



SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE IN HAWAI'I

Facts, Figures and Trends

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
JULY 2010



Hawai'i State Department of Health
Tobacco Prevention and Education Program
Chronic Disease Management and Control Branch
1250 Punchbowl Street, Room 217 • Honolulu, HI 96813



ADULT TOBACCO USE

Adult Tobacco Use

Mortality and Morbidity

In Hawai'i, roughly 237 of every 100,000 deaths are estimated to be attributable to smoking. This is more pronounced among men (380 deaths per 100,000) than women (133 deaths per 100,000).

Adult Smoking Prevalence

After a slight increase in smoking prevalence from 1999 to 2002, reported current smoking dropped to about 17% in 2003 and has remained close to this level (Figure 1). Fewer than 1 in 7 adults in Hawai'i report current smoking in 2008 (15.4%).

Figure 1. Adult Smoking Prevalence, Hawai'i and the U.S., BRFSS 1997–2008



Adult Smoking by Gender

Men in Hawai'i are consistently more likely to smoke cigarettes than women. After a sharp decrease in 2003, the male smoking prevalence has leveled out at about 1 in 5 men smoking everyday or some days. Meanwhile, smoking among women decreased in 2003 only to increase back to 15.9% in 2006, but is now down to 12.7% in 2008.

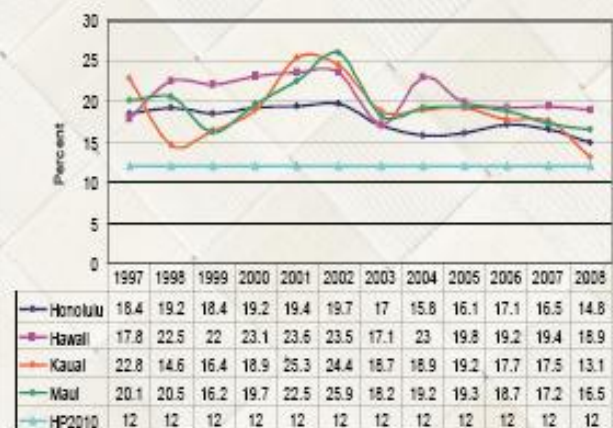
Adult Smoking by Age Group

The smoking prevalence for most age groups held relatively steady over the past 10 years with the exceptions of youngest adults (ages 18–24) and those between ages 45 and 54 years old. In 2008, people between the ages of 18 and 54 years old were over three times more likely to smoke than those aged 65 and older.

Adult Smoking Prevalence by County

Kauai and Maui Counties experienced an increase in smoking prevalence between 1999 and 2002, but have since declined to levels more similar to Honolulu County (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Adult Smoking Prevalence by County, BRFSS 1997–2008



County of Kauai

In 2008, the adult smoking prevalence for Kauai County was 13.1%. By community, smoking prevalence was 13% in both Hanalei/Kapaa and Lihue-Waimea.

City and County of Honolulu

The adult smoking prevalence for Honolulu County was 14.8%. By community, smoking prevalence varied greatly ranging from 5.3% in Kailua/Waimanalo/Hawaii Kai to 29.6% in Nanakuli/Waianae.

County of Maui

In Maui County the overall adult smoking prevalence for 2008 was 16.5%. By community, smoking prevalence ranged from a low of 17.1% in Lahaina/Wailuku to a high of 19.9% on the island of Molokai.

County of Hawaii

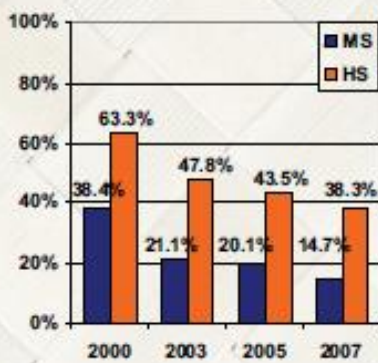
On the Big Island, the 2008 adult smoking prevalence was 18.9%. By community, prevalence ranged from a low of 17.5% in North Hawaii to 20.3% in the Puna/Ka'u region.

