

# Disparities in Tobacco Use in Georgia

Adult males and females with less than a high school education are significantly more likely to smoke compared to those with a high school degree or above<sup>1</sup>.

## Age Group<sup>1</sup>

- The overall smoking prevalence in Georgia is highest among young adults aged 18 to 24 years (25%; 24,000).
- Smoking prevalence among adult males is consistently higher than among females across all age groups (Figure 1).
- Females aged 45-54 years (23%; 15,000) are more likely to smoke than females of any other age group.
- More males aged 18-24 years (29%; 14,000) and 25-34 years (29%; 20,000) smoke than males of older ages.

## Race/Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>

- In Georgia, smoking prevalence is highest among non-Hispanic (NH) whites (24%; 1 million) followed by NH blacks (17%; 350,000) (Figure 2).
- A higher percentage of NH white young adults age 18-24 years (35% 160,000) smoke than any other age group (Figure 3).
- Smoking prevalence is highest among NH blacks age 45-54 years (22%; 81,000) (Figure 3).

## Health Coverage Status<sup>1</sup>

- Male (50%; 400,000) and female (59%; 360,000) smokers are less likely to have health coverage than male (75%; 1.7 million) and female (77%; 1.9 million) nonsmokers (Figure 4).
- Approximately 57% (535,000) of NH white smokers have health coverage, whereas 44% (140,000) of NH black smokers have health coverage.

## Income Level<sup>1</sup>

- Georgia adults with an annual household income of less than \$15,000 have the highest smoking prevalence at 35% (310,000); households with

Figure 1: Percent of Adults Who Use Smokeless Tobacco by Age, Georgia, 2011<sup>4</sup>

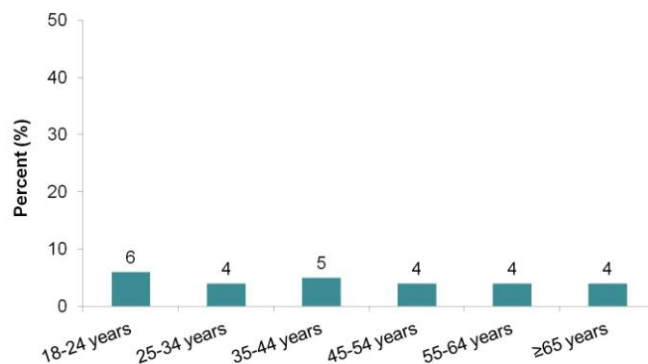


Figure 2: Percent of Adults Who Use Smokeless Tobacco by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Georgia, 2011<sup>4</sup>

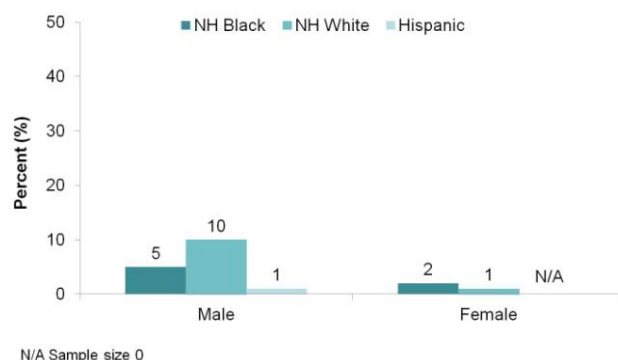
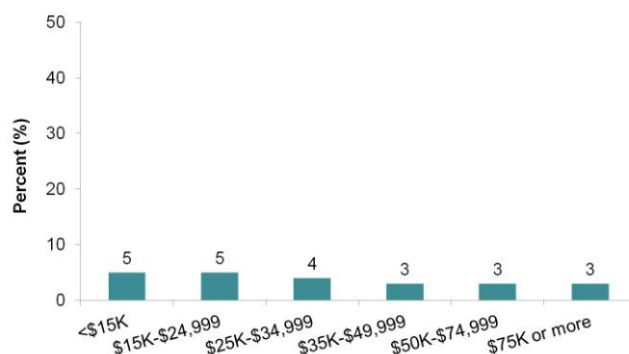
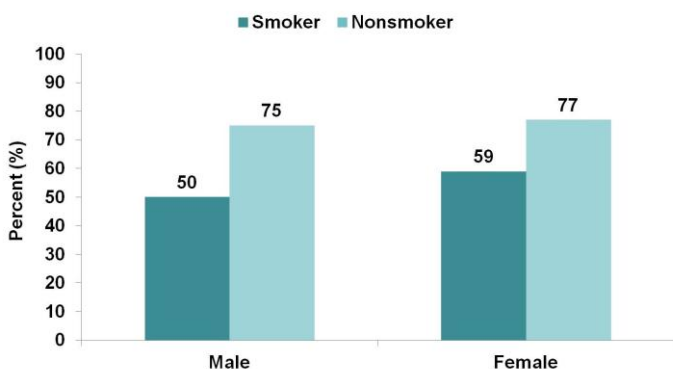


