

How do Italians feel about participating in a behavioral risk factor survey? Results of Studio PASSI 2006



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Background

- The lack of participation by persons with certain demographic, medical or behavioral characteristics may influence representativeness of behavioral risk factor surveillance data
- Non-participation may be affected by attitudes about the usefulness of collecting information on health behaviors

Objectives

- Determine the opinion of Italians participating in Studio PASSI 2006 about the importance of conducting interviews of behavioral risk factors at local level
- Identify factors associated with favorable attitudes toward participation

Methods

- Telephone interviews of a random sample of residents aged 18-69 drawn from local health registers of 35 of the country's 195 local health units (LHU) were conducted by local health staff
- 7 of 20 regions were included, four of which had representative samples at regional level
- Respondents asked at the end of the interview "how important it is that their local health unit continue to conduct interviews of this kind?"
- Bivariate and logistic regression analyses performed looking at the association between attitudes and interviewee characteristics and health behaviors
- Analyses looking at associations between breast and cervical cancer screening and attitudes limited to women in the age groups targeted by each type of screening

Results 1

- 4881 respondents
- Refusal rate 13%
- 92% of respondents expressed a positive opinion
- Assuming those who refused to participate had negative feelings about the survey, the percentage expressing a positive opinion declined to 81%

Results 3

Multivariate analysis: factors associated with positive attitudes*

Characteristic	Adjusted OR	95% CI
Female gender	1.3	1.1 - 1.7
Education ≥ 9 years	1.3	1.0 - 1.6
Hypercholesterolemia	1.5	1.1 - 2.0
At-risk drinkers	1.6	1.1 - 2.2

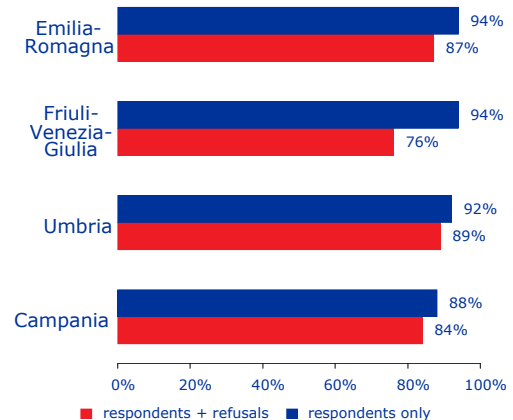
*Model included age, gender, education, at-risk drinking, hypercholesterolemia

Separate models demonstrated that never having had a mammogram and having had a pap test >3 years ago were also significantly associated with positive attitudes

*Women, persons with higher education, and those with certain medical conditions and less-healthy behaviors were **MORE** likely to have favorable attitudes towards survey participation*

Results 2

Positive attitude concerning importance of local-level behavioral risk surveys, Regions with regional-level samples



Attitudes were generally favorable, although regional differences were observed

Limitations

- Respondents may be reluctant to express negative attitudes
- Limited geographic representativeness influences potential generalizability of results
- Unable to evaluate risk factors for those who refused to be interviewed

Conclusions

- The favorable opinion of the persons interviewed as part of the pilot study is highly encouraging
- Information on regions or subgroups with lower rates of positive response may be useful in targeting communications efforts with the public to maximize participation and representativeness

