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State Rankings of Current Cigarette Smoking, 2008

This report provides state rankings of current smoking among adults (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) and public high school students (Youth Risk Surveillance System).

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Data Sources

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) was designed in 1990 to determine the prevalence of health risk behaviors such as tobacco use, unhealthy dietary behaviors, inadequate physical activity, alcohol and drug use, sexual behaviors contributing to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and behaviors contributing to unintended injuries and violence. The YRBSS is intended to assess whether health risk behaviors increase, decrease, or stay the same over time, as well as examining the co-occurrence of health risk behaviors. The YRBSS provides comparable national and state data among subpopulations of youth. The YRBSS includes national and state school-based surveys of representative samples of 9th through 12th grade students. These surveys are conducted every two years, usually during the spring semester. The national survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides data representative of high school students in public and private schools in the United States. The state surveys, conducted by departments of health and education, provide data representative of the state. The YRBSS data are provided for 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007 (the 2005 survey was not administered in Mississippi due to Hurricane Katrina).

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a state-based system of health surveys that were developed and conducted in order to monitor state-level prevalence of the major behavioral risks among adults associated with premature morbidity and mortality. The basic philosophy was to collect data on actual behaviors, rather than attitudes or knowledge, that would be particularly useful for planning, initiating, supporting, and evaluating health promotion and disease prevention programs.

The BRFSS is a cross-sectional telephone survey conducted by state health departments with technical and methodological assistance provided by the CDC. Every year, states conduct monthly telephone surveillance using a standardized questionnaire to determine the distribution of risk behaviors and health practices among non-institutionalized adults. Adults 18 and over are asked to take part in the survey. Only one adult is interviewed per household. Data from Mississippi adults are available on the BRFSS website from 1995-2008.

About the Tables

The tables below provide prevalence estimates for current smoking, as well as 95% confidence intervals. States are ranked from highest prevalence to lowest prevalence. State rankings, however, should be interpreted with caution. Rank differences do not necessarily reflect meaningful differences between states.

Current Cigarette Smoking among Adults, 2008

Source: Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Mississippi ranks 7th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in the prevalence of current smoking among adults. State rankings, however, should be interpreted with caution. Rank differences do not necessarily reflect meaningful differences between states. For instance, there is not a statistically significant difference in the prevalence of adult smoking in Mississippi and the states that rank 2nd through 6th, nor is there a statistically significant difference between Mississippi and Arkansas, Alabama, Nevada, Alaska, Illinois, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Louisiana, Michigan, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Rank	State	Prevalence	Lower CI	Upper CI
1	West Virginia	26.5%	24.7%	28.3%
2	Indiana	26.0%	23.9%	28.0%
3	Kentucky	25.2%	23.5%	26.9%
4	Missouri	24.9%	23.0%	26.8%
5	Oklahoma	24.7%	23.4%	26.1%
6	Tennessee	23.1%	21.0%	25.1%
7	Mississippi	22.7%	21.3%	24.0%
8	Arkansas	22.3%	20.6%	24.0%
9	Alabama	22.1%	20.3%	23.9%
10	Nevada	22.1%	20.0%	24.2%
11	Alaska	21.5%	19.0%	24.0%
12	Illinois	21.3%	19.6%	23.0%
13	Pennsylvania	21.3%	20.0%	22.5%
14	North Carolina	20.9%	19.8%	21.9%
15	Louisiana	20.4%	19.0%	21.8%
16	Michigan	20.4%	19.2%	21.6%
17	Ohio	20.1%	18.9%	21.2%
18	South Carolina	20.0%	18.6%	21.4%
19	Wisconsin	19.8%	18.2%	21.4%
20	Georgia	19.5%	17.8%	21.2%
21	New Mexico	19.3%	17.8%	20.8%
22	Wyoming	19.3%	18.1%	20.5%
23	Iowa	18.7%	17.3%	20.1%
24	Montana	18.5%	17.1%	19.9%
25	Texas	18.5%	17.1%	19.8%
26	Nebraska	18.3%	16.9%	19.7%
27	Maine	18.1%	16.9%	19.4%
28	North Dakota	18.1%	16.5%	19.6%
29	Kansas	17.8%	16.7%	19.0%
30	Delaware	17.7%	15.9%	19.5%
31	Colorado	17.6%	16.6%	18.6%
32	Florida	17.5%	16.1%	18.8%
33	Minnesota	17.5%	15.9%	19.1%
34	South Dakota	17.5%	16.1%	18.9%
35	Rhode Island	17.3%	15.7%	19.0%
36	New Hampshire	17.0%	15.7%	18.3%
37	Idaho	16.8%	15.3%	18.4%
38	New York	16.7%	15.6%	17.9%
39	Vermont	16.7%	15.5%	17.9%
40	Virginia	16.4%	14.8%	18.0%
41	Oregon	16.3%	14.8%	17.8%
42	District of Columbia	16.2%	14.5%	17.9%
43	Massachusetts	16.0%	15.1%	16.9%
44	Arizona	15.9%	13.7%	18.0%
45	Connecticut	15.9%	14.4%	17.3%
46	Washington	15.7%	14.9%	16.4%
47	Hawaii	15.4%	14.1%	16.7%
48	Maryland	14.9%	13.8%	16.0%
49	New Jersey	14.7%	13.7%	15.8%
50	California	14.0%	13.0%	14.9%
51	Utah	9.3%	8.2%	10.3%

