

BCSR Staff

The BCSR staff work closely with clients from the CDC and public health departments to incorporate cutting-edge methodology and innovative techniques to collect data on infant and maternal health.

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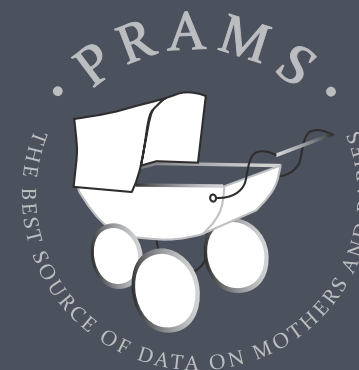
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BLOUSTEIN CENTER FOR SURVEY RESEARCH

PRAMS



"Thanks to all the Rutgers interviewers for their hard work and effort!!"

As a research center of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, the **Bloustein Center for Survey Research** brings together a wide range of disciplines with expertise in applied social research and related research methodologies.

The Bloustein Center for Survey Research is a full-service research center consulting with clients on their survey needs and planning or conducting all phases of survey projects, including survey and sample design, selection of data collection techniques, interviewer training and supervision, human subjects protocols, data management and analysis, and report writing.



The **Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)** is a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments. The overall goal of PRAMS is to reduce infant morbidity and mortality and to promote maternal

health by influencing maternal and child health programs, policies, and maternal behaviors during pregnancy and early infancy. PRAMS surveillance currently covers about 75% of all U.S. births. The information from PRAMS is expected to improve the health of mothers and infants in the states participating in PRAMS. PRAMS data are used to identify groups of women and infants at high risk for health problems, to monitor changes in health status, and to improve progress towards goals in the health of mothers and infants.

Since 2001, the BCSR has provided assistance to states participating in PRAMS.

We consult with states in all phases of operational research activities: mailings, interviewing, data collection and reporting; IRB certification; and interviewer training. Our staff has expertise in PIDS, the PRAMS Integrated Data Collection System, and continues to play a key role in the development of the PIDS program as a multi-state user. In addition, we have bilingual staff that translates and reviews documents for PIDS, the CDC, and public health departments.

The BCSR has an established track record of meeting or exceeding the 65% response rate for batch mailings. We meet the CDC response rate requirement using a combination of mailings and telephone interviewing.

The BCSR has contracted with the following public health and research departments for PRAMS operations:



Arkansas Department of Health
Center for Social Research at North Dakota State University
City of Philadelphia Department of Health
Connecticut Department of Health
District of Columbia Department of Health
Hawaii State Department of Health
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
New Jersey Department of Health
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Virginia Department of Health



The BCSR provides an array of services to assist states reach their PRAMS goals. Our services include:

- IRB Human Subject Certification at Rutgers University and CDC levels
- Train, monitor, and maintain staff within CDC surveillance protocol
- Annual refresher trainings on CDC protocols
- Rutgers University and State Department of Health IRB Submissions
- Telephone Data Collection: Average weighted phone response rate 30%
- Mail Data Collection: Average weighted mail response rate 57%
- Survey and mail packet design
- Mailing preparation and assembly
- Incentive tracking
- Data entry and verification (100%)
- English/Spanish translation services
- Inventory and archive survey instruments on site

"Excellent. This is so helpful I am so happy that you all have such knowledge of PIDS!"

"That is great news.Thanks for all your hard work in getting us caught up."

"Congratulations to the Bloustein staff for working so hard to achieve this goal!"

"Great work this year with PIDS and all!"

"Keep up the magic..."