

Table 18. Age-adjusted prevalence of current cigarette smoking among adults aged 25 and over, by sex, race, and education level: United States, selected years 1974–2017

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table_018.

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

Sex, race, and education level	1974 ¹	1979 ¹	1985 ¹	1990 ¹	1995 ¹	2000	2005	2010	2016	2017
25 years and over, age-adjusted ²	Percent of adults who were current cigarette smokers ³									
All persons ⁴	36.9	33.1	30.0	25.4	24.5	22.6	20.3	19.2	16.0	14.7
No high school diploma or GED	43.7	40.7	40.8	36.7	35.6	31.6	28.2	26.9	26.0	24.9
High school diploma or GED	36.2	33.6	32.0	29.1	29.1	29.2	27.0	27.0	23.6	21.7
Some college, no bachelor's degree	35.9	33.2	29.5	23.4	22.6	21.7	21.8	21.3	18.0	17.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.2	22.6	18.5	13.9	13.6	10.9	9.1	8.3	6.5	5.9
All males ⁴	42.9	37.3	32.8	28.2	26.4	24.7	22.7	21.0	18.1	16.6
No high school diploma or GED	52.3	47.6	45.7	42.0	39.7	36.0	31.7	29.7	30.6	30.1
High school diploma or GED	42.4	38.9	35.5	33.1	32.7	32.1	29.9	29.3	26.2	24.1
Some college, no bachelor's degree	41.8	36.5	32.9	25.9	23.7	23.3	24.9	23.2	18.6	18.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	28.3	22.7	19.6	14.5	13.8	11.6	9.7	8.7	7.8	7.0
White males ^{4,5}	41.9	36.7	31.7	27.6	25.9	24.7	22.4	21.0	17.8	16.5
No high school diploma or GED	51.5	47.6	45.0	41.8	38.7	38.2	31.6	29.4	30.2	30.3
High school diploma or GED	42.0	38.5	34.8	32.9	32.9	32.4	30.0	29.6	26.0	24.4
Some college, no bachelor's degree	41.6	36.4	32.2	25.4	23.3	23.5	24.5	23.4	18.0	17.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.8	22.5	19.1	14.4	13.4	11.3	9.3	8.8	7.5	7.2
Black or African American males ^{4,5}	53.4	44.4	42.1	34.5	31.6	26.4	26.5	23.9	21.7	19.5
No high school diploma or GED	58.1	49.7	50.5	41.6	41.9	38.2	35.9	34.4	38.5	35.6
High school diploma or GED	*50.7	48.6	41.8	37.4	36.6	29.0	30.1	28.8	25.9	25.8
Some college, no bachelor's degree	*45.3	39.2	41.8	28.1	26.4	19.9	27.4	24.2	22.4	21.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	*41.4	*36.8	*32.0	*20.8	*17.3	14.6	10.0	8.1	8.2	5.1
All females ⁴	32.0	29.5	27.5	22.9	22.9	20.5	18.0	17.5	14.0	12.8
No high school diploma or GED	36.6	34.8	36.5	31.8	31.7	27.1	24.6	23.7	21.1	19.7
High school diploma or GED	32.2	29.8	29.5	26.1	26.4	26.6	24.1	24.9	20.9	18.9
Some college, no bachelor's degree	30.1	30.0	26.3	21.0	21.6	20.4	19.1	19.6	17.5	16.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.9	22.5	17.1	13.3	13.3	10.1	8.5	7.9	5.3	5.0
White females ^{4,5}	31.7	29.7	27.3	23.3	23.1	21.0	18.6	18.3	14.7	13.4
No high school diploma or GED	36.8	35.8	36.7	33.4	32.4	28.4	24.6	24.0	20.9	20.0
High school diploma or GED	31.9	29.9	29.4	26.5	26.8	27.8	25.9	25.8	22.6	21.6
Some college, no bachelor's degree	30.4	30.7	26.7	21.2	22.2	21.1	19.5	21.0	18.5	17.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.5	21.9	16.5	13.4	13.5	10.2	9.1	8.7	5.4	5.1
Black or African American females ^{4,5}	35.6	30.3	32.0	22.4	25.7	21.6	17.5	17.0	14.0	12.4
No high school diploma or GED	36.1	31.6	39.4	26.3	32.3	31.1	27.8	25.8	28.0	23.8
High school diploma or GED	40.9	32.6	32.1	24.1	27.8	25.4	18.2	22.9	14.6	10.9
Some college, no bachelor's degree	32.3	*28.9	23.9	22.7	20.8	20.4	17.5	15.0	13.6	14.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	*36.3	*43.3	26.6	17.0	17.3	10.8	*6.6	*6.6	7.7	5.7

Table 18. Age-adjusted prevalence of current cigarette smoking among adults aged 25 and over, by sex, race, and education level: United States, selected years 1974–2017

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table_018.

[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 was assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Prior to 2016 data, the reliability of estimates for earlier years was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSE). Data preceded by an asterisk have an RSE of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%. For more information, see Appendix II, Data presentation standards for proportions; Relative standard error (RSE).

¹Data prior to 1997 are not strictly comparable with data for later years due to the 1997 questionnaire redesign. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

²Estimates 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 was 0% or 100%, the age-adjustment procedure was 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 Appendix II, Age adjustment.

³Starting with 1993 data (shown in spreadsheet version), current cigarette smokers were defined as ever smoking 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and smoking either every day or some days. For the previous definition, see Appendix II, Cigarette smoking.

⁴Includes unknown education level. Education categories shown are for 1997 and subsequent years. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma. In 1974–1995, the following categories based on number of years of school completed were used: less than 12 years, 12 years, 13–15 years, and 16 years or more. See Appendix II, Education.

⁵The race groups white and black include persons 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 conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group. Prior to 1999, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons 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 were treated as missing, and then race was imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all persons with a race response of other race were of Hispanic origin. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race.

NOTES: Standard errors for selected years are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Data for additional years are available. See the Excel spreadsheet on the *Health, United States* website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey. Data are from the following questionnaire supplements: hypertension (1974), smoking (1979), alcohol and health practices (1983), health promotion and disease prevention (1985, 1990–1991), cancer control and cancer epidemiology (1992), and year 2000 objectives (1993–1995). Starting with 1997, data are from the family core and sample adult questionnaires. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).