Risk Behaviors

Smoking

Cigarette smoking is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths in the United States. Smoking is associated with deaths related to cancer, respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular diseases. About 10.1% of deaths among Georgia adults are linked to smoking.

In 2014, 17.4% of Georgia adults were current cigarette smokers and 22.4% were former smokers.

- Adult males (21.4%) were significantly more likely to currently smoke cigarettes than females (13.6%).
- Adults with an annual income of less than $15,000 (33.5%) were more likely to currently smoke cigarettes than those with an annual income of $15,000 or greater.
- Adults with less than a high school education (31.8%) were significantly more likely to currently smoke cigarettes compared to high school graduates (20.4%), those with some college (16.6%), and college graduates (5.6%).
- Adults with health insurance (15.4%) were significantly less likely to currently smoke compared to adults without health insurance (31.4%).

The HP 2020 target for current cigarette smokers is 12%.
Risk Behaviors

Smokeless Tobacco

Smokeless tobacco is known to cause cancer of the oral cavity and pancreas, and should not be considered a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes.\textsuperscript{19} The two main types of smokeless tobacco sold in the United States are chewing tobacco and snuff.

In 2014, 4.7% of Georgia adults reported using smokeless tobacco.

- Adult males (8.3%) were significantly more likely to use smokeless tobacco compared to females (1.5%).
- White non-Hispanics (5.8%) were more likely to use smokeless tobacco compared to black non-Hispanics (3.6%) and Hispanics (2.6%).
- A higher proportion of adults with a household income of less than $15,000 (6.9%) used smokeless tobacco.
- Adults with less than high school education (8.8%) were significantly more likely to use smokeless tobacco compared to college graduates (2.1%).

The HP 2020 target for smokeless tobacco use is 0.3%.