

**\*Do NOT compare 2011 BRFSS data to previous years. Due to changes in methods, comparisons are NOT valid and may be misleading.**

Beginning in 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made two important changes in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. First, they adopted a new statistical method for weighting data (i.e. raking) and second, they began incorporating cell phone users for the first time (cell phones were added to the Tennessee BRFSS in August 2011). These improvements were necessary to ensure that the survey data continue to represent the population in each state and to maintain an accurate picture of behaviors and chronic health conditions in the U.S.

As a result of these changes, 2011 BRFSS results **cannot** be compared to those from earlier years – any shifts in estimates from previous years to 2011 estimates may be the result of the new method and not a true change in behaviors.

A more detailed explanation of the changes described above can be found in the following Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report from the CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm6122.pdf>