

Tobacco Use

Summary / Conclusion: Nearly one out of every four residents in Louisiana are smokers. Rates for smoking have not changed significantly within the past five years. Smoking rates are higher among households with lower incomes and residents without a high school diploma or GED. Prevention programs should note that smoking is more likely to begin between the ages of 12-17 years. It should also be noted that younger age groups are more likely to attempt to quit smoking when compared to older age groups.

Prevalence of current and former smokers, overall and select categories. Behavioral Risk Factor Survey System, Louisiana 2006

Characteristic+	Current Smokers++			Former Smokers~		
	Sample size*	%	95% CI	Sample size*	%	95% CI
Total	1500	23.4	[22 - 24.7]	1609	20.1	[19 - 21.2]
Age						
18-24	104	28.6	[23.3 - 33.9]	35	8	[4.9 - 11]
25-34	246	28.4	[24.7 - 32.1]	112	11.4	[9.1 - 13.8]
35-44	311	25.4	[22.5 - 28.4]	168	13.6	[11.4 - 15.8]
45-54	434	28.1	[25.4 - 30.8]	325	20.1	[17.7 - 22.4]
55-64	256	18.2	[15.8 - 20.5]	428	33.9	[31 - 36.9]
65-74	112	13	[10.4 - 15.6]	325	38.5	[34.9 - 42.1]
75+	37	5.3	[3.4 - 7.2]	216	34.6	[30.3 - 38.8]
Gender						
Male	577	26.6	[24.3 - 29]	720	24.4	[22.4 - 26.3]
Female	923	20.4	[19 - 21.8]	889	16.2	[15 - 17.4]
Race						
White	1103	23.4	[21.9 - 25]	1242	22.9	[21.5 - 24.3]
Black	300	23.2	[20.3 - 26.2]	259	13.8	[11.9 - 15.8]
Education						
Less than HS Grad	273	32.1	[27.9 - 36.4]	244	21.7	[27.9 - 36.4]
High school grad/GED	582	28.3	[25.8 - 30.9]	504	19.4	[17.5 - 21.3]
Some college/Grad	643	17.9	[16.3 - 19.6]	860	20.1	[18.7 - 21.6]
HH Income						
<25,000	505	28.4	[25.4 - 31.3]	434	19.9	[17.6 - 22.1]
25,000-34,999	199	27.4	[23.4 - 31.5]	199	17.9	[14.8 - 21]
35,000+	576	20.1	[18.3 - 21.9]	576	20.7	[19 - 22.3]
Employment						
Employed	878	24.3	[22.5 - 26.1]	737	17.3	[15.8 - 18.7]
Unemployed Homemaker/Student	92	33.6	[25.9 - 41.3]	61	15.2	[10.3 - 20.1]
Retired	103	23.2	[19.3 - 27]	136	12.4	[34.6 - 40.2]
Unable to Work	166	10.7	[8.9 - 12.5]	531	37.4	[34.6 - 40.2]
Work	105	35.5	[30.5 - 40.5]	138	24	[19.8 - 28.1]

Cigarette smoking causes heart disease, several kinds of cancer, and respiratory diseases among US residents. Tobacco alone is responsible for more than 430,000 deaths per year among adults living in the United States. Medical costs related to smoking exceed 75.5 billion dollars per year and costs related to smoking during pregnancy are estimated to be 1.4 billion dollars per year. Each year exposure to secondhand smoke causes the deaths of an estimated 3,000 deaths among nonsmokers and causes lower respiratory tract infections for 150,000 to 300,000 infants in the United States.

In 2006, an estimated 787,986 Louisiana residents were current smokers. Men were more likely to smoke when compared to women. In 2006, there were similar rates for current smokers among race groups. Louisiana residents that did not receive a high school diploma had the highest prevalence of smoking when compared to other levels of education. Residents with reported household incomes less than \$25,000 per year had the highest prevalence of smoking when compared to other levels of household income. Louisiana residents that indicated that they were unable to work or retired had the higher rates of smoking compared to other categories related to employment.

