

Table SmokEduc. Age-adjusted prevalence of current cigarette smoking among adults aged 25 and over, by sex, race, and education level: United States, selected years 1974–2019

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2020-2021.htm#Table-SmokEduc>

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Sex, race, and education level	1974	1979	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	2018	2019
25 years and over, age adjusted ¹	Percent of adults who are current cigarette smokers									
All people ^{2,3}	36.9	33.1	30.0	25.4	24.5	22.6	20.3	20.4	14.8	15.1
No high school diploma or GED	43.7	40.7	40.8	36.7	35.6	31.6	28.2	28.9	23.5	23.9
High school diploma or GED	36.2	33.6	32.0	29.1	29.1	29.2	27.0	28.7	22.9	22.0
Some college, no bachelor's degree	35.9	33.2	29.5	23.4	22.6	21.7	21.8	21.4	17.2	16.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.2	22.6	18.5	13.9	13.6	10.9	9.1	9.0	5.8	5.8
All males ³	42.9	37.3	32.8	28.2	26.4	24.7	22.7	22.4	16.9	16.6
No high school diploma or GED	52.3	47.6	45.7	42.0	39.7	36.0	31.7	32.3	26.8	26.5
High school diploma or GED	42.4	38.9	35.5	33.1	32.7	32.1	29.9	31.4	25.6	24.1
Some college, no bachelor's degree	41.8	36.5	32.9	25.9	23.7	23.3	24.9	23.0	19.0	17.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	28.3	22.7	19.6	14.5	13.8	11.6	9.7	9.6	6.3	6.2
White males ^{3,4}	41.9	36.7	31.7	27.6	25.9	24.7	22.4	22.7	16.8	16.6
No high school diploma or GED	51.5	47.6	45.0	41.8	38.7	38.2	31.6	32.2	26.0	25.3
High school diploma or GED	42.0	38.5	34.8	32.9	32.9	32.4	30.0	32.4	25.8	25.2
Some college, no bachelor's degree	41.6	36.4	32.2	25.4	23.3	23.5	24.5	22.4	19.7	17.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.8	22.5	19.1	14.4	13.4	11.3	9.3	9.6	5.8	6.5
Black or African American males ^{3,4}	53.4	44.4	42.1	34.5	31.6	26.4	26.5	23.7	20.3	19.5
No high school diploma or GED	58.1	49.7	50.5	41.6	41.9	38.2	35.9	39.1	39.7	42.4
High school diploma or GED	*50.7	48.6	41.8	37.4	36.6	29.0	30.1	26.0	24.6	26.0
Some college, no bachelor's degree	*45.3	39.2	41.8	28.1	26.4	19.9	27.4	26.5	18.7	17.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	*41.4	*36.8	*32.0	*20.8	*17.3	14.6	10.0	9.9	8.1	6.0
All females ³	32.0	29.5	27.5	22.9	22.9	20.5	18.0	18.5	12.9	13.7
No high school diploma or GED	36.6	34.8	36.5	31.8	31.7	27.1	24.6	24.8	19.9	21.0
High school diploma or GED	32.2	29.8	29.5	26.1	26.4	26.6	24.1	26.1	19.9	19.7
Some college, no bachelor's degree	30.1	30.0	26.3	21.0	21.6	20.4	19.1	20.0	15.6	15.6
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.9	22.5	17.1	13.3	13.3	10.1	8.5	8.4	5.3	5.4
White females ^{3,4}	31.7	29.7	27.3	23.3	23.1	21.0	18.6	19.0	13.6	15.4
No high school diploma or GED	36.8	35.8	36.7	33.4	32.4	28.4	24.6	24.4	19.8	27.5
High school diploma or GED	31.9	29.9	29.4	26.5	26.8	27.8	25.9	26.5	22.1	22.8
Some college, no bachelor's degree	30.4	30.7	26.7	21.2	22.2	21.1	19.5	21.2	16.5	17.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.5	21.9	16.5	13.4	13.5	10.2	9.1	9.1	5.6	5.9
Black or African American females ^{3,4}	35.6	30.3	32.0	22.4	25.7	21.6	17.5	19.3	12.7	13.7
No high school diploma or GED	36.1	31.6	39.4	26.3	32.3	31.1	27.8	31.0	26.1	30.5
High school diploma or GED	40.9	32.6	32.1	24.1	27.8	25.4	18.2	27.3	13.4	18.0
Some college, no bachelor's degree	32.3	*28.9	23.9	22.7	20.8	20.4	17.5	16.2	12.3	11.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	*36.3	*43.3	26.6	17.0	17.3	10.8	*6.6	*7.3	6.8	5.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table SmokEduc. Age-adjusted prevalence of current cigarette smoking among adults aged 25 and over, by sex, race, and education level: United States, selected years 1974–2019—Con.

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2020-2021.htm#Table-SmokEduc>

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Starting with 2016 data, the reliability of survey percentage estimates is assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Before 2016 data, the reliability of estimates was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSEs). Data preceded by an asterisk have an RSE of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%. For more information, see Sources and Definitions, Relative standard error (RSE); Statistical reliability of estimates.

¹ Estimates are age adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using four age groups: 25–34 years, 35–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over. For age groups where smoking is 0% or 100%, the age-adjustment procedure is modified to substitute the percentage smoking from the next-lower education group. Age-adjusted estimates in this table may differ from other age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See Sources and Definitions, Age adjustment.

² Includes unknown sex.

³ Includes unknown education level. Education categories shown are for 1997 and subsequent years. GED is high school equivalency diploma. In 1974–1995, the following categories based on the number of years of school completed were used: less than 12 years, 12 years, 13–15 years, and 16 years or more. See Sources and Definitions, Education.

⁴ The race groups White and Black include people of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 “Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity” and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The single-race categories shown in the table follow the 1997 standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for people who reported only one racial group. Before 1999, data were tabulated according to the 1977 standards. Estimates for single-race categories before 1999 included people who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race are treated as missing, and then race is imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all people with a race response of other race are of Hispanic origin. See Sources and Definitions, Hispanic origin; Race.

NOTES: Starting with 1993 data (shown in spreadsheet version), current cigarette smokers are defined as ever smoking 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and smoking now every day or some days. For the previous definition, see Sources and Definitions, Tobacco use. Data before 1997 are not strictly comparable with data for later years due to the 1997 questionnaire redesign. In 2019, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) questionnaire was redesigned and other changes were made to weighting and design methodology. Data for 2019 have not been fully evaluated for comparability with earlier years. For more information on the 2019 NHIS redesign and evaluation of the redesign on selected indicators, see: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/2019_quest_redesign.htm. Standard errors and data for additional years are available in the Excel spreadsheet version of this table on the *Health, United States* website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/index.htm>.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey. See Sources and Definitions, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).