

Two Groups in Wyoming Unequally Impacted by Smoking

The Wyoming Substance Use and Tobacco Prevention Program (SUTPP) has identified populations of focus that are unequally impacted by smoking: people with low income and people experiencing behavioral health conditions. For context, the overall smoking rate in Wyoming adults is 16%.

Generations-long inequities in social, economic, and environmental conditions contribute to poor health outcomes. These inequities, which are out of an individual's control, have a greater impact on health outcomes than individual choices. For example, the tobacco industry has targeted people from these groups.

Public health prevention work is essential to reduce unequal burdens of smoking through policies, practices, and organizational systems to help improve health for all Wyomingites.

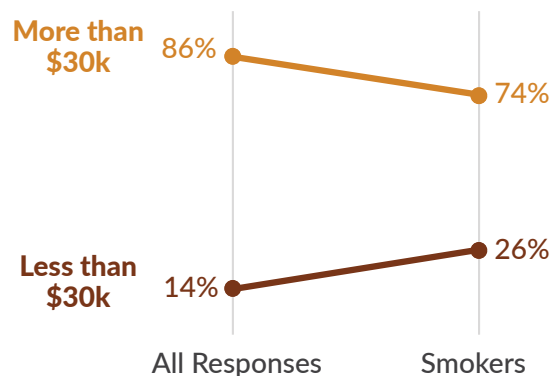
People with Low Income

The pressures of discrimination, poverty, and other social conditions can increase commercial tobacco use and make health problems worse.

Adults with lower income have an unequally higher rate of tobacco use.

About one quarter (29%) of adults from households making less than \$30,000 per year are smokers. While only 14% of survey respondents were living in households with an income of less than \$30,000, they made up 26% of smokers in the survey (see below).

Smoking is Unequally Higher Among Adults With Low Income



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People Experiencing Behavioral Health Conditions

People experiencing behavioral health conditions have been harmed by unjust practices related to the sale of commercial tobacco and nicotine. These practices include promoting the false idea that tobacco and nicotine can be used to treat behavioral or mental health conditions and promoting unhealthy policies in behavioral healthcare facilities. These misperceptions may affect healthcare providers' willingness to offer cessation treatments to adults with behavioral health conditions and increase smoking among people with behavioral health conditions.

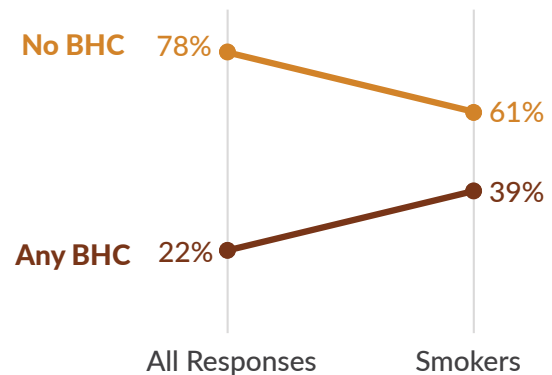
About one in four (28%) adults with behavioral health conditions are smokers. Smoking is unequally higher among this priority group (see to the right). While only 22% of adults in the survey reported having behavioral health conditions, they made up 39% of smokers in the survey.

Additional Priority Populations

Two other groups are priority populations for the SUTPP, but did not show disparities in the 2021 data.

Previous Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS) and other data have shown a smoking-related disparity for American

Smoking is Unequally Higher Among Adults With Behavioral Health Conditions (BHC)



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Indian adults, with smoking being more common in this population. In 2021, the survey data did not include enough people in this group for a precise estimate of smoking. Because the survey data included relatively few people in this group, it is likely for findings to vary from one survey to the next. The 2021 ATS data did not show a smoking-related disparity for young adults (ages 18-29 years old). This may demonstrate the collective success of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), SUTPP, multiple federal agencies, county prevention workers, and other groups.



Additional Information

The 2021 Wyoming Adult Tobacco Survey was a phone survey of Wyoming adults. Additional information is available at:

- health.wyo.gov/publichealth/prevention/substanceabuseandsuicide/tobacco-prevention
- wysac.uwyo.edu/wyomingtobacco