

Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults — United States, 2005–2012

Israel T. Agaku, DMD^{1,2}, Brian A. King, PhD², Shanta R. Dube, PhD² (Author affiliations at end of text)

50th Anniversary of the First Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health

On January 17, 2014, 50 years after the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health, the Surgeon General will release *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress* (1). The report will be released at a White House press conference at 9:30 a.m. Eastern on January 17, with a live webcast available at <http://whitehouse.gov/live>.

The report will provide a retrospective of the past 50 years of tobacco use prevention and control efforts and discuss the current status of the tobacco use epidemic, including newly documented health consequences of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke. It will also include a discussion of potential “endgame” strategies to eliminate the health and economic burden of tobacco use in the United States.

Evidence-based tobacco control efforts have averted nearly 8 million deaths since 1964 but remain underutilized (2). High-impact media campaigns, excise taxes, access to cessation medication and counseling, smoke-free laws, comprehensive tobacco control programs, and product regulation are critical to ending the tobacco use epidemic.

References

1. US Department of Health and Human Services. The health consequences of smoking—50 years of progress: a report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2014. Available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/initiatives/tobacco>.
2. Holford TR, Meza R, Warner KE, et al. Tobacco control and the reduction in smoking-related premature deaths in the United States, 1964–2012. *JAMA* 2014;311:164–71.

Despite significant declines during the past 30 years, cigarette smoking among adults in the United States remains widespread, and year-to-year decreases in prevalence have been observed only intermittently in recent years (1,2). To assess progress made toward the *Healthy People 2020* objective of reducing the proportion of U.S. adults who smoke cigarettes to $\leq 12\%$ (objective TU-1.1),* this report provides the most recent national estimates of smoking prevalence among adults aged ≥ 18 years, based on data from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The findings indicate that the proportion of U.S. adults who smoke cigarettes fell to 18.1% in 2012. Moreover, during 2005–2012, the percentage of ever smokers who quit increased significantly, from 50.7% to 55.0%, and the proportion of daily smokers who smoked ≥ 30 cigarettes per day (CPD) declined significantly, from 12.6% to 7.0%. Proven population-level interventions, including tobacco price increases, high-impact antitobacco mass media

*Additional information available at <http://healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020>.

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Continuing Education examination available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/contd_info.html#weekly.



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