

CHAPTER 1: HEALTH STATUS

Fair or Poor General Health in 2004 and 2005

Definition	Responding “Fair” or “Poor” to the following question: “Would you say that in general your health is: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, or Poor?”
Prevalence	WV: 23.5% (95% CI: 21.9-25.1) in 2004; 24.7% (95% CI: 23.1-26.3) in 2005. US: 16.4% (95% CI: 16.2-16.7) in 2004; 16.7% (95% CI: 16.4-17.0) in 2005. West Virginia ranked 2 nd highest among 52 BRFSS participants in 2004 and 2 nd highest among 53 BRFSS participants in 2005.
Time Trends	From 1993 through 2005, the prevalence of fair or poor general health has been fluctuating around a slowly increasing trend line (see Figure 1.1).
Gender	Men: 24.7% (95% CI: 22.1-27.3) in 2004; 25.2% (95% CI: 22.6-27.8) in 2005. Women: 22.5% (95% CI: 20.5-24.4) in 2004; 24.3% (95% CI: 22.4-26.3) in 2005. There was little difference in how frequently men and women reported a fair or poor general health status.
Age	Reports of fair or poor health increased significantly with age. The 2004 prevalence ranged from a low of 6.8% among the youngest adults to a high of 38.6% among the oldest. Variation by age was similar in 2005, with a prevalence of 10.2% among 25-34-year-olds increasing to a high of 39.0% among those 65 and older.
Education	Adults with less than a high school education carried the greatest risk due to fair or poor health, with a prevalence of nearly 50%. Those with more education had a much lower prevalence, with the risk for college graduates limited to the 9%-10% range. Differences were significant between every educational bracket in both years.
Household Income	Fair or poor health was experienced by approximately 1 of every 2 adults in the lowest income group (less than \$15,000 annually). Significant declines in prevalence occurred for those in the \$25,000 to \$34,999 bracket (approximately 1 in 4) and for adults with the highest incomes (approximately 1 in 20).

QUICK STATS

- West Virginia adults who reported their general health to be excellent or very good represented 47% of the population in 2004 and 43% in 2005.
- Due to poor physical or mental health, 6% to 7% of adults in both years were unable to perform their usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation, every day during the past 30 days.

Table 1.1 Fair or poor health by demographic characteristics: WVBRFSS, 2004

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,315	24.7	22.1-27.3	2,117	22.5	20.5-24.4	3,432	23.5	21.9-25.1
Age									
18-24	75	* 9.6	2.0-17.3	115	* 3.9	0.5-7.3	190	* 6.8	2.5-11.1
25-34	180	13.6	7.9-19.3	281	10.1	6.4-13.8	461	11.8	8.4-15.3
35-44	237	18.5	13.0-24.0	362	18.6	14.1-23.1	599	18.6	15.0-22.1
45-54	294	28.1	22.6-33.7	401	21.5	17.2-25.9	695	24.8	21.3-28.3
55-64	256	35.6	29.2-42.0	380	33.7	28.4-38.9	636	34.6	30.5-38.7
65+	271	40.7	34.3-47.2	574	37.1	32.8-41.4	845	38.6	35.0-42.3
Education									
Less than H.S.	225	49.9	42.6-57.2	402	46.0	40.4-51.5	627	47.7	43.2-52.2
H.S. or G.E.D.	525	27.2	23.0-31.4	795	22.7	19.5-25.8	1,320	25.0	22.3-27.6
Some Post-H.S.	259	16.3	10.8-21.8	470	14.6	11.2-17.9	729	15.4	12.3-18.4
College Graduate	304	9.1	5.6-12.6	447	9.5	6.6-12.3	751	9.3	7.1-11.5
Income									
Less than \$15,000	165	47.1	37.8-56.4	464	47.2	42.0-52.4	629	47.2	42.4-52.0
\$15,000- 24,999	261	34.3	27.8-40.8	403	27.2	22.4-31.9	664	30.6	26.6-34.6
\$25,000- 34,999	165	28.8	21.2-36.5	253	18.9	13.5-24.3	418	23.6	19.0-28.3
\$35,000- 49,999	213	15.6	10.4-20.9	305	11.5	7.7-15.3	518	13.5	10.3-16.7
\$50,000- 74,999	214	14.9	9.6-20.1	230	9.8	6.0-13.5	444	12.6	9.2-16.0
\$75,000+	187	6.1	2.9-9.4	189	3.5	0.9-6.0	376	5.0	2.8-7.1

* Use caution when interpreting and reporting this estimate. See discussion of unstable estimates on page 9.

