

# Adult Tobacco Use in Georgia: 2016 Data Summary

Tobacco use costs Georgia more than 1.8 billion dollars every year<sup>1</sup>.

## Mortality

Tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, resulting in approximately 480,000 premature deaths and more than \$300 billion in direct health care expenditures and productivity losses each year<sup>2</sup>. From 2008 to 2013, an estimated annual average of 10,350 deaths, or 17%, of all annual deaths (61,889) among Georgians 35 years and older were attributed to cigarette smoking<sup>1</sup>.

- More adult males 35 years and older (6,320) than adult females 35 years and older (3,962) died from tobacco-related illnesses every year.
- Of the smoking attributable deaths among adults aged 35 years and older (Figure 1):
  - 4,492 (44%) deaths were due to cancer
  - 3,077 (30%) deaths were due to respiratory disease
  - 2,713 (26%) deaths were due to cardiovascular disease
- Adult smokers lose an average of 18 years of life compared to non-smoker adults.

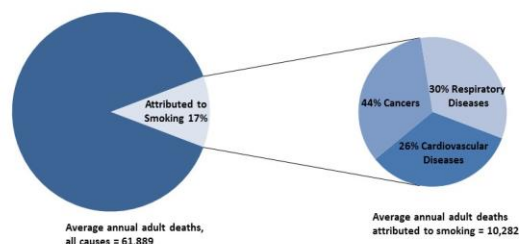
## Smoking Behavior

Approximately 1.24 million (17.4%) adult Georgians smoked cigarettes in 2014, which is lower than 2013 (1.3 million; 18.8%) while more Georgians (22.4%; 2014, 20.6%; 2013) were former smokers<sup>3</sup>.

### Current Smokers<sup>3</sup>

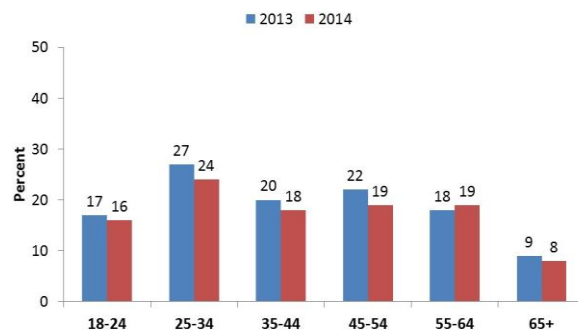
- In 2014, more adult males (21.4%; 740,000) than adult females (13.6%; 510,000) smoked cigarettes.
- Smoking prevalence was significantly higher among Georgians ages 25-34 years (23.5%; 292,000) than any other age groups.

Figure 1. Average annual smoking-attributable deaths among adults aged 35 years and older, Georgia, 2008-2013\*



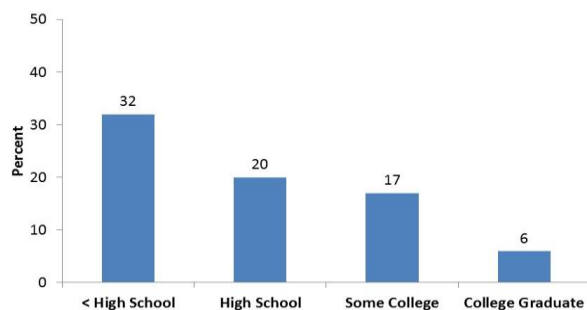
Source: Georgia Vital Statistics; CDC SAMMEC  
\*Because of data quality issues, 2009 mortality data are not used for analysis.

