

## CHAPTER 1: HEALTH STATUS

**Definition: Reported general health as “Fair” or “Poor” from possible response choices of “Excellent,” “Very good,” “Good,” “Fair,” and “Poor.”**

<b>State Prevalence</b>	<b>25.3%</b> (95% CI: 23.6-26.9); 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest among 54 BRFSS participants. National prevalence: 16.2% (95% CI: 15.9-16.5).
<b>Time Trends</b>	Overall, since 1993 there has been an increasing trend in the percentage of adults who report fair or poor general health. Following a two-year decline (2001-2002), the prevalence of fair or poor health status increased in 2003.
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men 24.8%</b> (95% CI: 22.2-27.4); <b>Women 25.7%</b> (95% CI: 23.6-27.8). There was no significant gender difference in the prevalence of fair or poor health status.
<b>Age</b>	Reports of fair or poor health increased significantly with age, ranging from a low of approximately 8% among adults aged 18 to 24 to more than 42% among the elderly.
<b>Education</b>	The prevalence of fair or poor health status decreased significantly at each higher level of educational attainment. In fact, adults without a high school diploma/GED were more than five times as likely as college graduates to report a fair/poor health status (51.0% versus 9.5%).
<b>Household Income</b>	The rate of fair or poor health status significantly decreased until household income reached \$50,000. Nearly half of adults with an annual household income less than \$15,000 had a fair or poor health status, compared with approximately 6% of those in the highest income category (\$75,000+). The prevalence of fair or poor health status was especially evident among adults with an annual income less than \$35,000.
<b>Quick Stats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approximately 45% of adults were in excellent or very good health (see Figure 1.2).</li><li>• Due to poor physical or mental health, 7% of adults were unable to perform their usual activities such as self-care, work, or recreation every day during the past 30 days.</li></ul>

**Table 1.1: General health status of “fair” or “poor”: WVBRFSS, 2003**

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,319	<b>24.8</b>	(22.2-27.4)	2,021	<b>25.7</b>	(23.6-27.8)	3,340	<b>25.3</b>	(23.6-26.9)
<b>Age</b>									
18-24	92	<b>9.6</b>	(0.8-18.3)	111	<b>6.8</b>	(1.9-11.7)	203	<b>8.3</b>	(3.1-13.4)
25-34	187	<b>8.5</b>	(4.4-12.7)	268	<b>12.7</b>	(8.1-17.3)	455	<b>10.6</b>	(7.5-13.8)
35-44	234	<b>19.5</b>	(13.8-25.3)	322	<b>24.5</b>	(19.3-29.8)	556	<b>22.1</b>	(18.2-26.0)
45-54	282	<b>31.6</b>	(25.8-37.4)	387	<b>22.3</b>	(17.8-26.7)	669	<b>26.9</b>	(23.3-30.6)
55-64	249	<b>30.8</b>	(24.5-37.0)	395	<b>37.0</b>	(31.8-42.3)	644	<b>34.0</b>	(29.9-38.0)
65+	274	<b>44.6</b>	(38.3-50.9)	527	<b>40.7</b>	(36.1-45.2)	801	<b>42.3</b>	(38.6-46.0)
<b>Education</b>									
Less than H.S.	244	<b>50.0</b>	(42.6-57.5)	388	<b>51.9</b>	(46.3-57.4)	632	<b>51.0</b>	(46.4-55.6)
H.S. or G.E.D.	526	<b>24.1</b>	(20.3-28.0)	790	<b>26.4</b>	(23.1-29.8)	1,316	<b>25.3</b>	(22.8-27.9)
Some Post-H.S.	265	<b>17.5</b>	(12.7-22.3)	476	<b>16.2</b>	(12.7-19.7)	741	<b>16.8</b>	(13.9-19.6)
College Graduate	281	<b>9.2</b>	(5.7-12.7)	366	<b>9.7</b>	(6.6-12.9)	647	<b>9.5</b>	(7.1-11.8)
<b>Income</b>									
Less than \$15,000	171	<b>52.1</b>	(43.3-61.0)	353	<b>47.1</b>	(41.1-53.0)	524	<b>49.2</b>	(44.2-54.3)
\$15,000- 24,999	263	<b>36.7</b>	(30.4-43.0)	461	<b>33.2</b>	(28.4-38.0)	724	<b>34.7</b>	(30.9-38.6)
\$25,000- 34,999	194	<b>25.6</b>	(18.8-32.4)	269	<b>24.6</b>	(19.0-30.3)	463	<b>25.1</b>	(20.7-29.5)
\$35,000- 49,999	211	<b>14.7</b>	(9.7-19.7)	266	<b>12.9</b>	(8.5-17.4)	477	<b>13.9</b>	(10.5-17.2)
\$50,000- 74,999	167	<b>10.5</b>	(5.6-15.5)	225	<b>7.3</b>	(3.9-10.6)	392	<b>8.9</b>	(5.9-11.9)
\$75,000+	181	<b>5.7</b>	(2.2-9.2)	146	<b>6.1</b>	(1.1-11.0)	327	<b>5.8</b>	(3.0-8.7)

