

# The Facts About... New Yorkers Who Smoke



## Prevalence of Smoking

Approximately 4 million New York adults and 46 million American adults smoke cigarettes, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Information from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) for 2002 indicates that 23.2 percent of men and 19.2 percent of women in New York are current smokers. These percentages reflect a decline of 0.3 percent and 1.5 percent respectively from 2001. Of the 4 million New Yorkers who currently smoke, 7.4 percent are between the ages of 18 and 24, 18.6 percent are 25-34, 20.8 percent are 35-44, 20 percent are 45-54, 13.3 percent are 55-64 and 18.3 percent are 65 and older.



## Deaths Attributed To Smoking

Approximately 440,000 deaths are attributable to illnesses related to cigarette smoking in the U.S. annually, according to the CDC. In 1999, smoking accounted for 24,572 deaths in New York.



## Can Deaths Be Reduced?

According to *Reducing Tobacco Use: A Report of the Surgeon General*, Americans first try smoking between the ages of 11 and 15. In order to prevent these young people from continual smoking, adopting strong tobacco-free policies in educational settings would lead to a reduction of opportunities for young people to experiment with tobacco on school grounds. This report also states that implementing effective educational programs for preventing tobacco use could postpone or prevent smoking onset in 20 percent to 40 percent of U.S. adolescents.

In 2002, funding for anti-tobacco initiatives in New York totaled \$46 million, according to the CDC's State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation System. Statewide smoking cessation programs have emerged as the new laboratory for developing and evaluating comprehensive plans to reduce tobacco use. The Surgeon General's report says that because an individual's behavior choices are not made in isolation, these programs will be most effective if they address all the elements that may influence these choices, such as family, community, culture, the economy and physical environment. The report recommends that statewide programs should include campaigns that: target youth and adults with complementary messages; highlight nonsmoking as the majority behavior; and include grassroots promotions and community tie-ins.



## The Economic Impact of Smoking

The CDC estimates the cost of treating smoking-related illnesses is \$75 billion nationwide. In 1998, New York's health-care system spent more than \$6 billion treating smoking-related illnesses, according to the latest statistics available from the CDC.

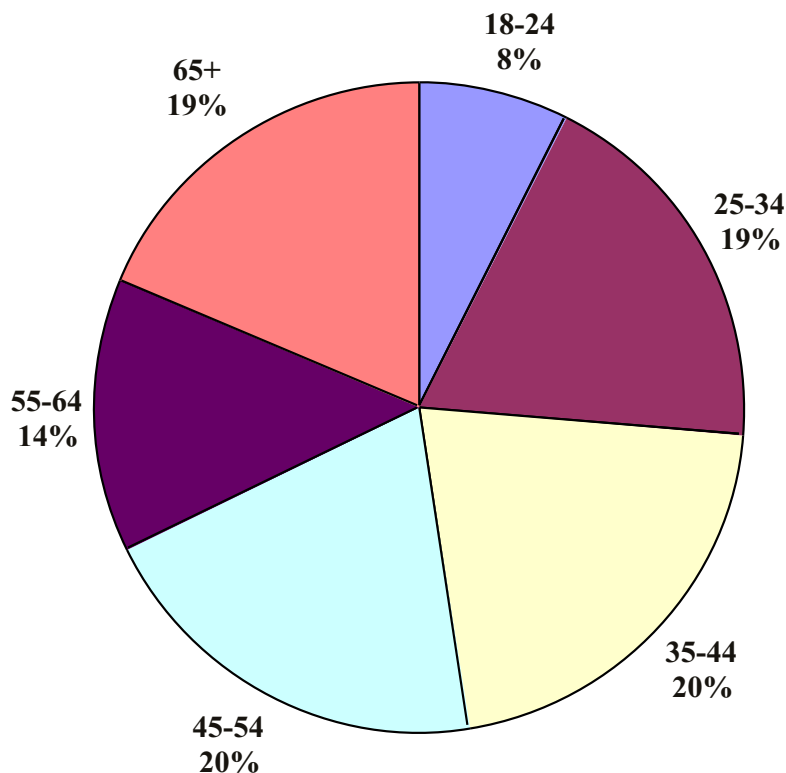
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# New Yorkers Who Smoke

New York State Annual Health-Care Costs Related To Smoking 1998	
Care Provided	Cost
Ambulatory	\$ 1,767,000,000
Hospital	\$ 1,296,000,000
Nursing Home	\$ 2,230,000,000
Prescription Drugs	\$ 494,000,000
Other	\$ 592,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,379,000,000</b>

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Tobacco Control State Highlights, 2002

## Percentage of Current Adult Smokers, by Age Groups for New York State, 2002



Source: New York States Department of Health, Tobacco Use Among Adults, New York State, 2002