

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Dept. of Health Survey Seeks to Determine How Behaviors and Attitudes Impact Chronic Diseases

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The VI Department of Health said in a release Wednesday that it launched the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey in May — "the nation's premier system of health-related telephone surveys that collect state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Interviewers representing D.O.H. will use a randomized combination of landline and cell phone numbers to call residents to inquire about health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and the use of preventive services, the health department said. The survey occurs annually and the goal for 2021 is to complete 2000 surveys by December

31st .

Lyña Fredericks, D.O.H. Chronic Disease Division Acting Director, said, “We are urging Virgin Islands residents to take the survey if they receive a call. The BRFSS looks at how our behaviors and attitudes impact chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease, and kidney disease. The information gathered will help us assess the unique challenges facing our population and will drive the development of health promotion and disease prevention programs in the territory.”

The localized gathering of data and subsequent analysis is critical for agencies in obtaining funding for grants and other projects, said the health department.

“We are reaching out to the public to let them know how important their participation in this survey is to helping DOH determine how to best allocate resources,” stated John Orr, data analyst/program manager. “Your response will be critical in charting the course for addressing chronic disease in the Virgin Islands. If you are called, please agree to participate in the survey.”

Individuals seeking additional information may email john.orr@doh.vi.gov