Figure 3: Percent of Adults Who Use Smokeless Tobacco by Income, Georgia, 2011<sup>4</sup>



# Disparities in Tobacco Use

Figure 4: Percentage of Adults with Health Coverage by Smoking Status and Gender, Georgia, 2011<sup>1</sup>



income \$75K or more have significantly lower smoking prevalence (8%; 120,000) (Figure 5).

- Males with annual household incomes of less than \$15,000 (45%; 167,000) are more likely to smoke than males in higher income groups (Figure 5).
- As annual household income increases for both males and females, smoking prevalence decreases (Figure 5).

## Education Level<sup>1</sup>

- In Georgia, smoking prevalence decreases as education level increases (Figure 6).
- Adult males (42%; 260,000) and females (30%; 180,000) with less than a high school education are significantly more likely to smoke compared to those with a high school degree or above (Figure 6).
- A significantly lower percentage of males (9%; 75,000) and females (7%; 67,000) with a college degree smoke than those without a college degree.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT)

- Based on the National Adult Tobacco Survey, Georgians who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender have a higher smoking prevalence (33%; 55,000) compared to heterosexuals (19%; 1.2 million)<sup>2</sup>.

## Cardiovascular Health

- Based on the Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry data, 23% of stroke patients who were admitted to participating hospitals during November 2007 to December 2011 were current smokers.
- Heart attack is the most common form of cardiovascular disease among male (6%; 50,000) and female (6%; 40,000) smokers in Georgia (Figure 7)<sup>1</sup>.

Figure 5: Percentage of Adult Cigarette Smokers, by Sex and Annual Income, Georgia, 2011<sup>1</sup>



Figure 6: Percentage of Adult Cigarette Smokers, by Sex and Education, Georgia, 2011<sup>1</sup>

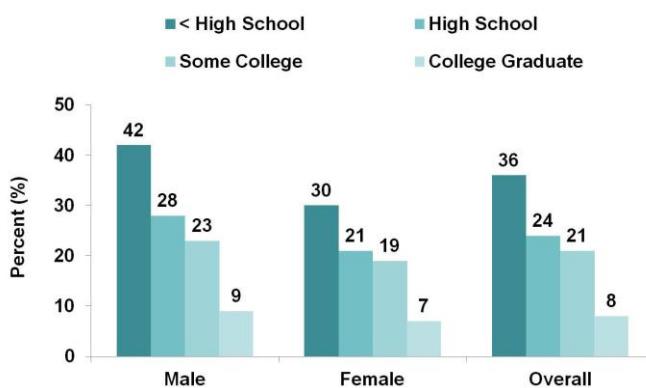
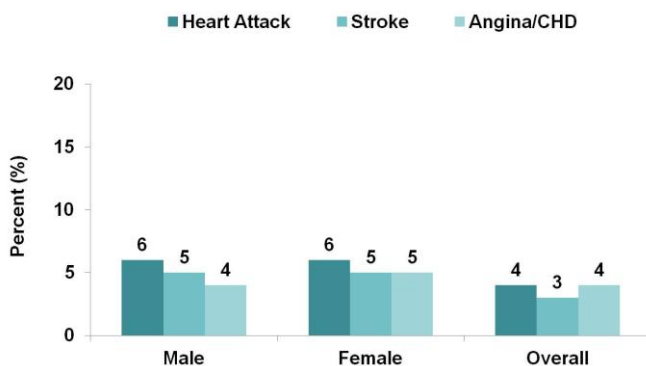


