (406) 444-5622 ♦ www.dphhs.mt.gov

Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

October 1, 2015

To the Citizens of Montana:

On behalf of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services I am pleased to present the 2014 Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Annual Report. The BRFSS is a telephone survey health monitoring system of Montana residents of ages 18 and older. Montana has participated in the BRFSS since its inception in 1984.

The BRFSS gathers information that helps Montana identify which population sub-groups are at risk for disease, injuries, inadequate care, and disabilities. The data are used as a planning guide for our health promotion and disease prevention programs. They are also used at the state and national level to determine public health benchmarks and to measure progress over time. Examples of the survey use can be reviewed in the recently released State of Montana Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and the federal Healthy People 2020, which measures health improvement priorities for the nation.

I would like to thank the 7,502 residents who participated in the 2014 survey and provided us with valuable health data. It is their willingness to participate that allows Montana to continually rank in the top ten for participation rates among the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several territories that administer the survey.

This report is a summary of health measures and the current state of the population's health for adults 18 years of age and older. Use it as a resource for yourself and others to help improve the health of Montanans to the highest possible level.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Opper, Director
Montana DPHHS

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