

**Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
Human Subjects Review Board (HSRB) Guidelines
For**

Arizona Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) State-Added Questions

1. The Arizona Department of Health Services HSRB, in general, defers review of the Arizona's BRFSS State-Added questions to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Institutional Review Board (IRB). Thus, the overall protocol and questions that have been approved by the CDC IRB **do not need** to come to the ADHS HSRB for further review.
 - a. New questions that CDC adds to the national BRFSS **do not need** to be cleared through the ADHS HSRB.
 - b. However, once every five years the ADHS BRFSS program should request that Arizona's HSRB review the protocol in order to re-affirm this HSRB deferral to the CDC IRB.
 - c. Click on this link for the "[CDC's IRB Exemption Letter](#)." This letter acknowledges that no changes have occurred in the HSRB protocol or the related science that would affect the ethical appropriateness of the research.

2. The Arizona HSRB does wish to review BRFSS questions or protocols when:
 - a. There are proposed state-added questions that have not already been approved by the CDC IRB, or
 - b. There is a proposal to collect personally identifiable data, or
 - c. There is a proposed call-back component, or
 - d. There is a proposal to include persons younger than age 18, or
 - e. There are proposed questions or answers that might be sensitive or threatening to the respondent.

3. Once questions or protocols are approved or exempted by HSRB, the BRFSS program need not return for ongoing review unless HSRB specifies that the researcher must submit periodic reports, or obtain renewal, or limits the duration of holding personally identifiable data.