

# COPD | SC TRACKING

## SC BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM META DATA

### BACKGROUND

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is the world's largest random telephone survey of the noninstitutionalized population aged 18 or older that is used to track health risks, behaviors, and preventative health practices in the United States. South Carolina has been administering the BRFSS survey annually since 1984. SC Tracking obtains BRFSS data from the SC BRFSS program.

### DATA LIMITATIONS

BRFSS data is a self-reported and anonymous telephone-based survey. With self-reported data several biases could influence the data including self-report bias, recall bias, and non-coverage bias. Response rates for the BRFSS survey have been declining over time. Due to relatively small sample sizes, county and ZIP Code level data is not recommended for analysis at times due to suppression rules. Additionally, county-level estimates often need to aggregate several years' worth of data to show stable rates.

### ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

Data is displayed as percentages. Blanks or missing data within maps, tables, or charts may be due to data not being available or BRFSS suppression rules. Data is unavailable when no observations were made for that specific group, and therefore estimates were not available. Suppression is applied in accordance with BRFSS guidelines to protect confidentiality. Data is suppressed when confidence intervals exceed 20%, the denominator is less than 50, county-level data has less than 200 observations for aggregated years, or county-level data has less than 500 observations for single years.

### USE CONSTRAINTS

Any user of this data must have reviewed and understood the metadata content before attempting to understand, interpret or use BRFSS data. No attempt should be made to identify survey participants through use of this data set. This is a public dataset and is not for commercial purposes. Any use of this data should contain proper data source acknowledgement to: SC BRFSS.



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### MEASURE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The prevalence of adults 18 and older who have ever been diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (or COPD), are current smokers with COPD, former smokers with COPD, E-cigarette users with COPD, and never smoked but have COPD are displayed at the state and county-levels for 2023 on the [COPD Dashboard](#). Sex, race and ethnicity, age group, and income breakouts are also displayed.

**COPD** is captured in BRFSS by asking respondents, “Have you ever been told you have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD, emphysema or chronic bronchitis?”. People who replied in the affirmative are summarized and displayed on the dashboard.

**Current Smoker with COPD** is determined by people who first responded “Yes” to, “Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life” and every day or some days to the follow-up question of “Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?” were categorized as current smokers. Current smokers were then grouped to determine the percentage of them who said “Yes” to “Have you ever been told you have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD, emphysema or chronic bronchitis?” with those positive values being shown on the dashboard.

**Former Smoker with COPD** is determined by people who responded “Yes” to, “Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life” but not at all to the follow-up question of “Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?” were categorized as former smokers. Former smokers were then grouped to determine the percentage of them who said “Yes” to “Have you ever been told you have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD, emphysema or chronic bronchitis?” with those positive values being shown on the dashboard.

**E-Cigarette Users with COPD** is determined by people who responded every day or some days to “Do you now use e-cigarettes or other electronic vaping products every day, some days, or not at all?” as well as “Have you ever been told you have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD, emphysema or chronic bronchitis?” are shown on the dashboard.



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## SC BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM META DATA

### MEASURE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**Never Smoked but Have COPD** is determined by people who responded “No” to, “Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?” but “Yes” to “Have you ever been told you have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD, emphysema or chronic bronchitis?” are shown on the dashboard.

Data is updated annually and was last updated July 30, 2025.

### SUGGESTED CITATION

SC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. [Graphic name]. Available online: [www.dph.sc.gov/tracking](http://www.dph.sc.gov/tracking). Accessed on [date accessed].

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about the National BRFSS program here:  
[www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html)

Review SC BRFSS historical questions here:  
<https://apps.dhec.sc.gov/Health/BFSSQuestionSearch/default.aspx>



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## SC REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE META DATA

### BACKGROUND

The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) provides diverse fiscal and statistical analyses, reports, and other services to various state and local government entities, the private sector, and South Carolinians. RFA collects health care data from all civilian hospitals in the the state, including emergency department reports, outpatient surgery report and inpatient reports.

RFA data is stored on the Private Sector Health Care Utilization Database, which contains information from the UB-04 billing system. The database includes all inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department visits from short-term acute care hospitals. The database includes information such as patient demographics, ICD-10 diagnoses and procedures, charges, length of stay, patient disposition, etc. The South Carolina Data Oversight Council, a seventeen member public/private body formed by the state statute with the SC RFA as staff, oversees the collection and release of information from this database.

