Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Smoking Statistics & Facts

Nationwide

• “For decades tobacco companies have targeted LGBT populations leading to tobacco product addiction among friends, family, and colleagues and compromising the communities’ work against this devastating public health threat.” (Source: MPOWERed)
  
  o One such marketing effort in San Francisco was even referred to by tobacco executives as Project SCUM (Sub Culture Urban Marketing).

• Nationwide, the smoking rate for LGBT people is 68% higher compared to straight smokers (32.8% vs. 19.5%).

• Nearly 90% of regular smokers start before age 18.

• LGBT youth smoke at higher rates likely in part due to additional stressors of being LGBT such as discrimination, peer pressure, rejection by family and friends, and risk of homelessness.

NYS Adults

• The smoking prevalence among gay/lesbian adults is 22.4 %, compared to 15.9% among straight adults.

• Smoking rates among bisexual adults is 70% higher when compared with straight adults (27.2% vs. 15.9%).

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1 MPOWERED: Best and Promising Practices for LGBT Tobacco Prevention and Control. Network for LGBT Health Equity. 2012 http://lgbthealthequity.org/system/resources/BAhbBlisHOrgZmSiexMjAxM1i8wOCByM58xNV8xO8ymJjFTV8vd2VzXkKx4fMTMwMi5wZGYOgZFVA/ MPowererd_081312.pdf


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NYC Adults

- In 2012, the smoking rate for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual adults in New York City was 20.2%.\(^5\)

NYC Youth

- Although trends in smoking since 2005 reveal declining rates among NYC bisexual and heterosexual youth, smoking rates among Gay and Lesbian youth have not declined while smoking rates among all LGB youth in NYC continue to be higher than smoking rates in straight youth.\(^6\)
  
  - The most recent data in 2011 show that smoking rates among Lesbian and Gay youth is over 3 times higher when compared with straight youth (23.5% vs. 7.1%).
  
  - In 2011, smoking rates among Bisexual youth are more than double that of straight youth (16.6% vs. 7.1%).

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\(^5\) NYC Community Health Survey 2012 (NYC DOHMH internal analysis)