



TOBACCO USE PREVENTION AND CESSATION

Tobacco Use in New York City

The 2019 New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Community Health Survey show an adult smoking prevalence of 11.9%, a decrease from 14.3% in 2015 and 21.5% in 2002. While these improvements are impressive, troubling inequities exist. In 2019, adults with less than a high school education were twice as likely to smoke as those with a college degree (15.6% vs. 7.4%). Men were more likely to smoke than women (14.7% vs. 9.3%). Smoking was also particularly high among adults with serious psychological distress (SPD), compared to adults without SPD (26.7% vs. 11.0%).

According to the DOHMH Opinion Survey administered in December 2020, over one-third (35.5%) of New Yorkers who smoke reported smoking more often than they were the year prior.



The Toll of Tobacco

Every year in New York City more than 12,000 lives are lost to tobacco related illness, making tobacco use the number one cause of preventable death and disease. The number one cancer killer in New York City is lung cancer and cigarette smoking is the number one risk factor for lung cancer. In the United States, cigarette smoking is linked to about 80% of lung cancer deaths.

Electronic Cigarette Use

According to the Community Health Survey in New York City electronic cigarette use is continuing, with 10.4% of 18-24-year-olds and 7.5% of 25-44-year-olds reporting currently using an electronic cigarette. In 2019, 22.4% of high school students in New York used electronic cigarette products on at least one day in the past 30 days. Electronic cigarette use is now much more common among 18-24-year-olds than smoking (4.8%). White New Yorkers are two to three times more likely to use e-cigarettes (9%) than New Yorkers from other racial and ethnic groups.

COVID-19 and Smoking

According to the Centers for Disease Control, being a current or former smoker increases the risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Smoking impairs the immune system and lung function, making it harder for the body to fight off coronaviruses and other respiratory diseases.

DOHMH Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program.

The DOHMH's tobacco control efforts use the most current research findings to drive program activities including working collaboratively with state and national partners to prevent youth from becoming adults who smoke and help adults quit, promote policy change through evidence-based strategies that alter social norms and make tobacco less desirable, less acceptable and less accessible. DOHMH's tobacco control spending implements hard hitting, emotionally evocative media campaigns to deglamorize tobacco use and accurately depict the negative consequences of tobacco use, and systematically evaluates its efforts to maximize impact and improve outcomes.

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Programs Reduce Smoking, Save Lives, and Save Money.

Comprehensive, well-funded state and city programs that prevent kids from smoking and help people who smoke quit are proven to save lives and money. The evidence is clear: The more policymakers spend on these programs, and the longer they do so, the greater the impact.

New York City's Investment in Tobacco Use Prevention and Smoking Cessation Declining

New York City prevention and cessation efforts have been a national leader. Unfortunately, tobacco control program spending in New York City has gone down by more than 35% in the last ten years to \$7.2 million a year. This drop coupled with a similar decline in state tobacco control efforts threatens the progress of the past decade.

BUDGET RECCOMENDATION:

- New York City should renew its commitment to reducing tobacco use by maintaining its current commitment of \$7.2 Million in 2021-2022 to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for tobacco use prevention and smoking cessation.

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