

## 2008 BRFSS Asthma Follow-up Guidelines

1. All standard BRFSS data collection protocols (such as call attempts, assigning dispositions to cases, etc.) should be followed. Data collection for the follow-up must meet guidelines and data quality criteria established for the annual state-wide survey.
2. The BRFSS core and (where applicable) child selection modules will be required to select a respondent for the follow-up. The respondent will be either an adult (BRFSS respondent) or child (chosen using child selection module) who has ever had asthma. All cases meeting the qualification criteria in BRFSS will be included in the follow-up sample. Only one follow-up interview per household will be conducted. If a household contains both an eligible adult and child, then one will be selected for the follow-up using a random selection process built into the BRFSS interview. The program should select the child 50% of the time and the adult 50% of the time. If a child is the selected sample member for the call back, the interview will be conducted with the most knowledgeable parent or guardian in the household; persons under age 18 years will not be interviewed directly. The BRFSS respondent at the core must be the parent/guardian of the child selected. If the BRFSS respondent is not the parent/guardian of the selected child, a follow-up survey for the child with asthma is not conducted (e.g. a core BRFSS respondent who is a sibling of the selected child, who is over 18, but is not the guardian of the selected child could not transfer the child call-back over to the parent/guardian of the child). The reason for this is that the core BRFSS data must also be for the parent/guardian of the selected child.
3. All states should make the BRFSS respondent aware that a callback will take place. A template with recommended wording for the question requesting permission to call the respondent back sometime in the next two weeks is provided in Appendix A. Because IRBs in different states may require slight changes in the wording of this question, you have the latitude to modify this template as necessary. We request only that you forward a copy of your final wording to Wil Murphy (BSB) for documentation purposes.
4. This follow-up is an extension of the regular surveillance efforts conducted as a part of BRFSS and as such has exemption from full review by the CDC IRB. A copy of the BRFSS exemption email for the 2006 BRFSS is provided in Appendix B. BSB will forward a copy of the 2008 exemption once it is received (which should be sometime in October, 2007).
5. Because both the adult and child questionnaires were pretested and administered in three states during 2005, administered to 25 states in 2006, and 35 states in 2007, we will not be requiring a pretest of the 2007 questionnaire. CA provides a Spanish translation of each instrument. States can do a pretest, it's just not required. New states should test their CATI somehow if they are not using one of the contractors currently conducting the Asthma call-back.
6. Data collection for the follow-up survey should begin by February 1, 2008. Interviews should be conducted within two weeks of the BRFSS interview completion date. Conducting the Asthma interview earlier than 2-weeks limit is preferred.

7. Data will be submitted via email to the BSB data mailbox ([nccdachbrfss@cdc.gov](mailto:nccdachbrfss@cdc.gov)) on the following schedule: (earlier submissions are fine if data collection is completed earlier)

- March 1, 2008
- April 1, 2008
- July 1, 2008
- October 1, 2008
- February 1, 2009

8. Standard BRFSS case disposition codes and code assignment rules are required. Four additional codes have been added for the follow-up survey only:

*Revised Disposition list is enclosed*

9. A case should be considered as a partial complete (disposition code 120) if either:

- a. the respondent completed section 8 (medications) before terminating the interview; OR
- b. the respondent completed section 7 (modifications to environment) but didn't complete section 8 (medications) before terminating the interview but would have skipped section 8 due to a legitimate skip because he or she had responded "Never" to LAST\_MED (3.4) "How long has it been since you last took asthma medication?".

A case would be considered as a termination within questionnaire (disposition code 210) if the respondent should have answered the questions about medications in section 8 and didn't, or if they would have skipped section 8 but terminated the questionnaire before reaching the end of section 7 (modifications to environment).

10. BSB is working on a PC Edits program. This is expected to be available before the first quarter of the '08 processing year.

11. BSB will weight the data and produce a final data set that includes the state-wide BRFSS data and the follow-up survey data. Midyear files will be made available to the states for quality control checks.

## Appendix A

### 2008 BRFSS Asthma Follow-up Recommended Permission Script

“We would like to call to you again within the next 2 weeks to talk in more detail about (your/your child’s) experiences with asthma. The information will be used to help develop and improve the asthma programs in <STATE>. The information you gave us today and any you give us in the future will be kept confidential. If you agree to this, we will keep your first name or initials and phone number on file, separate from the answers collected today. Even if you agree now, you may refuse to participate in the future. Would it be okay if we called you back to ask additional asthma-related questions at a later time?”

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Can I please have either (your/your child’s) first name or initials so we will know who to ask for when we call back?

\_\_\_\_\_ Enter first name or initials

**Appendix B**

**2006 BRFSS Approval of Exemption from CDC IRB Review**



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Disease Control  
Prevention (CDC)

Public Health Service  
Centers for  
and

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**Memorandum**

DATE: September 7, 2006  
FROM: Lead IRB Administrator  
Human Research Protection Office  
Office of Scientific Regulatory Services  
Office of the Chief Science Officer  
SUBJECT: 2988: Continuation of Exempt Status  
TO: Lina Balluz, M.P.H., Sc.D.  
NCCDPHP/DACH

I have reviewed the request for continuation of the exempt status of CDC protocol #2988, "Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System." I find that this research activity continues to be exempt under 45 CFR 46.101(b)(2).

Changes to this protocol may not be implemented until they are reviewed and determined to be consistent with the exemption categories.

You will be asked in one year (by 10/20/07) to confirm that no changes have occurred in the protocol or the related science that would affect the ethical appropriateness of the research or this exemption.

Please be advised that the investigators remain responsible for appropriate human research protections even for research that is exempt from regulations for protection human subjects.

Pamela K. Galusha

cc:  
Joan Redmond-Leonard