There were more males in Louisiana that indicated that they were former smokers compared to females in 2006. Whites had the highest proportion of persons who claimed to be former smokers (23%) when compared to Blacks (13.8%).

* Percentages are based on weighted data estimates. Un-weighted sample size for current smokers = 1500. Un-weighted sample size for former smokers = 1609.
 + In this analysis, data for each category are included only for persons for whom the data were available; excluded data were either unknown or refused.
 ++ The proportion of respondents that indicated that they were current smokers.
 ~The proportion of respondents that indicated that they were former smoker s.

There was no significant difference between the prevalence of former smokers with levels of household income and education. Age had a impact for former smokers in which proportions of residents that claimed that they were former smokers increased with age.

Among the respondents of the 2006 BRFSS, those that indicated that they were disabled due to emotional, physical or mental had a higher prevalence 27.5% [95% CI: 24.7-30.3] for smoking compared to those who were not disabled 22.2% [95% CI: 20.8-23.9].

Within the past decade the rates of adult smoking have not changed significantly. Similar to previous years from the past decade, the smoking rate in 2006 (23.4%) for Louisiana residents was higher than the national median (20.8) Fig XX.

According to the results from the 2004 BRFSS, 15.3% of the adult population has used smokeless tobacco at least once within their lifetime. Overall, 4% of Louisiana residents in the year 2004 used smokeless tobacco products on a regular basis (LA 2004 BRFSS).

The likelihood of smoking seems to begin with younger age groups. The majority of Louisiana residents claimed to have their first smoke between the ages of 12-17 years. (Fig XX)

Examining the responses for secondhand policies within the households in 2006, 19.2% of residents in Louisiana allow smoking within their households. This percentage has decreased since the question was asked in the 2003 survey in which 26.1% of the respondents stated that smoking was allowed within their households. Louisiana residents that work indoors indicated that 17% of workplaces allowed smoking in indoor designated areas (lobbies, restrooms or lunch rooms) and 3% of the work environments allowed smoking in all areas.

Results from the 2004 Louisiana BRFSS show that an estimated 105,800 Louisiana residents have attempted to quit smoking within the year. Louisiana residents within the 18-24 years of age category had the highest proportion of respondents that attempted to quit smoking (82.1%) within a year. The rates of smokers that attempted to quit within a year decreased as age increased (Fig XX)

