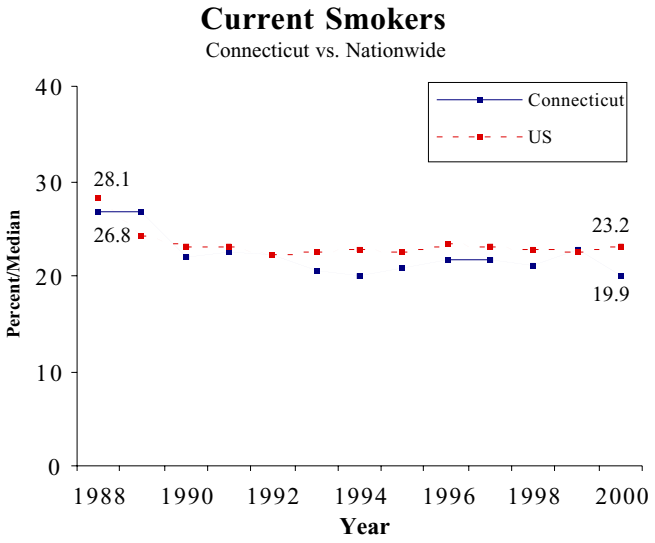
Connecticut Department of Public Health

FACT SHEET

A Quick Look at Smoking in Connecticut

- **More than five hundred thousand adults in Connecticut smoke cigarettes.**
  - **19.9% of adults smoke**
  - **20.4% of men smoke**
  - **19.4% of women smoke**



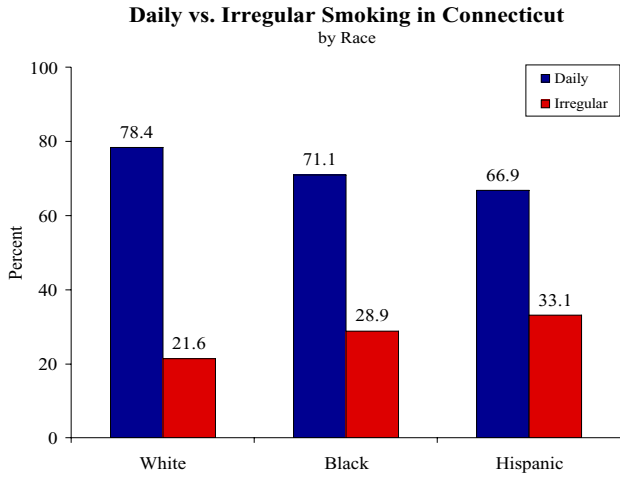
- **Between 1988 and 2000 in Connecticut, smoking rates decreased slightly and were generally lower than national averages.**

- **The greatest number of adult smokers in Connecticut are White. Although it appears that Blacks are more likely to smoke than Whites are, the difference in their smoking rates is not statistically significant.**

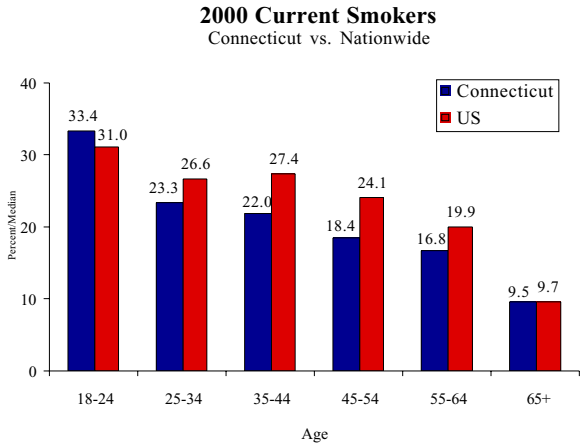
Race	CT Population (18 & older)	% of Adult Smokers	Estimated # of Smokers
White	2,147,418	20.1	432,000
Black	210,363	27.3	57,400

- **Slightly more than 17% of Hispanics in Connecticut are smokers.**

- **About 33% of Hispanic smokers and 29% of Black smokers in Connecticut smoke irregularly (non-daily).**



