The N.C. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (N.C. BRFSS) provides a critical source of public health data for understanding the scope of the injury-related problems and measuring progress toward overall statewide goals. N.C. BRFSS is a comprehensive telephone survey of adults ages 18 and older. The sample size for the 2004 N.C. BRFSS was nearly 15,000. Every year a core set of injury-related questions are asked. In 2004, three injury-related questions were asked on the topic regarding firearms. The sampling scheme has been designed to produce estimates for local levels (22 counties and 13 regions) and for special populations such as Native Americans and Spanish-speaking and English-speaking Hispanics. See the N.C. BRFSS website for more information, specific details on item responses, and data limitations: www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/brfss.

Weighted to provide estimates representative of the adult non-institutionalized population; firearm owners who reported keeping loaded weapons such as pistols, shotguns, and rifles in their home, garage, outdoor storage area, or motor vehicle. Specific data on 95 percent confidence intervals is at the N.C. BRFSS website: www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/brfss.

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