

BRFSS - Health Survey by PHONE

The St. Joseph Health Department has partnered with Mosaic Life Care/Heartland since 1997 to assess the health of our community using guidelines prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Assessment (BRFSS) uses a survey by phone to gather information related to the health of our citizens in order to plan for future programming and to evaluate data in support of grant funding. The results guide policy decisions and program development. The survey asks questions related to physical activity, diseases, personal behaviors that affect health such as smoking and fruit and vegetable consumption, Dr. visits, immunizations and a host of other health related topics. Calls are made to residential phones as well as cell phones. If the call is made to a business, it is purely accidental and a survey will not be taken. The information is used strictly in aggregate form - no person is ever identified. The survey is conducted by an independent call center, calls are not made by employees of the City of St. Joseph or of Mosaic/Heartland.

If you receive a call that identifies the caller as being from the Health Department asking questions about your health, rest assured it is legitimate. Please report anything out of the ordinary, though, and do not give your name, social security number, birthdate (we do ask age), identifiable insurance information (though there are questions about whether you have insurance and your satisfaction with your coverage), or bank or credit card information. The survey does ask personal questions about your health and some demographic questions (income, education, etc.), and though some of them may seem to be asking about your private business, know that the answers are only used with answers from other participants and no individual is ever identified. If you question the validity of the survey, please notify the St. Joseph Health Department at 816-271-5327 or use health@ci.st-joseph.mo.us to send a note. The feedback we gather is very important. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the survey in the past and to those who may take time to participate in the future.