

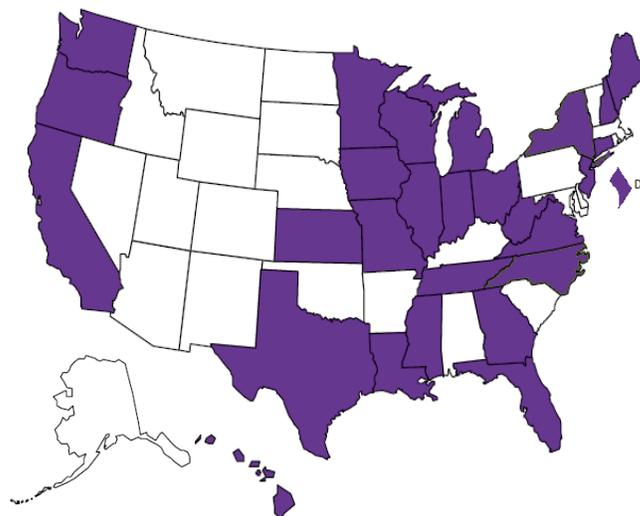
The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a proven surveillance tool used in every state, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Territories.

- The BRFSS is a telephone survey conducted annually by state health departments. It was established in 1984.
- Financial, technical and methodological assistance for the survey is provided to the states by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The BRFSS has three components:
 - the core questions, which are asked either annually or on a rotating basis
 - optional modules, each of which covers a particular topic in more detail and is developed by the CDC
 - state-added questions, determined by each state based on the health and data needs of that state

Two 10-question BRFSS modules have been developed to help understand Alzheimer's disease and other dementias on the state level.

- The *Cognitive Impairment Module*, which asks about memory and cognitive abilities as well as whether a physician has ever diagnosed Alzheimer's disease or another dementia.
- The *Caregiver Module*, which includes questions about a care recipient's health problems and greatest care needs.

**States Using the BRFSS
Caregiver Module
2005-2012**



Use of these modules has been growing, providing valuable information in the fight against Alzheimer's.

- In 2009, five states – California, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana and Michigan – served as pilot states for the Cognitive Impairment Module.
- In 2011 and 2012, 38 states used the Cognitive Impairment Module at least once – the most rapidly adopted module outside the core CDC program.
- Since 2005, the Caregiver Module has been used in 27 states. In 2012, nine states asked the 10 caregiving questions.

Funding for this Fact Sheet was provided by Cooperative Agreement #5U58DP002945-02 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Aging Program.