

Key Data

Tobacco

Tobacco use prevalence and harm is hidden by the lack of data for some populations. A lack of data does not mean that disparities do not exist. Some limitations of general population surveys and risk factor surveillance systems include:

- Exclusion of specific groups of people.
- Small communities.
- Grouping of diverse populations.
- Reliance on self-reported data.

An example of the disparities not captured by general population surveys includes high smoking rates among Asian American communities. The Washington State Department of Health recently solicited and received feedback from community partners on potential improvements to the 2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) and is assessing the feasibility of including questions on Asian ethnic origin in both of these surveys.

Data monitoring is also a critical issue for LGBT communities. In 2014, Washington State's HYS added sexual orientation as a demographic variable.

Tobacco use

- Adult smoking rate (2014 through 2016): 14.7 percent.
- 10th-grade smoking rate: 6 percent.
- 10th-grade overall use of products that contain nicotine remains high due to increases in electronic cigarettes and vapor products.

Health burden

- **One in five Washington deaths:** Including secondhand smoke, cigarettes cause approximately 17 percent to 19 percent of deaths in Washington State per year.
- **8,300** Washington residents die from smoking each year.
- **3,900** Washington youth (under 18) become daily smokers each year.
- **104,000** Washington youth alive today will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.

Economic burden

Key Data

- **\$5.0 billion** in annual economic costs directly caused by smoking.
 - **\$2.8 billion in annual health care costs caused by smoking.**
 - **\$2.2 billion cost to employers due to lost productivity.**

Sources used:

- [Tobacco and Vapor Products](#), 2018 Washington State Health Assessment.
- Washington State Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2012, Washington State Department of Health.
- Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, 2012-2016, Washington State Department of Health.
- [Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs—2014](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- [Toll of Tobacco in United States](#), The Toll of Tobacco in Washington Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, September 25, 2015.