

FACTS about...

The Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)

Background

- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) developed the **Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)** to be repeated on a routine basis to provide scientists and practitioners with a continuing source of surveillance data from which to examine trends in health communication over time.
- HINTS is a nationally representative telephone survey of the general population.

Purpose

- The goal of HINTS is to further research in health communication and health promotion and provide useful information for programs, policies, and practices in a variety of settings.
- HINTS was created to track trends in the public's use of new communication technologies while charting progress in meeting health communication goals in terms of the public's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.

Resources

- HINTS data are widely available for researchers and practitioners; further information about HINTS and HINTS data is available online at <http://hints.cancer.gov/>
- HINTS 2007 has been collected and will be available to the public in early 2009.
- HINTS 2003, 2005, and 2007 were collected in both English and Spanish.
- A special supplement to the Journal of Health Communication, devoted to HINTS-related research, was published in May, 2006. *Journal of Health Communication*, 11, Suppl 1.
- A resource for data users describing analysis of trends using HINTS data was published in 2008 and can be ordered or downloaded from the website: Analytic methods to examine changes across years using HINTS 2003 & 2005 data.

- A report documenting trends in health and cancer communication in the 2003 and 2005 data was published in 2007 and can be ordered or downloaded from the website.
- A series of HINTS briefs have also been developed to summarize key findings for HINTS analyses and highlight publications that have used HINTS data.
- The following publications describe the development and key outcomes of the initial HINTS survey:
 - Nelson DE, Kreps GL, Hesse BW, Croyle RT, Willis G, Arora NK, Rimer BK, Viswanath KV, Weinstein N, Alden S. The Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS): development, design, and dissemination. *J Health Commun.* 2004 Sep-Oct;9(5):443-60; discussion 81-4.
 - Hesse, BW, Nelson, DE, Kreps, GL, Croyle, RT, Arora, NK, Rimer, BK, Viswanath, K. Trust and Sources of Health Information: The Impact of the Internet and Its Implications for Health Care Providers. *Arch Intern Med.* 2005 Dec 12-26; 165(22):2618-24
 - Additional publications using HINTS data are available online at <http://hints.cancer.gov/>

What's New?

- The HINTS briefs are currently being translated into Spanish and will soon be available online at <http://hints.cancer.gov/>
- A collaborative effort with the Puerto Rico Cancer Center and the Department of Health in Puerto Rico is currently underway to use the HINTS 2007 instrument to collect data in Puerto Rico.
- HINTS 2007 data will be available in early 2009!

