

# 2009 Wyoming Adult Tobacco Survey

## CHES-919

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### Background

The Wyoming Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS) collects information on attitudes about tobacco policy and environmental tobacco smoke, on tobacco use prevalence and consumption, and on tobacco cessation methods and rates. Data collected from the ATS measures progress toward attaining the objectives of Wyoming's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TP&C Program):

- eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke
- reduce tobacco initiation among youth
- promote cessation efforts, and
- identify and eliminate tobacco-related disparities.

### Key Findings

#### Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke

- The overwhelming majority of Wyoming adults are aware of the dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Most people want and have smokefree environments at work and at home.
- Most people want smokefree dining; most would eat out more or just as much if there were smokefree dining ordinances in effect.
- Most people—including more than half of smokers—report they would support smokefree restaurant laws in their communities.

#### Reduce tobacco initiation among young adults

- Nearly all smokers in Wyoming started smoking before the age of 25.

#### Promote cessation efforts

- More health professionals ask patients if they smoke than ask patients if they use smokeless tobacco.
- Roughly half of current smokers and of smokeless tobacco users made a quit attempt in the past year.

## Identify and eliminate tobacco-related disparities

- People with incomes of less than \$25,000 are more likely to smoke than people with incomes of \$50,000 or more, and people with less education are more likely to smoke than people with more education.
- Men are far more likely to use smokeless tobacco than women. Among men, men between 18 and 24 are more likely to use smokeless tobacco than men 55 and over.
- Young people are underrepresented among ATS respondents. They may be underrepresented because young people are more likely than older people to have cell phones exclusively and thus not be contacted by ATS interviewers (interviewers only call land lines).

## Implications for programs and policy

Although key indicators of tobacco prevalence and consumption in Wyoming have yet to improve, many ATS variables suggest we may see change soon. Many tobacco users apparently want to quit. Wyoming adults have increased knowledge about and changed attitudes toward tobacco. WY TP&C efforts should emphasize training health professionals to ask their patients if they use tobacco and advising them to quit. Efforts to reduce tobacco initiation should be expanded to focus on young people through the age of 25. Finally, since the data shows that Wyoming adults support smokefree legislation and voluntarily live, work, and dine in smokefree environments, this is an opportune time to codify support into smokefree ordinances.

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[http://wysac.uwyo.edu/r/25\\_u040510522009%20ATS%20Report%20FINAL.pdf](http://wysac.uwyo.edu/r/25_u040510522009%20ATS%20Report%20FINAL.pdf)