- **The highest smoking rate among adults in Connecticut is found in 18-24 year olds. Connecticut's smoking rate for young adults is slightly higher than the national rate. Smoking rates among other age groups are lower than US averages.**



- **In 1995, about 65% of adult smokers in Connecticut said that they were thinking about quitting.**

- **Nearly 75,000 Connecticut middle and high school students use some form of tobacco and more than 58,000 smoke cigarettes.**

- **Approximately 1 in 3 Connecticut high school seniors smoke cigarettes.**

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Keeping Connecticut Healthy

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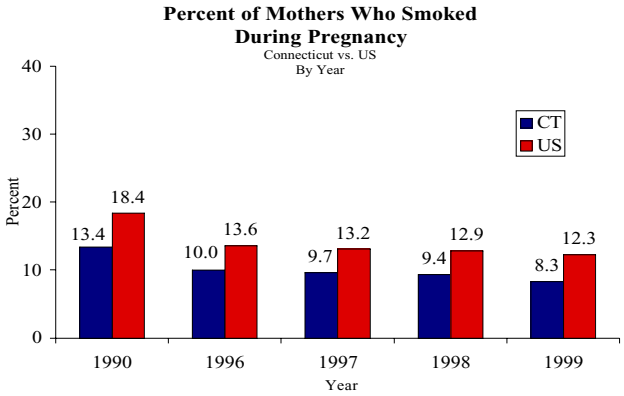
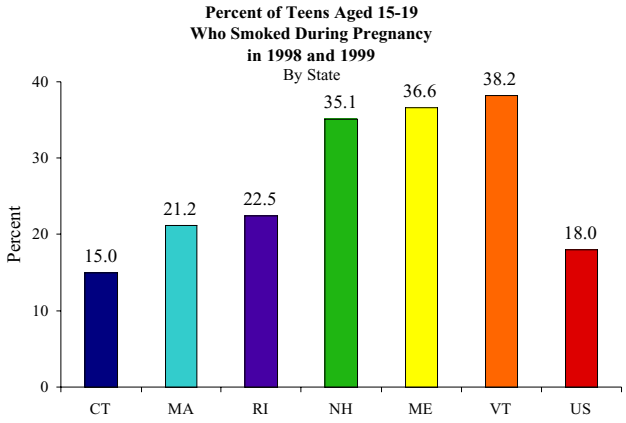
- About 40% of Connecticut's middle and high school students live with someone who smokes. Secondhand smoke has been associated with many of the same health problems as smoking, such as respiratory illnesses, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and heart disease.
- It is estimated that 90% of all lung cancer deaths are attributable to smoking. For 2001, the *American Cancer Society* predicted that 2,000 new cases of lung cancer would be diagnosed among men and women in Connecticut and 1,900 would die from the disease.
- Between 1990 and 1994, there was an average of 5,250 smoking-related deaths each year in Connecticut.
- Connecticut's annual medical expenditures attributable to the consequences of tobacco use are $1.2 billion, but these costs do not include those associated with pregnancy and smoking.
- In 1999, Connecticut had one of the 10 lowest rates in the US of smoking among pregnant women. Connecticut's rate of 8.3% was the best in New England.



- Even though Connecticut has one of the lowest rates of smoking during pregnancy, about 3,800 women who gave birth in Connecticut in 1998 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.
- Health costs associated with pregnancy and smoking are approximately $4.1 million per year in Connecticut.
- In 1998 and 1999, Connecticut had the lowest rate of smoking (15.0%) among pregnant teens (age 15-19) in New England. Connecticut's rate was also better than the national average (18.0%).



- In April 2002, the tax on a pack of cigarettes in Connecticut increased by $0.61, making the average price of a pack of cigarettes around $4.00 and boosting Connecticut's cigarette tax to $1.11, one of the highest in the nation.
- The tax increase could reduce youth smoking by 12.6%. Research from the University of Illinois suggests that for every 10% increase in the price of cigarettes, there will be an approximate 7% decrease in youth smoking rates. Based on this prediction, Connecticut can expect an estimated reduction of more than 7,000 youth smokers.
- 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 $400 million from the settlement since 1998.