### DATA LIMITATIONS

RFA data is not population-based and does not include information on people at hospitals managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Data is based on the county where residents live, not where they are diagnosed.

### ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

In accordance with RFA guidelines, numbers less than five are suppressed to protect patient confidentiality. Associated crude rates, inpatient charges, and charges for emergency department visits are suppressed as well. Suppression is not required for age-adjusted rates as personal identity is protected as they are calculated, but may be suppressed when published on SC Tracking dashboards.



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## SC REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE META DATA

### USE CONSTRAINTS

Any user of this data must have reviewed and understood the metadata content before attempting to understand, interpret or use RFA data. No attempt should be made to identify patient identity through use of this data set. This is a public dataset and is not for commercial purposes. Any use of this data should contain proper data source acknowledgement: SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health and Demographics Section. Additional data requests should be sent directly to SC RFA.

### MEASURE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

COPD is a large group of lung diseases characterized by airflow obstruction and is often associated with symptoms related to difficulty in breathing but can be present without any symptoms. The most important and frequent conditions in COPD are chronic bronchitis and emphysema but also include other diagnoses. ICD-10 diagnosis codes J40-J44 are used to gather COPD ED visits and hospitalizations data. The following data is displayed on the [COPD Dashboard](#):

The number and age-adjusted rate of COPD hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits in 2019-2023 at the county-level. These rates are also displayed at the county and state-levels on the [County Profiles Dashboard](#).

The number and crude rate of COPD hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits by age group in 2019-2023 at the county and state-levels

The number of COPD ED visits in 2019-2023 and associated average and total charges by insurance type at the county and state-levels

Rates are per 10,000 population. Age groupings used for COPD data include: 25-44, 45-64, 65-84, 85+, and All Ages (0+). This data is updated annually (last updated July 30, 2025).



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## SC REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE META DATA

### SUGGESTED CITATION

SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health Demographics Section. [Graphic name].  
Available online: [www.dph.sc.gov/tracking](http://www.dph.sc.gov/tracking). Accessed on [date accessed].

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office here:  
<https://rfa.sc.gov/>



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## SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH VITAL STATISTICS META DATA

### BACKGROUND

Vital Records is the state's official records keeper for vital information pertaining to births, deaths, marriages, and divorces occurring in South Carolina. South Carolina law requires the filing of birth and death certificates. This has been in effect since January 1, 1915. Live birth data pertains to all births to South Carolina residents within and beyond state lines. This information is derived from birth certificates. Infant mortality data for South Carolina residents is sourced from both birth and death certificates.

### DATA LIMITATIONS

Data does not include clinical data such as lab tests, or information on a deceased person's health status leading up to death. Additionally, data on vital events, such as births and deaths, can take a significant amount of time to be finalized and readily available by researchers.

### ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

In accordance with standards established by SC DPH Vital Statistics, numbers less than five are suppressed along with their associated rates to protect patient confidentiality.

### USE CONSTRAINTS

Any user of this data must have reviewed and understood the metadata content before attempting to understand, interpret or use SC DPH Vital Statistics data. No attempt should be made to identify decedents through use of this data set. This is a public dataset and is not for commercial purposes. Any use of this data should contain proper data source acknowledge: SC DPH Vital Statistics. Additional data requests should be sent to SC DPH Vital Statistics.



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## SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH VITAL STATISTICS META DATA

### MEASURE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The following data is displayed on the [COPD Dashboard](#) from 2019-2023 (aggregated):

The number and age-adjusted rate of COPD mortality at the county-level. Data are also available for previous five-year intervals.

The number and age-adjusted rate of COPD mortality by race and ethnicity at the county and state-levels.

### SUGGESTED CITATION

SC Department of Public Health Vital Statistics. [Graphic name]. Available online: [www.dph.sc.gov/tracking](http://www.dph.sc.gov/tracking). Accessed on [date accessed].

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Learn more about SC DPH Vital Records here:  
[www.dph.sc.gov/public/vital-records/about-vital-records](http://www.dph.sc.gov/public/vital-records/about-vital-records)

The South Carolina Community Assessment Network (SCAN) is an interactive data retrieval system for community assessment, planning, and health practices that can be used to create tables, charts, and maps using select vital record data. This interactive tool can be accessed here:  
[apps.dhec.sc.gov/Health/scan/scan/index.aspx](https://apps.dhec.sc.gov/Health/scan/scan/index.aspx)



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