YOUTH TOBACCO USE

Youth Cigarette Smoking

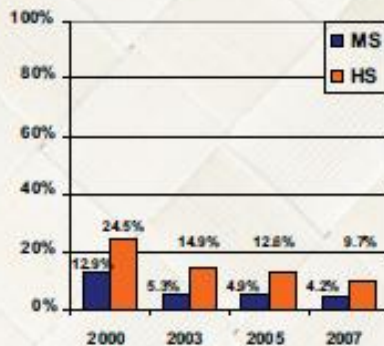
In 2000, almost two-thirds (63.3%) of high school students reported they had tried smoking, yet by 2007, fewer than half (38.3%) had ever tried a cigarette, even one or two puffs (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Percent of Middle and High School Students who have Ever Tried Smoking, YTS 2000, 2003, 2005 & 2007



Similarly, while almost one-quarter of high school students were current smokers in 2000, by 2007 only about one-tenth had smoked a cigarette in the past 30 days. These trends were mirrored among middle school students where the percentage who ever tried smoking decreased from 38.4% in 2000 to 14.7% in 2007 and the percentage who currently smoked decreased from 12.9% in 2000 to 4.2% in 2007 (Figure 4).

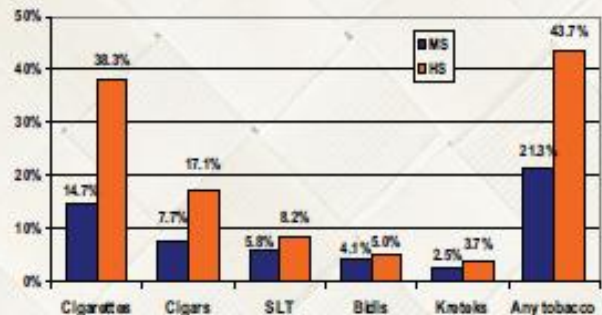
Figure 4. Percent of Middle and High School Students who have Smoked in the Past Month, YTS 2000, 2003, 2005 & 2007



Other Youth Tobacco Use

While cigarettes remain the most widely used form of tobacco among Hawai'i youth, 8% of middle school and 17% high school students have reported trying smoking cigars, and about 6% or 8% respectively have tried smokeless tobacco (SLT) such as chewing tobacco, snuff or dip (Figure 5). Among high school students, 5.7% currently smoke cigars and less than 4% smoke pipes or bidis or use smokeless tobacco. Among middle school students less than 3% use any of the above forms of tobacco.

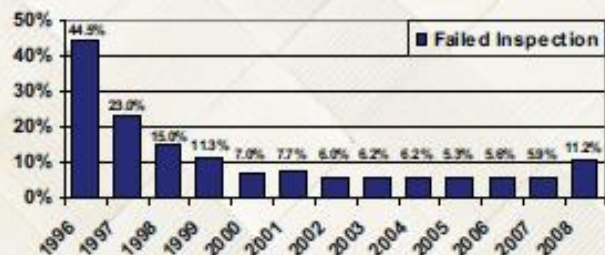
Figure 5. Ever Used Tobacco Products by Middle and High School Students, YTS 2007



Illegal Tobacco Sales to Minors

Each year, a series of compliance checks is conducted in accordance with a nationally standardized methodology to assess the rate of illegal sales to minors. Since 1996, the rate of illegal sales in Hawai'i has fallen from 44.5% to under 6% from 2005–2007, but jumped to 11.2% in 2008.