Figure 7: Percentage of Cardiovascular Disease Among Adult Smokers by Sex, Georgia, 2011<sup>1</sup>



- NH white smokers are more likely to have suffered from heart attack (7%; 67,000) and angina/coronary heart disease (5%; 52,000) than NH black smokers (5%; 16,000 for heart attack and 3%; 9,000 for angina/coronary heart disease) (Figure 8)<sup>1</sup>.

# Disparities in Tobacco Use

Figure 8: Percentage of Cardiovascular Disease Among Adult Smokers by Race, Georgia, 2011<sup>1</sup>

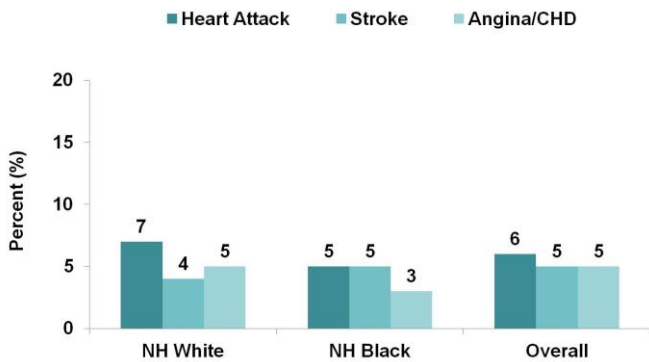
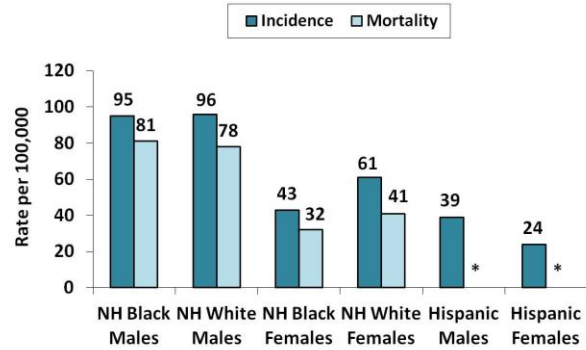


Figure 9: Age-adjusted Lung Cancer Incidence and Mortality Rates by Race and Sex, Georgia, 2006-2010<sup>4,5,6,7</sup>



\*Mortality rates not available for Hispanics

Note: rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population; mortality rates are taken for years 2004-2008.

NH = non-Hispanic

## Lung Cancer

- Approximately 79% of lung cancer deaths in Georgia are attributable to smoking<sup>3</sup>.
- Males (87%) have higher smoking attributable lung cancer deaths than females (67%)<sup>3</sup>.
- The lung cancer incidence and mortality rates are significantly lower among Georgia females than among males (Figure 9)<sup>4,5,6,7</sup>.
- The incidence rate of lung cancer among NH black males in Georgia is 95 per 100,000 (748 annually), similar to that of NH white males in Georgia (96 per 100,000; 2,618 annually) (Figure 9)<sup>4,5,6</sup>.
- The lung cancer incidence rate among NH black females is 43 per 100,000 (506 annually), which is significantly lower than the incidence rate for NH white females in Georgia (61 per 100,000; 2,080 annually) (Figure 9)<sup>4,5,6</sup>.

