

Technical Notes

I. Methods

LAMB Follow Up Project utilizes similar methods as states that conduct Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) follow up surveys.¹ The Project surveys all mothers who responded to the LAMB survey in 2012. Mothers are contacted by mail only, but telephone interview option is also available if mother requests. The survey can be administered in English, Spanish, and, with translators, available for other languages. In addition, an informational packet with resources and information about 211 early childhood development screening is sent along with the survey.

II. Data Weighting

To get a representative picture of the mothers who gave birth in Los Angeles County in 2012, the data were weighted by SPA, race/ethnicity, mother's age (mother's age less than 20 or not), source of payment for prenatal care, low birth-weight status and First 5 LA Best Start Community designation (yes/no) and non-response. Specifically, post stratification procedures were used to properly weight the sample and account for the complex sampling frame.

III. Response Rate:

There were 3,488 mothers who responded to the 2014 LAMB Follow Up survey, resulting in an adjusted response rate of 62%, based on calculations proposed by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)².

IV. Statistical Methods

Point estimates and their variances were calculated using the SAS, PROC SURVEYFREQ procedures, (Release 9.3, North Carolina) to account for the complex sample design. In this report, relative standard error (RSE) more than 25% is used as the criterion for determining that the estimate is statistically unstable and therefore may not be appropriate to use for planning or policy purposes.

RSE is calculated by "dividing the standard error of the estimate by the estimate itself, then multiplying that result by 100." For example, if the estimate of cigarette smokers is 20 percent and the standard error of the estimate is 3 percent, the RSE of the estimate = $(3/20) * 100$, or 15 percent.^{3,4}

All missing and unknown response values were excluded from individual calculations where applicable.

V. Strengths and limitations

Strengths: LAMB Follow Up is a population-based longitudinal survey that monitors mothers' and toddlers' health two years after the index survey. The longitudinal design allows analyses to establish potential causal relationships between exposures and outcomes; therefore providing stronger evidence based background to inform new policy development and decision-making.

Limitations: Sample sizes for some subpopulations were too small for precise estimates. If presented, these are indicated by an asterisk (*). Potential sources of bias include recall and non-coverage biases.

VI. References

1. Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
<http://www.cdc.gov/prams/methodology.htm>
2. American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
http://www.aapor.org/Standard_Definitions/2852.htm
3. Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Relative Standard Error
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/main/BRFS/rse.htm>
4. National Center for Health Statistics Reference
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/statnt/statnt24.pdf>