**Figure 1.1: General health status of “fair” or “poor” by year: WVBRFSS, 1993-2003**

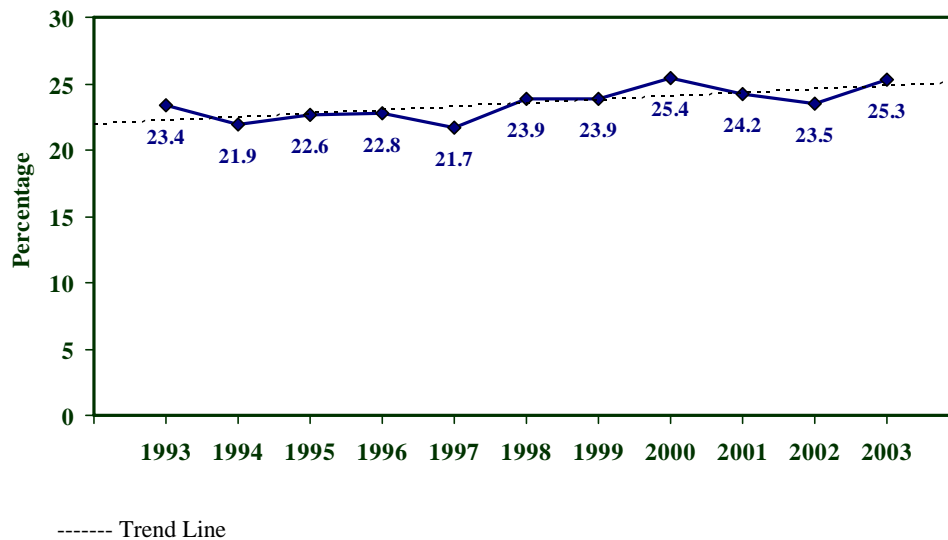


Figure 1.2: Reported general health as “fair” or “poor” by county: WVBRFSS, 1999-2003

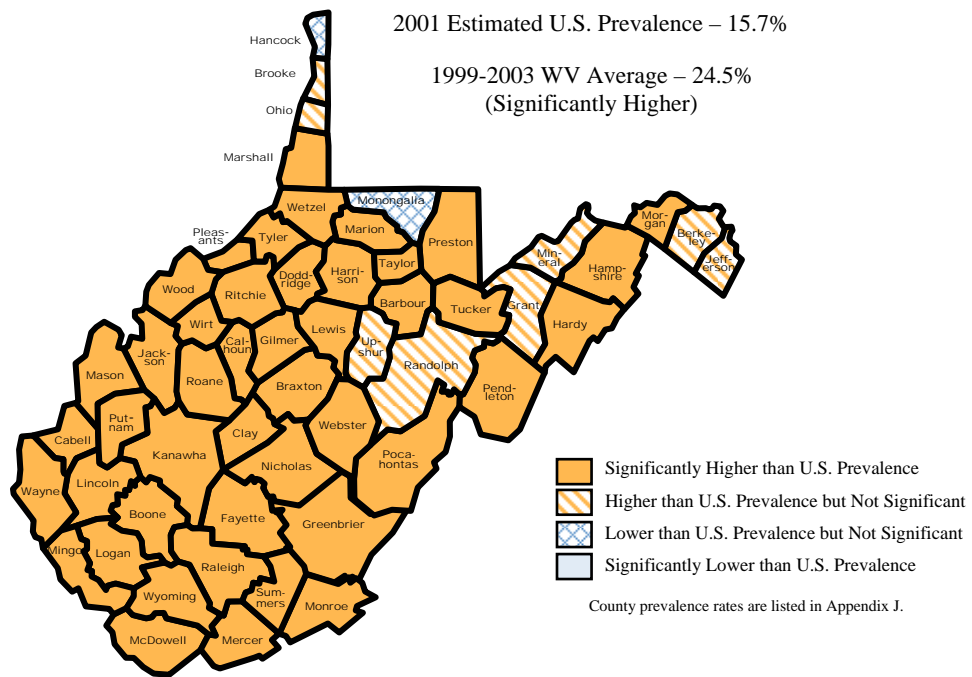


Figure 1.2: General health status: WVBRFSS 2003