Fig XX Prevalence of Adult Smokers Louisiana and US Residents 1995-2006

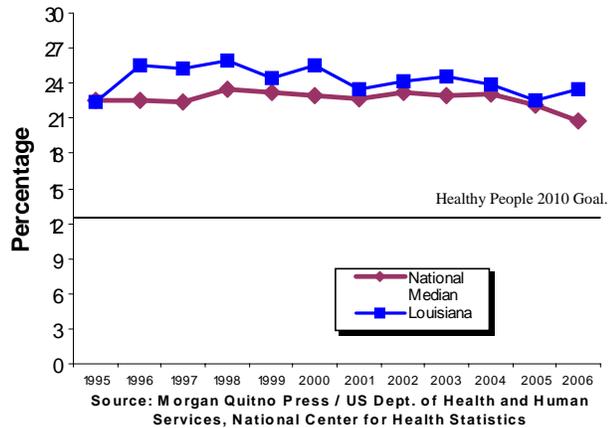


Fig XX. Age in which Louisiana residents smoked their first cigarette*

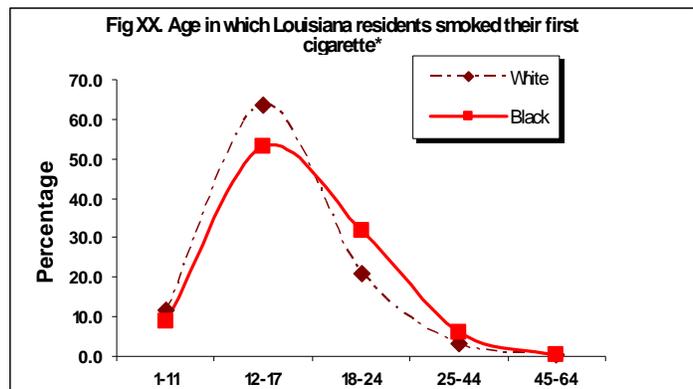
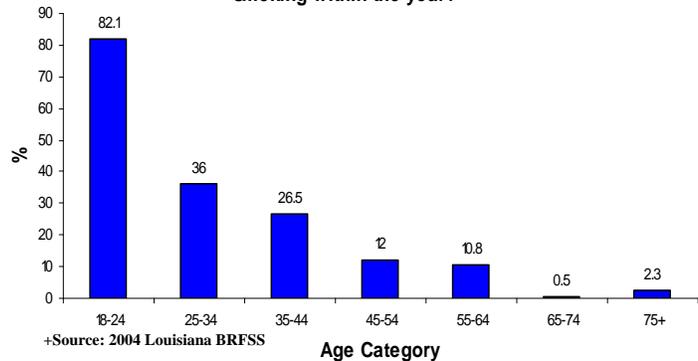
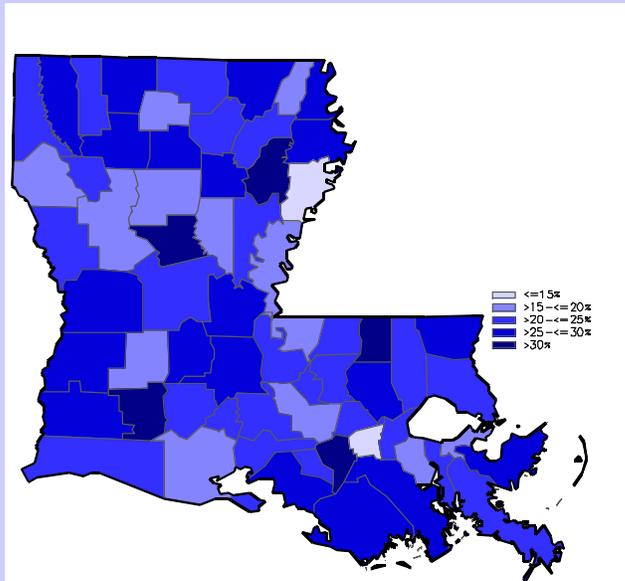


Fig XX Percentage of Louisiana residents that attempted to quit smoking within the year+



Prevalence of Current Smokers by Parish and Region for the state of Louisiana 2004-2006**



Parish**	N	%	95% CI
St Helena*	42	47.1	[26.4 - 68]
Assumption	121	33.6	[21.5-45.6]
Franklin	137	32.8	[21.2- 44.3]
Grant	123	30.8	[18.7 - 42.2]
Jeff Davis	163	30.1	[18 - 42.2]
Livingston	448	29.4	[23.7 - 35]
St Landry	367	29.4	[23.1 - 35.6]
Vernon	219	29	[20.2 - 37.7]
Claiborne	91	29	[15.9- 42.1]
Jackson	94	28.8	[13.1- 44.4]

*Denotes category less than 50 respondents. Inferences based on categories with less than 50 respondents should be used with caution.

**Three data files for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 were appended to create one data file to increase the sample size for the parishes.

Region+	N	%	95% CI
1	1013	19.2	[16.1 - 22.2]
2	1001	20.9	[17.7 - 24]
3	977	27.8	[24.3 - 31.3]
4	999	24.7	[21.6 - 27.8]
5	971	26.4	[22.9 - 29.8]
6	1003	28.1	[24.6 - 31.6]
7	1013	21.9	[18.9 - 25]
8	1013	25.6	[22.2 - 29]
9	1029	26.8	[23.7 - 30]

+LA Residents that indicated that he or she currently smoke (LA BRFSS 2004)