Figure 6. Illegal Tobacco Sales to Minors, Synar 1996–2008

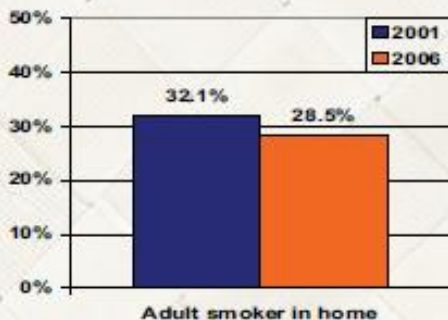


SECONDHAND SMOKE

Secondhand Smoke Exposure in the Home

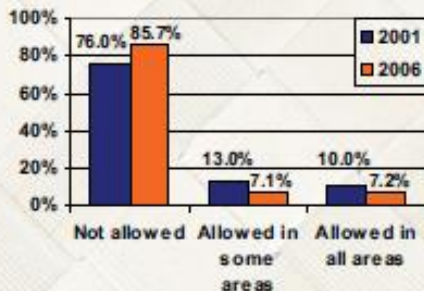
For nonsmokers who live with smokers, the home can be a major source of secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure. Children, especially young children, are particularly vulnerable to SHS at home because of their lack of mobility and because they spend most of their time at home prior to going to school. In 2006, there was at least one reported adult smoker in 28.5% of Hawai'i households—down slightly from 32.1% in 2001 (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Percent of Households with a Smoker in the Home, ATS 2001 and 2006



Since many households in the state have at least one smoker, rules about smoking in the home are important for protecting nonsmokers. The percentage of households that do not allow smoking has increased from 76.0% in 2001 to 85.7% in 2006 (Figure 8). Furthermore, in 87.1% of homes with children, smoking is not allowed anywhere inside in the home.

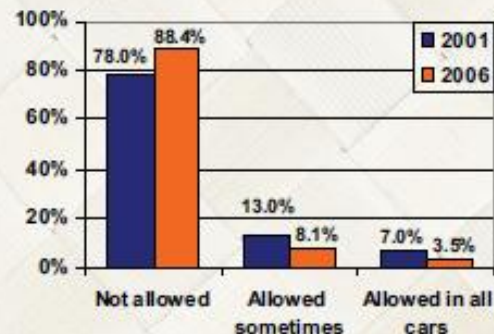
Figure 8. Rules about Smoking in the Home, ATS 2001 and 2006



Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Cars

Smoking in cars can lead to a more concentrated exposure to SHS due to the small, enclosed environment. SHS exposure in cars in the past week has dropped from 18% in 2001 to 12.5% in 2006. As with homes, the percentage of people with smoke-free policies for their car(s) at all times or when children are present has also increased from 78% in 2001 to 88.4% in 2006 (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Rules about Smoking in Cars with Children, ATS 2001 and 2006



Since the passage of the Smoke-free Workplace Law in November 2006, Hawai'i now has:

- Decreased exposure at workplaces
- Increased policies in the homes
- Reduced daily consumption rates
- Increased social norms supporting smoke-free places
- Passage of county ordinances in outdoor areas (e.g. parks and beaches, cars carrying a minor)

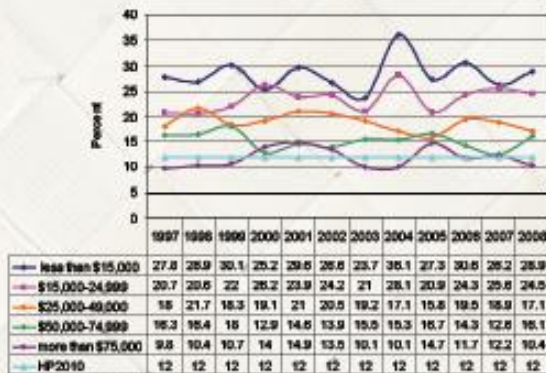


HEALTH DISPARITIES IN ADULT TOBACCO USE

Adult Smoking Prevalence by Income

The pattern of high smoking rates among those with the lowest annual household incomes (less than \$25,000 per year) has persisted for more than 10 years (Figure 10).

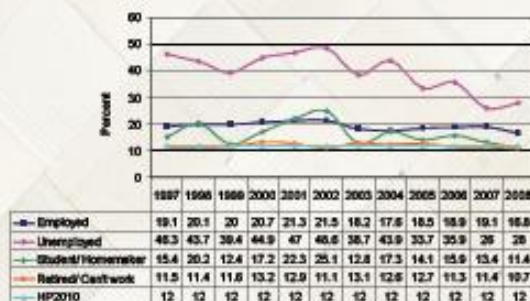
Figure 10. Adult Smoking Prevalence by Income, BRFSS 1997–2008



Adult Smoking Prevalence by Employment Status

Smoking prevalence also varies considerably by employment status (Figure 11). Over the past 10 years, the unemployed have consistently had the highest smoking prevalence with annual estimates ranging from 46.3% in 1997 to 48.6% in 2002. While there is a consistent downward trend in rates to a low of 26% in 2007 and 28% in 2008, smoking among the unemployed is consistently the highest smoking prevalence rate statewide.