Current Cigarette Smoking among Public High School Students, 2007

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Mississippi ranks 21st in the prevalence of current smoking among public high school students (37 states administered the YRBSS in 2007). State rankings, however, should be interpreted with caution. Rank differences do not necessarily reflect meaningful differences between states. For instance, there is not a statistically significant difference in the prevalence of youth smoking in Mississippi and the states that rank 4th through 20th, nor is there a statistically significant difference between Mississippi and the 22nd through the 33rd state.

Rank	State	Prevalence	Lower CI	Upper CI
1	West Virginia	27.6%	23.5%	32.2%
2	Kentucky	26.0%	24.1%	28.1%
3	Tennessee	25.5%	21.9%	29.5%
4	New Mexico	24.2%	20.8%	27.9%
5	Oklahoma	23.2%	20.1%	26.6%
6	Indiana	22.5%	17.8%	27.9%
7	North Carolina	22.5%	20.3%	24.8%
8	Arizona	22.2%	19.0%	25.7%
9	Missouri	21.8%	19.3%	28.8%
10	Ohio	21.6%	18.3%	25.4%
11	Connecticut	21.1%	18.6%	23.9%
12	Texas	21.1%	18.3%	24.2%
13	Wyoming	20.8%	18.6%	23.3%
14	Arkansas	20.7%	17.9%	23.8%
15	Kansas	20.6%	18.2%	23.2%
16	Wisconsin	20.5%	18.2%	23.0%
17	Delaware	20.2%	18.4%	22.1%
18	Idaho	20.0%	16.8%	23.6%
19	Montana	20.0%	17.3%	23.0%
20	Illinois	19.9%	16.9%	23.3%
21	Mississippi	19.2%	16.9%	21.7%
22	New Hampshire	19.0%	16.5%	21.7%
23	Iowa	18.9%	15.4%	23.0%
24	Georgia	18.6%	16.9%	20.4%
25	Vermont	18.2%	14.4%	22.8%
26	Michigan	18.0%	14.7%	21.8%
27	Alaska	17.8%	15.0%	20.8%
28	South Carolina	17.8%	14.5%	21.7%
29	Massachusetts	17.7%	15.3%	20.4%
30	Maryland	16.8%	12.8%	21.7%
31	Florida	15.9%	14.6%	17.4%
32	Rhode Island	15.1%	11.7%	19.3%
33	Maine	14.0%	11.3%	17.1%
34	New York	13.8%	12.2%	15.7%
35	Nevada	13.6%	11.4%	16.2%
36	Hawaii	12.8%	9.6%	16.9%
37	Utah	7.9%	5.3%	11.7%

The Mississippi Tobacco Data Workgroup

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Mississippi State University was established in 1950 to promote, enhance, and facilitate social science research and related scholarly activities. The mission of the SSRC is to conduct rigorous, objective and unbiased research on social, economic, political, human resource, and social-environmental problems facing the state, nation, and world. The SSRC is a university-level, interdisciplinary research center whose annual research portfolio normally ranges between \$10-15 million. Typically, grants and contracts fund more than ninety percent of the SSRC's activities. The SSRC occupies about 17,700 sq. ft. of building space in the Research Park and another 4,500 sq. ft. in Jackson, MS. The entire facility is accessible to the handicapped. With the exception of the southern loading dock, smoking is prohibited in all indoor and outdoor areas of the SSRC. The SSRC has a extensive experience with both surveillance and evaluation research, and directed the Overall Component of the evaluation of the Mississippi Tobacco Pilot Program.

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