

Technical Notes and Definitions

Prevalence: Prevalence is defined as the number of current cases per the population at risk at a certain point in time or period.

Statistical Significance: Because of random variability around a trend or point, rates observed at any given time are best considered estimates of the underlying or true rate. Confidence intervals are calculated to set a range of values, above and below the estimate that likely contains the true rate. (Confidence intervals are shown as error bars on graphs in this report and are calculated at the 95% level). If the confidence intervals of two groups (such as males and females, or Vermont and the U.S.) overlap, we use this as a conservative test that the difference is not statistically significant.

Crude and Age Adjusted Rates: Age adjustment is usually done when comparing two or more populations, particularly when they have different age structures. Age adjustment, using the direct method, is the application of age-specific rates in a population of interest to a standardized age distribution to eliminate differences in observed rates that result from age differences in the population composition. Age adjusted rates are useful for comparison purposes only, not to measure absolute magnitude. To measure absolute magnitude, crude rates are presented. Age adjustment was standardized by the direct method to the year 2000 standard U.S. population using the following age distribution: 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-64, 65+.

- See Klein, RJ, Schoenborn CA. *Age adjustment using the 2000 projected U.S. population. Hyattsville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, 2001. Healthy People 2010 statistical notes, no. 20.* <http://hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/ibisq/statnt20.pdf>

Odds Ratios (OR): The odds ratio is a way of comparing whether the probability of a certain event is the same for two groups. An odds ratio of 1 implies that the event is equally likely in both groups. An odds ratio greater than one implies that the event is more likely in the first group. An odds ratio less than one implies that the event is less likely in the first group.

Crude and Adjusted Odds Ratios: Crude and adjusted OR's are presented for logistic regression models, the crude rate resulting from the univariate model and the adjusted rate resulting from the multivariate model.

Federal Poverty Guidelines: Poverty thresholds are used for calculating all official poverty population statistics and are updated each year by the Census Bureau. The HHS Federal Poverty guidelines are a simplified version of the federal poverty thresholds used for administrative purposes, and are often referred to as "federal poverty level." Guidelines vary by family size. In addition, there is one set of figures for the 48 contiguous states and D.C.; one set for Alaska; and one set for Hawaii. For more information on poverty guidelines please visit:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/05poverty.shtml>