Figure 2. Percentage of current adult smokers, by age group, Georgia, 2013-2014



Source: 2013-2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Figure 3. Percentage of current adult smokers, by educational attainment, Georgia, 2014



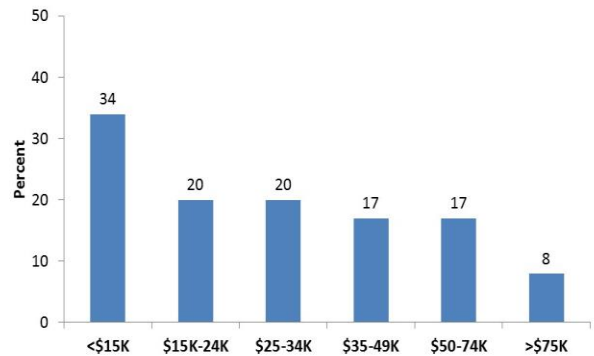
Source: 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)



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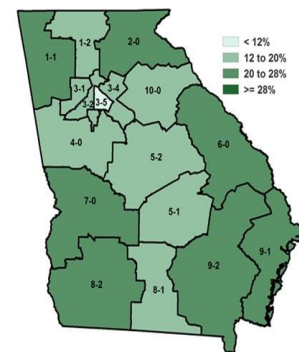
- Non-Hispanic (NH) white adults (19.3%; 785,000) were more likely to smoke than NH black (14.6%; 301,000) and Hispanic (15.6%; 92,000) adults in Georgia.
- Cigarette smoking was six times more common among adults without high school education (31.8%; 365,000) than among adults with college education (5.6%; 100,000) (Figure 3).
- Smoking prevalence was significantly higher among adults with annual income of \$15,000 (33.5%; 275,000) than any other income groups (Figure 4).
- Smoking prevalence was about twice as high among adults without health insurance (31.4%; 455,000) than adults with health insurance (15.4%; 682,000).
- Unemployed adults were more likely to smoke (22.9%) than adults who were either employed (17.1%) or retired (9.7%).
- The North (2-0 Gainesville, 23.9%; 88,000), West Central (7-0 Columbus, 22.8%; 63,000), and Northwest (1-1 Rome, 22.3%; 97,000) Public Health Districts had significantly higher smoking prevalence than the overall state average rate (17.4%; 1.24 million) (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Percentage of current adult smokers, by annual household income, Georgia, 2014



Source: 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Figure 5. Percentage of current adult smokers, by Public Health District, Georgia, 2014



Source: 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

## Former Smokers<sup>3</sup>

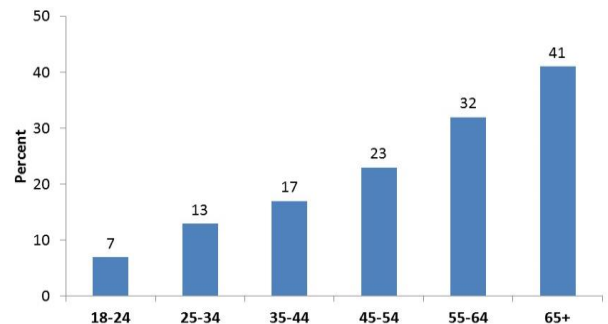
- More adult males (26.5%; 914,000) than adult females (18.6%; 690,000) were former smokers.
- More adults aged 65 years and older were significantly higher former smokers (40.7%; 491,000) than any other age groups (Figure 6).

## Smokeless Tobacco Use<sup>3</sup>

*Smokeless tobacco is known to cause cancer of the oral cavity and pancreas, and should not be considered a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes.*

- In 2014, 4.7% (340,000) of Georgia adults reported using smokeless tobacco.
- More adult males (8.3%; 286,000) than adult females (1.5%; 54,000) used smokeless tobacco.
- NH white adults (5.8%; 237,000) were more likely to use smokeless tobacco than NH black (3.6%; 74,000) and Hispanic (2.6%; 15,000) adults in Georgia.
- Smokeless tobacco use was about four times more common among adults without high school education (8.8%; 100,000) than among adults with college education (2.1%; 37,000) (Figure 7).

Figure 6. Percentage of former adult smokers, by age group, Georgia, 2014



Source: 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

# Adult Tobacco Use in Georgia: 2016 Data Summary

- The Northeast (10-0 Athens, 9.2%; 28,000), Southeast (9-2 Waycross, 8.1%; 24,000), South (8-1 Valdosta, 7.6%; 14,500), and Coastal (9-1 Savannah, 7.6%; 31,500) Public Health Districts had significantly higher smokeless use prevalence than the overall state average rate (4.7%; 340,000) (Figure 8).