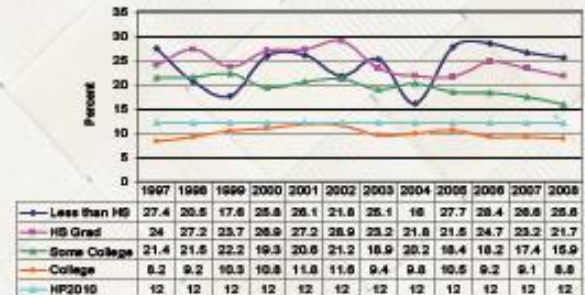
Figure 11. Adult Smoking Prevalence by Employment Status, BRFSS 1997–2008



Adult Smoking Prevalence by Education

The pattern of high smoking rates among those with the lowest educational levels (high school or less) has persisted for more than 10 years (Figure 12).

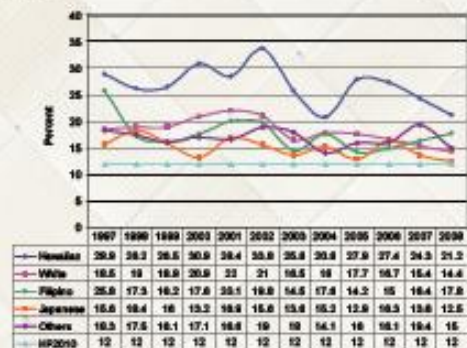
Figure 12. Adult Smoking Prevalence by Educational Level, BRFSS 1997



Adult Smoking Prevalence by Ethnicity

Native Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians are more likely to smoke than any other ethnic group in Hawai'i. This has held true for the past 10 years (Figure 13). In 2008, the ethnic groups with the highest smoking prevalence were Native Hawaiians (21.2%), and the "Others" ethnic group (15.0%). Among the general adult population about one in seven adults smoke cigarettes, yet among Native Hawaiians more than one in five smoke cigarettes. Since 2005, reported smoking prevalence has been declining among Hawaiians and Whites, but increasing among Filipinos and "Others".

Figure 13. Adult Smoking Prevalence by Ethnicity, BRFSS 1997–2008



IMPACTS OF POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Policy & Legislation

On November 16, 2006, Hawai'i became the 14th state to enact comprehensive protection against secondhand smoke for all its citizens. The law prohibits smoking in enclosed and partially enclosed public spaces (such as restaurants, bars, clubs, airports and theaters). Smoking is not allowed in places of employment or within 20 feet of doorways and windows to buildings.

As of December 1, 2006, all retailers in Hawai'i that sell tobacco products are required to have a tobacco retail permit from the Department of Taxation. This will allow better monitoring of tobacco sales.

Cigarette Tax Revenues

Figure 14 depicts the state tax per pack as a proportion of average retail price per pack tax from fiscal years 1997–2011.

Figure 14. State Cigarette Tax and Average Retail Price per pack, Fiscal Years 1997–2011, Hawai'i Department of Taxation



OVERVIEW

Smoking and tobacco use remain the leading cause of preventable illness and death in Hawai'i and in the nation. Since 1991, the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program at the Hawai'i State Department of Health along with many agency and community partners have developed and implemented a comprehensive program to reduce tobacco use in Hawai'i. The program emphasizes the national goals and Hawai'i strategic plan strategies in preventing initiation, promoting quitting, eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke, and eliminating disparities related to tobacco use. A major component of a comprehensive tobacco control program is surveillance and evaluation to monitor progress towards goals. This document is an effort to summarize the available data on tobacco use and related issues in one place to provide an overview of tobacco use in Hawai'i.

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