Table 1.2 Fair or poor health by demographic characteristics: WVBRFSS, 2005

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,357	25.2	22.6-27.8	2,188	24.3	22.4-26.3	3,545	24.7	23.1-26.3
Age									
18-24	68	*12.9	3.9-21.9	101	* 9.2	3.5-14.8	169	11.1	5.7-16.5
25-34	180	11.4	6.2-16.6	282	9.0	5.4-12.5	462	10.2	7.0-13.3
35-44	226	21.9	16.2-27.6	351	20.2	15.6-24.8	577	21.0	17.4-24.7
45-54	286	27.0	21.4-32.7	457	26.9	22.5-31.2	743	27.0	23.4-30.5
55-64	275	35.4	29.2-41.6	366	31.6	26.5-36.8	641	33.5	29.5-37.5
65+	320	39.7	33.9-45.5	622	38.4	34.2-42.6	942	39.0	35.5-42.4
Education									
Less than H.S.	249	49.3	41.8-56.8	381	48.5	42.7-54.4	630	49.0	44.2-53.7
H.S. or G.E.D.	555	23.2	19.2-27.2	867	26.3	23.2-29.4	1,422	24.8	22.3-27.3
Some Post-H.S.	248	20.6	15.0-26.3	503	17.4	13.9-20.9	751	18.8	15.7-21.9
College Graduate	304	11.2	7.4-14.9	434	8.6	6.0-11.2	738	9.9	7.6-12.2
Income									
Less than \$15,000	166	60.3	51.3-69.2	433	48.9	43.5-54.4	599	53.3	48.4-58.1
\$15,000- 24,999	269	37.8	31.3-44.3	460	30.5	25.8-35.2	729	33.9	30.0-37.9
\$25,000- 34,999	213	27.0	20.5-33.5	254	20.9	15.6-26.2	467	24.2	19.9-28.5
\$35,000- 49,999	207	12.2	7.7-16.7	265	12.0	8.1-16.0	472	12.1	9.1-15.2
\$50,000- 74,999	209	9.1	4.1-14.2	262	7.8	4.3-11.2	471	8.5	5.4-11.6
\$75,000+	175	7.9	4.0-11.7	211	6.3	2.9-9.8	386	7.1	4.5-9.8

* Use caution when interpreting and reporting this estimate. See discussion of unstable estimates on page 9.

Figure 1.1 Fair or poor health by year: WVBRFSS, 1993-2005

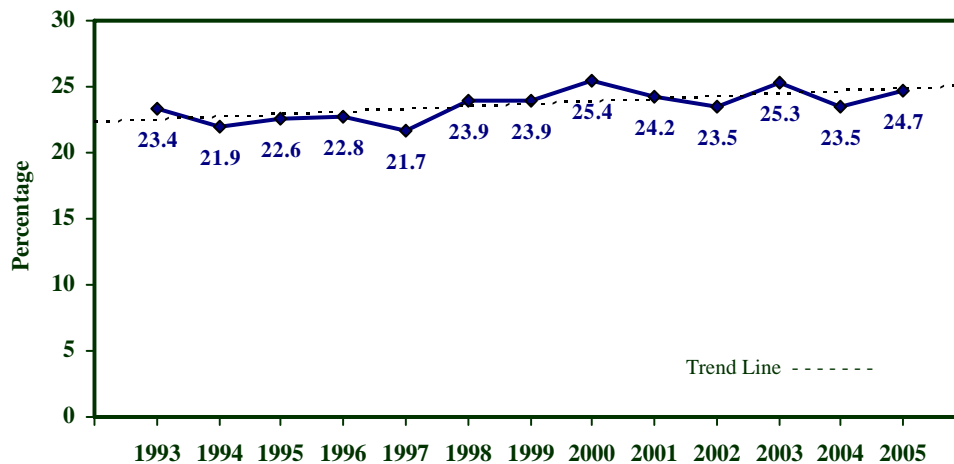


Figure 1.2 Fair or poor health by county: WVBRFSS, 2001-2005