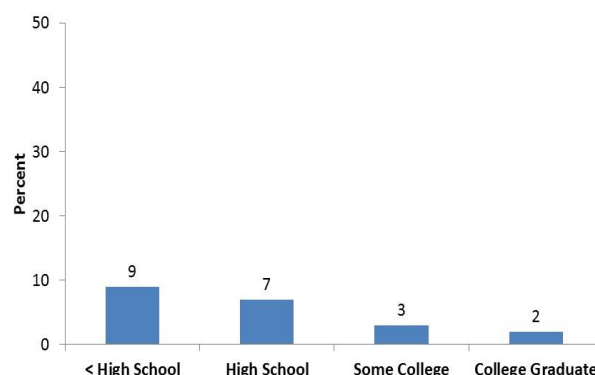
## Smoking Cessation<sup>3,4</sup>

- Approximately 65.9% (817,000) of current adult smokers made a quit attempt in the past year.
- About the same percentage of males (68.1%; 500,000) as females (62.8%; 320,000) made a quit attempt in the past year.
- More individuals with health insurance (68.9%; 470,000) than those without health insurance (63.7%; 290,000) made a quit attempt in the past year.
- More NH black adults (79.4%; 240,000) made a quit attempt in the past year compared to NH white adults (60.5%; 475,000) (Figure 9).
- Approximately 645,000 (49%) adult smokers who visited their health care provider in the past year indicated their health care provider advised them not to smoke.
- Among adult smokers who were advised by their health care provider to stop smoking:
  - 172,000 (48%) were given a prescription for medication to help them quit
  - 167,000 (47%) were advised to participate in a telephone quitline, smoking cessation class or program, or one-on-one counseling.

## Secondhand Smoke Exposure<sup>3,4</sup>

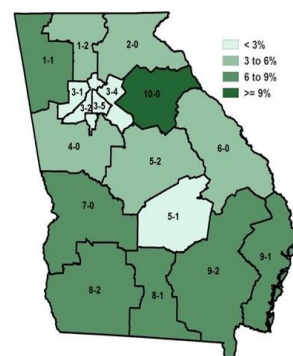
- Approximately 630,000 (8.3%) adults in Georgia have asthma. Among those with asthma, 152,000 (25.0%) adults are current smokers.
- About 8.2% (1 million) of adults in Georgia were exposed to secondhand smoke at home, 16.2% (2 million) in a vehicle, 17.1% (1.4 million) at work, 30.2% (3.6 million) in a public place, and 43.0% (5.3 million) were exposed at any place secondhand smoke on one or more days in the past seven days (Figure 10).
- About 43.3% (2 million) of males were exposed to secondhand smoke and 42.7% (2.7 million) of females were exposed to secondhand smoke.
- More NH white adults (45.5%; 3 million) were exposed to secondhand smoke than NH black adults (42.3%; 1.4 million).

Figure 7. Percentage of adults who use smokeless tobacco, by educational attainment, Georgia, 2014



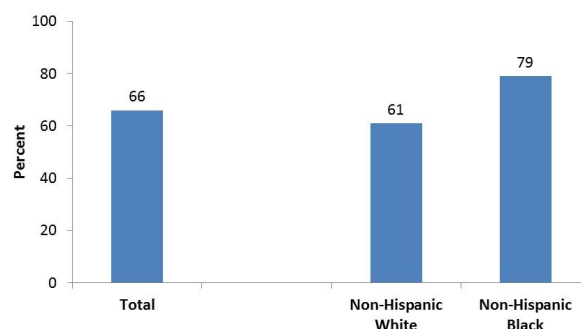
Source: 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Figure 8. Percentage of adults who use smokeless tobacco, by Public Health District, Georgia, 2014



Source: 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Figure 9. Percentage of current smokers who made a quit attempt in previous year, by race/ethnicity, Georgia, 2014



