



# RRFSS E-NEWS: Spring 2017

## 'PAWS' for Thought...

### Why RRFSS is 'money well spent' for your health unit

The Chief Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report, released March 2017, [Mapping Wellness: Ontario's Route to Healthier Communities](#) emphasizes the importance of timely, accurate and detailed population health information as the foundation for effective local public health action. This report includes examples from Durham, Peel and Sudbury, whose participation in the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System means that they can tap into timely community information on topics as diverse as cell phone use while driving, knowledge of climate change, consumption of fruits and vegetables and colorectal cancer screening. Armed with this information, Health Units can better plan, implement and evaluate interventions.

### News: Public Health Ontario joins RRFSS!

As of May 2017, PHO joins RRFSS as a new Supporting Member. This means RRFSS will get support in many areas, such as participation in our Working Groups, whilst sharing RRFSS data with PHO. As we embark on this new partnership we hope it will lead to further local risk factor surveillance collaboration in areas such as module development, analysis and data collection. Further updates to follow...



### Did you know...

- RRFSS is the longest running local surveillance system in the world continuously collecting data for Health Units for over 15 years
- 29 Health Units have used RRFSS to collect their local health unit specific data since it began in 2001
- RRFSS is multi-mode with landline, cell phone and web survey options
- RRFSS includes a youth sample options to health units such as including youth ages 16 to 17 years old in the survey or oversampling those under 30 years old
- RRFSS can collect data at the smallest geographic 'granular' level down to 6 digit postal code or neighbourhood level
- Health units can join RRFSS 3 times per year: January, May, September

**In 2017, a 10 minute RRFSS survey, for example, can cost as little as \$23,000!**

### How you can't afford NOT to be in RRFSS!

Some health units do not participate in RRFSS because they think that they can't afford RRFSS. Yet RRFSS participating HUs will tell you "You can't afford **NOT** to be in RRFSS"!

Several Health Units that recently re-joined RRFSS (Brant, Peel and Toronto) tell us why they need and have returned to RRFSS: [Why Health Units are Returning to RRFSS?](#) And, check out: [www.rrfss.ca](http://www.rrfss.ca) to see other reasons for choosing RRFSS.

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