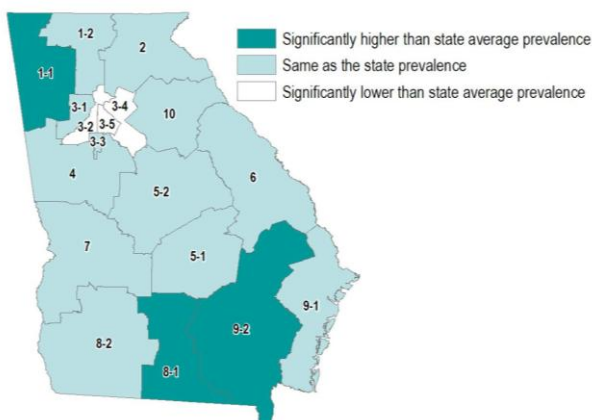
Table 1: Smoking Prevalence among Adults by Public Health District, Georgia 2011<sup>1</sup>

Public Health District	Smoking Prevalence (%)	Estimated Number of Adult Smokers
9-2 Southeast Health District (Waycross)*	31%	107,000
1-1 Northwest Health District (Rome)*	26%	120,000
3-3 Clayton County Health District (Jonesboro)	26%	39,000
8-1 South Health District (Valdosta)*	26%	58,000
1-2 North Georgia Health District (Dalton)	25%	82,000
9-1 Coastal Health District (Savannah)	25%	103,000
6-0 East Central Health District (Augusta)	23%	94,000
7-0 West Central Health District (Columbus)	23%	56,000
8-2 Southwest Health District (Albany)	23%	66,000
4-0 LaGrange Health District	22%	130,000
5-1 South Central Health District (Dublin)	22%	35,000
2-0 North Health District (Gainesville)	20%	83,000
3-1 Cobb/Douglas Health District	20%	95,000
10-0 Northeast Health District (Athens)	20%	65,000
5-2 North Central Health District (Macon)	18%	73,000
3-5 DeKalb Health District	16%	67,000
3-2 Fulton Health District	14%	77,000
3-4 East Metro Health District (Lawrenceville)	14%	83,000

\*Significantly above the state smoking prevalence, based on 95% confidence intervals

Data source: 2011 Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Figure 10: Percent of Adults Who Smoke Cigarettes by Health District, Georgia, 2011<sup>1</sup>



- Southeast (Waycross 9-2, 31%; 107,000), Northwest (Rome 1-1, 27%; 120,000), and South (Valdosta 8-1, 26%; 58,000) Public Health Districts have significantly higher smoking prevalence than the overall state average rate (21%; 1.5M) (Table 1 & Figure 10).

# Disparities in Tobacco Use

Figure 11: Percentage of Middle School and High School Students Who Smoke Cigarettes by Sex, Georgia, 2011<sup>8</sup>

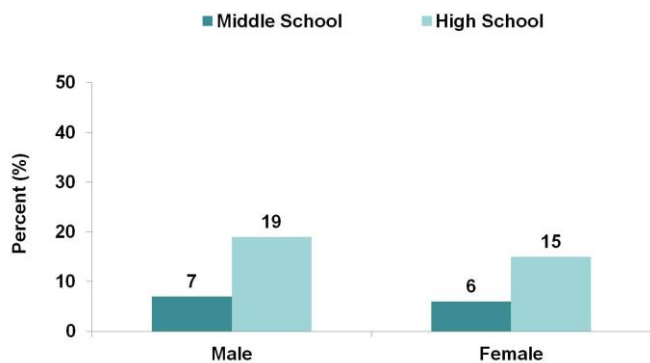


Figure 12: Percentage of High School Students who Use Tobacco by Race/Ethnicity, Georgia, 2011<sup>8</sup>