Source: 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

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- Among adults, 50.0% (1.3 million) of those with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 were exposed to secondhand smoke, 50.8% (1.2 million) with income \$30,000-\$49,000, 39.8% (700,000) with income \$50,000-\$69,000, and 37.0% (1.3 million) with income \$70,000 and over.
- 89.2% (930,000) of adult smokers in Georgia and the majority (94.5%; 5.8 million) of adult non-smokers indicated that their worksite does not allow smoking anywhere in the workplace. Females were more likely than males to indicate their worksite does not allow smoking (Figure 11).
- More adult non-smokers in Georgia support smoke-free policies in various public places than smokers (Figure 12).
- Adult Georgians think breathing smoke from other people's cigarettes or from other tobacco products is either somewhat harmful (27.9%; 2 million) or very harmful (68.6%; 4.7 million).
- Georgians (90.8%; 6 million) support adopting a policy, in which, tobacco use, indoor and outdoor public places should be restricted.

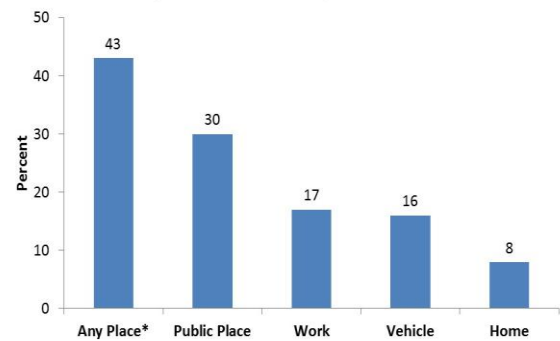
## Financial Impact<sup>1</sup>

- Smoking results in \$3.2 billion in lost productivity costs every year among Georgians 35 years and older.
- The average annual smoking-related productivity losses in Georgia during 2008-2013 were estimated at almost \$2.1 billion for men and \$1.2 billion for women.
- Smoking results in the loss of \$1.8 billion in healthcare costs every year among Georgians.

### Data Sources:

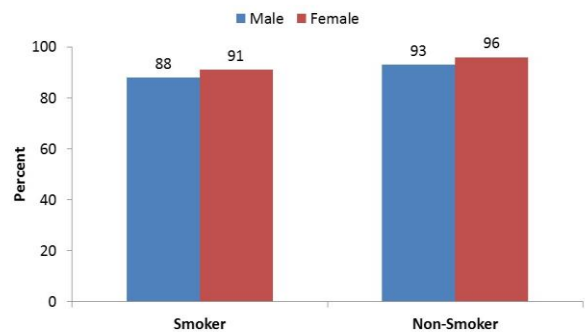
1. Georgia Vital Statistics, 2008-2013; CDC SAMMEC application.
2. Health consequences of smoking—50 years of progress: a report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2014. Available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf>
3. 2013 and 2014 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).
4. 2014 Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS).
5. Chung A, Lavender A, Bayakly R. 2015 Georgia Tobacco Use Surveillance Report. Georgia Department of Public Health, 2015. Available at <http://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/2015%20Georgia%20Tobacco%20Use%20Surveillance%20Report.pdf>

Figure 10. Percentage of adults exposed to secondhand smoke in the past 7 days, by location, Georgia, 2014



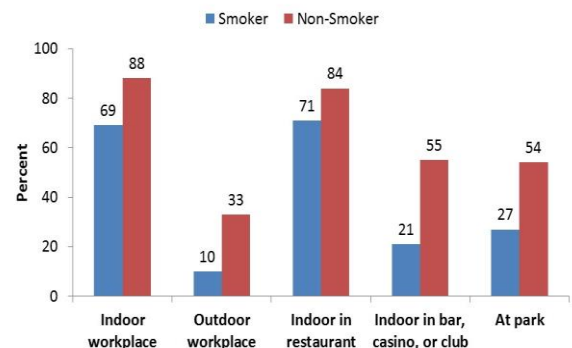
Source: 2014 Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS)  
\*Any place include home, vehicle, work, and indoor and outdoor public places.

Figure 11. Percentage of adults who work in smoke-free\* workplaces, by sex and smoking status, Georgia, 2014



Source: 2014 Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS)  
\* Smoking never allowed indoor areas at the workplace

Figure 12. Percentage of adults supporting smoke-free policies, by smoking status, Georgia, 2014



Source: 2014 Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS)