



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!*)
 - 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%).²
- Nearly 90% of regular smokers start before age 18.³
- 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 Adults⁴

- 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%).

¹ MPOWERED: Best and Promising Practices for LGBT Tobacco Prevention and Control. Network for LGBT Health Equity. 2012
http://lgbthealthequity.org/system/resources/BAhbBIsHOgZmSSlxMjAxMi8wOC8yMS8xNF8zNV8xOV8yMjJFTVBvd2VvZlZkXzA4MTMxMi5wZGYGOgZFVA/MPowererd_081312.pdf

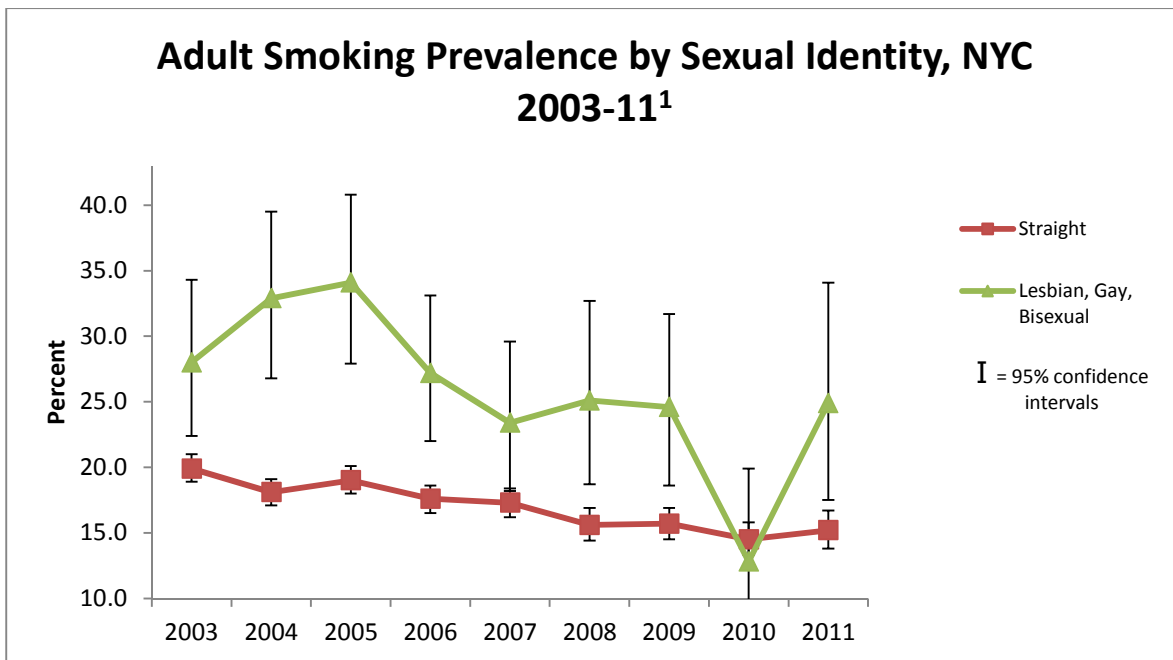
² King BA, Dube SR, Tynan M. Current tobacco use among adults in the US: findings from the national adult tobacco survey. *Amer J Public Health* 2012 102 (11): e93-100. <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2012.301002>

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.

⁴ Rajulu DT et al. Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual New Yorkers Smoke at much Higher Rates than Heterosexual Adults. *New York State Statshot Vol 6 (6)*. Data from 2008-11 NYS Adult Tobacco Survey.
http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/volume6/n6_lgb_smoke_more_than_hetero.pdf

NYC Adults

- Although trends in smoking since 2003 show declining rates among NYC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and heterosexual adults, smoking rates among LGB adults continue to be higher than straight adults.⁵
 - In 2011, the smoking rate for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual adults in New York City was 64% higher compared to heterosexuals (24.9% vs. 15.2%).⁶



¹= NYC Community Health Survey; estimates are age adjusted to the US 2000 standard population

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.⁷
 - 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%).

⁵ NYC Community Health Survey 2003-11 (internal analysis)

⁶ NYC Community Health Survey 2011 (internal analysis)

⁷ New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in collaboration with the NYC Department of Education. Youth Risk Behavior Survey years 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011. <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/episrv/episrv-youthriskbehavior.shtml>