



**For Immediate Release:** 08.05.05

From: David Powers  
Communications Director  
708.358.5781

Contact: Georgeen Polyak  
Director of Public Health, PhD.  
708.358.5480

### **Survey to Gather Information on Residents' Health Issues Begins**

If Northern Illinois University area code 815 shows up on your telephone caller ID over the next week please take the call and help public health officials determine where future resources should be focused.

Beginning August 10, some 800 residents will be polled by telephone for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey (BRFSS), which is intended to generate information about health risk behaviors, clinical preventive practices and health care access and use. All information will be kept confidential and only reported for Oak Park as a group, not for individuals.

“The survey will allow us to gather information about how Oak Park residents feel about a range of public health issues,” explained Director of Public Health Georgeen Polyak, PhD. “We hope people will take the time to participate in the survey so we can get good information.”

Survey questions will delve into a wide range of topics, including current health status, access to healthcare, environmental factors, tobacco and alcohol consumption, and use of health screenings such as mammograms, diabetes and cholesterol.

“The questions are designed to assist us in developing a vision for the collective health of the community and determine factors that may impact the public health system and residents’ health,” said Polyak.

Similar surveys will be conducted in many other communities across the country. Once the information is gathered, the Oak Park Health Department will compile and analyze the data and publish the findings.

Information from the surveys is used to plan and target health initiatives, identify emerging health problems, establish and track objectives, develop, implement and evaluate a broad array of disease prevention activities and support health-related legislative efforts.

The project is a joint venture and funded by Rush Oak Park Hospital, West Suburban Medical Center and the Village of Oak Park. For more information call 358.5480 or email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us).

###