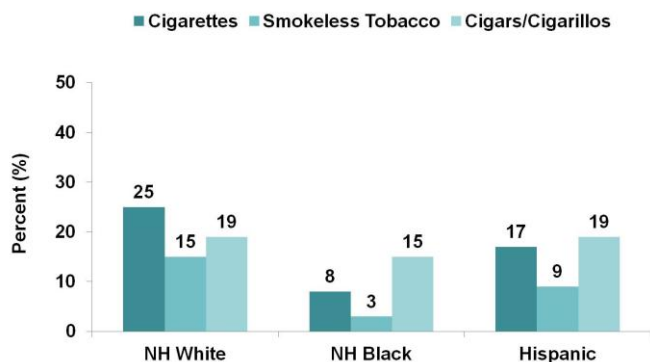


Figure 13: Percentage of High School Students Who Smoked Cigarettes by Grade, Georgia, 2011<sup>8</sup>

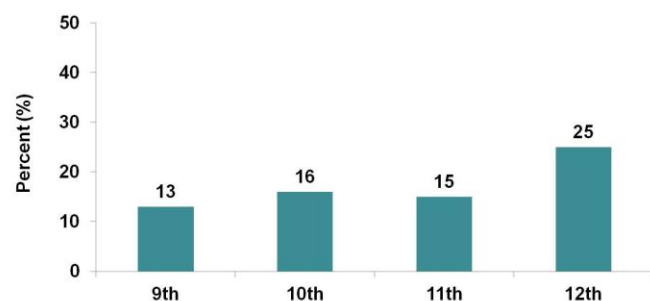
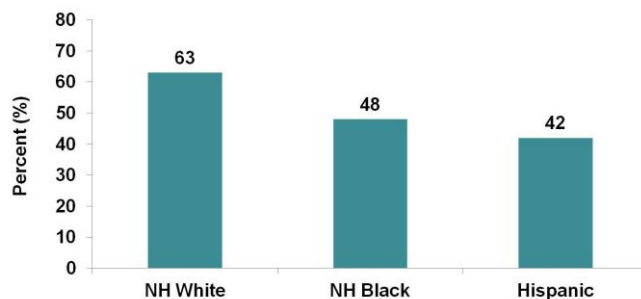


Figure 14: Percentage of High School Students who are Exposed to Secondhand Smoke by Race/Ethnicity, Georgia, 2011<sup>9</sup>



## Tobacco Use Among Youth

- In 2011, 23% (93,000) of Georgia high school students smoked cigarettes or cigars, or used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on one or more days within 30 days of the survey<sup>8</sup>.
- Male (19%; 39,000) and female (15%; 31,000) high school students are significantly more likely to smoke than male (7%; 12,000) and female (6%; 11,000) middle school students (Figure 11)<sup>8</sup>.
- More NH white high school students use cigarettes (25%; 46,000) than other types of tobacco while more NH black high school students (15%; 26,000) use cigars and cigarillos than other types of tobacco<sup>8</sup> (Figure 12).
- NH white (25%; 46,000) high school students are significantly more likely to smoke cigarettes than NH black (8%; 13,000) students; NH white (15%; 29,000) students are also significantly more likely to use smokeless tobacco than NH black (3%; 6,000) students (Figure 12)<sup>8</sup>.
- Georgia high school students in 12<sup>th</sup> grade (25%; 21,000) were significantly more likely to smoke than other grades (Figure 13)<sup>8</sup>.
- NH white high school students (63%; 130,000) were significantly more likely to have exposure to secondhand smoke in a room or car within the last 7 days compared to NH blacks (48%; 88,000) and Hispanics (42%; 14,000) (Figure 14)<sup>9</sup>.
- The percentage of high school students exposed to secondhand smoke in the past seven days who have been diagnosed with asthma (25%; 62,000) is comparable to those who have not been exposed to secondhand smoke (26%; 53,000)<sup>9</sup>.

# Disparities in Tobacco Use

## Data Sources:

1. 2011 Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Data
2. 2009-2010 National Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS)
3. Georgia Vital Statistics, 2004-2008; CDC SAMMEC web application (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/sammecc/>)
4. 2006-2010 Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry (GCCR)
5. 2006-2010 National Cancer Institute (NCI)
6. 2006-2010 National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
7. Georgia Death File, Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Public Health, Vital Records Program, 2004-2008
8. 2011 Georgia Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
9. 2011 Georgia Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)