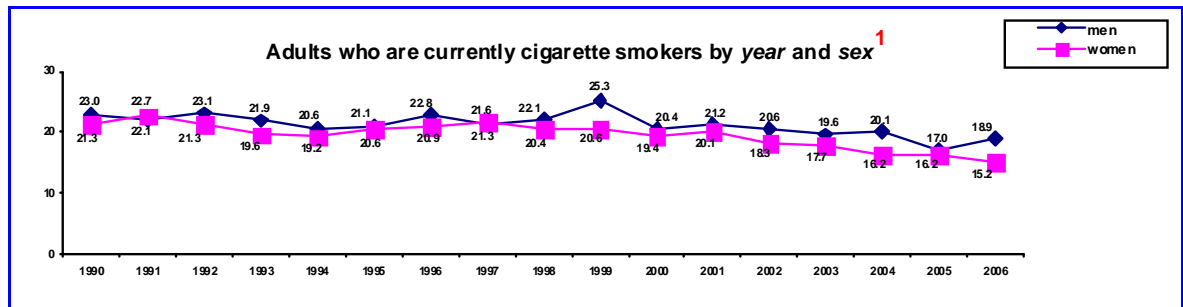


Connecticut Department of Public Health

Fact Sheet

A QUICK LOOK AT SMOKING IN CONNECTICUT

- More than four hundred fifty thousand adults in Connecticut smoke cigarettes:¹
 - ⇒ 17% of adults smoke
 - 18.9% of men smoke
 - 15.2% of women smoke
- Between 1998 and 2006 in Connecticut, smoking rates decreased slightly and were generally lower than national averages.²
- Since 1990, Connecticut had its lowest rate of smoking in 2006 among adult women (15.2%) and men (18.9%) and had lower rates than the national averages (women 18.4% and men 22.2%).¹



- The greatest number of adult smokers in Connecticut are white. Hispanic adults (24.6%) are more likely than white (15.9%) and black (22.2%) adults to smoke cigarettes. The rate among Hispanic adults is significantly higher than that among white adults.¹
- Adults with less than a high school education (26%) are nearly five times more likely than adults who are college or technical school graduates (5.3%) to smoke every day; the difference is significant.¹
- The highest smoking rate among adults in Connecticut is found in 18-34 year olds. Connecticut's overall smoking rate for all age groups is slightly lower than the national rate.¹
- In 2006, about 80% of adult smokers aged 35-44 said that they were seriously thinking about quitting.¹

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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Keeping Connecticut Healthy



A QUICK LOOK AT SMOKING IN CONNECTICUT

In November 1998, 46 states settled their lawsuits against the tobacco industry for recovery of their tobacco-related healthcare costs. This settlement is known as the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) and requires the industry to pay these states approximately \$206 billion over the next 25 years. Connecticut has received more than \$1 billion from the settlement since 1998.⁷

In 2004, Connecticut's Clean Indoor Air Act (smoking ban) was fully enacted. It is found in Connecticut Statute 19a-342 and prohibits smoking in workplaces with five (5) or more employees and in all restaurants and bars. The primary reason behind the law is to protect employees from health risks associated with secondhand smoke.¹

- **Approximately 100,000 of Connecticut's middle and high school students live with someone who smokes. Secondhand smoke has been associated with many of the same health problems as smoking, such as respiratory illnesses, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and heart disease.³**
- **Approximately 1 in 4 Connecticut high school students smoke cigarettes.³**
 - ⇒ **Nearly 49,000 Connecticut middle and high school students use some form of tobacco and nearly 33,000 smoke cigarettes.³**
- **For 2007, the American Cancer Society reported that smoking accounts for at least 30% of all cancer deaths and 87% of lung cancer deaths.⁴**
 - ⇒ **In 2005, about 1,813 deaths in Connecticut were attributable to lung cancer caused by smoking.²**
- **Between 2000 and 2005, there was an average of 5,250 smoking-related deaths each year in Connecticut.²**
- **Connecticut's annual health care expenditures attributable to the consequences of tobacco use are \$1.63 billion, but these costs do not include those associated with secondhand smoke, smoking-caused fires, spit tobacco use, or cigar and pipe-smoking.⁵**
- **In 2005, pregnant women in Connecticut had the lowest smoking rates to date.² Connecticut's female smoking rates are the second lowest in New England and lower than the national average.⁶**
 - ⇒ **Even though Connecticut has one of the lowest rates of smoking during pregnancy, about 2,601 women who gave birth in Connecticut in 2005 reported smoking while pregnant. These women were 1.5 times more likely to give birth to premature babies than were women who did not report smoking. Cigarette smoking during pregnancy can cause serious health problems in an unborn child.²**
- **In July 2007, the tax on a pack of cigarettes in Connecticut increased to \$2.00, making it one of the highest in the nation. The State collected about \$36 million more in cigarette tax revenue than during the same period in 2006.¹**

¹ Connecticut Adult Tobacco Survey, 2006

² Connecticut Department of Public Health, Vital Records, 2005

³ Connecticut School Health Survey, 2007

⁴ American Cancer Society, *Cancer Facts & Figures*, 2007

⁵ Tobacco Free Kids, *The Toll of Tobacco in Connecticut*, 2005

⁶ CDC, U.S. Cancer Statistics Data, 2004

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, STATE System, Tobacco Control Report, 2007

