Smoking Patterns within the Missouri LGBTQ Community

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Introduction

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations as a priority population with significant tobacco-related disparity

Smoking rates for SGM subpopulations are significantly higher than the mainstream population, up to twice as high

The purpose of this study is to explore the difference in smoking status based on characteristics of subgroups within the SGM community

Methodology

Data were collected at Missouri Pride festivals in Jun and Aug of 2008, 2010 and 2011; online survey to list serves in Oct through Nov 2008 and 2011

A total of 8 questions on tobacco related attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors and demographics were asked every year

Age, race, SGM status were used to identify unique participants

Pride 2008: n=3067
Pride 2010: n=3376
Pride 2011: n=4646
→ 6537 UNIQUE Participants

SGM Status

Q. Do you consider yourself to be... Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Heterosexual or straight, Don't know; not sure, Other

Q. Are you a man or woman?

Q. Do you identify as transgender or transsexual?

If participant indicated heterosexual and man or woman and *not* transsexual or transgender, then participant is not SGM

Smoking Status

Current: smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetimes and reported currently smoking (everyday or somedays)

Former: smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetimes and reported *not* currently smoking

Never: not smoking at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetimes

Smoking policy in the home

Q. Which statement best describes rules about smoking inside your home

- ○ Not allowed anywhere inside the home
- ○ Allowed in some places or at some times
- ○ Allowed in all places inside the home
- ○ There are no rules about smoking inside the home

Smokefree support

Q. Do you support smokefree policies in all indoor workplaces, including restaurants and bars? (yes, no, don't know)

Table 1. Smoking status by SGM subgroups' race

	Lesbian	Gay	Male bisexual	Female bisexual	Other	Transgender Transsexual	Female SGM	Male SGM
	n=1732	n=1917	n=244	n=621	n=410	n=289	n=2917	n=2202
	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent
non-hispanic White	n=1114	n=1294	n=128	n=376	n=246	n=180	n=1830	n=1444
Smoker Status								
Never	32%	47%	48%	43%	48%	50%	45%	47%
Former	35%	17%	15%	14%	16%	12%	16%	17%
Current	38%	36%	37%	44%	36%	38%	39%	36%
non-hispanic Black	n=346	n=289	n=58	n=113	n=72	n=38	n=568	n=336
Smoker Status								
Never	56%	59%	62%	56%	61%	47%	56%	61%
Former	6%	7%	3%	4%	7%	8%	5%	7%
Current	38%	35%	35%	40%	32%	45%	39%	32%
non-hispanic Other races	n=126	n=143	n=31	n=63	n=40	n=31	n=239	n=187
Smoker Status								
Never	52%	50%	36%	49%	58%	36%	51%	44%
Former	9%	12%	6%	10%	8%	16%	9%	12%
Current	40%	39%	58%	41%	35%	48%	40%	44%
Hispanic	n=84	n=118	n=17	n=36	n=25	n=24	n=158	n=141
Smoker Status								
Never	50%	50%	59%	42%	44%	54%	46%	53%
Former	18%	14%	6%	14%	20%	0%	15%	12%
Current	32%	36%	35%	44%	36%	46%	39%	35%

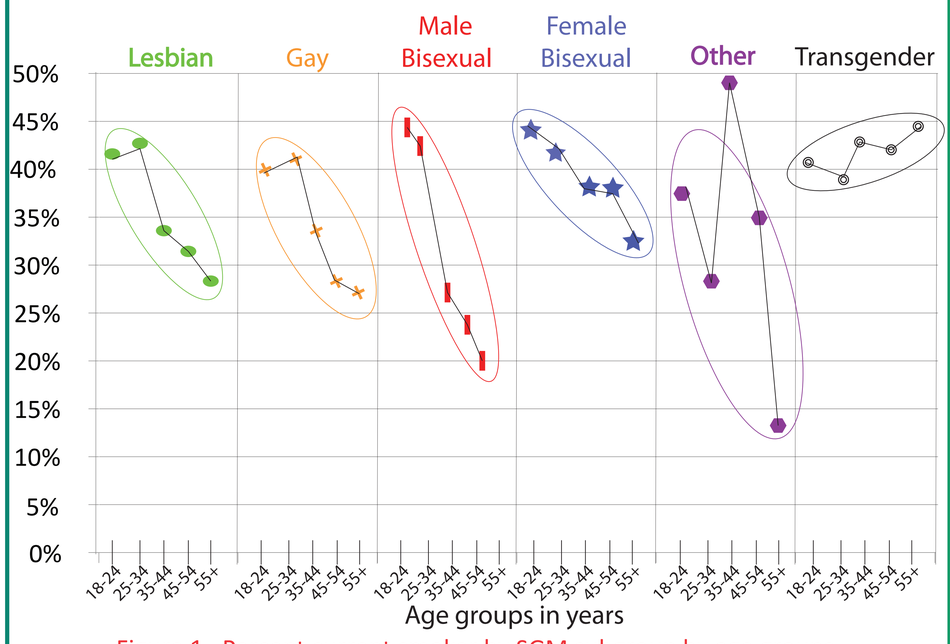

Figure 1. Percent current smoker by SGM subgroup by age groups

Table 2. SGM support of smokefree policy and no smoking in the home by smoking status

	Supports smokefree policy
Smoker Status	
Never	77%
Former	70%
Current	49%
	Does not allow smoking in the home
Smoker Status	
Never	78%
Former	77%
Current	47%

Table 3. Current smoker subgroups by education attainment levels[1]

	Lesbian	Gay	Male bisexual	Female bisexual	Other	Transgender Transsexual	Female SGM	Male SGM
	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent
Education	n=362	n=388	n=37	n=95	n=51	n=63	n=572	n=415
High school graduate or less	14%	16%	22%	19%	22%	35%	18%	17%
Some college-no degree, technical	33%	30%	43%	32%	31%	22%	32%	30%
2-yr college degree	16%	13%	22%	18%	10%	16%	15%	14%
4-yr college degree and postgraduate	37%	41%	13%	32%	38%	27%	35%	40%

[1]Restricted to SGM adults, 25 years or older

Results

SGM smoking rates were almost twice as high compared to the mainstream population in MO (21%) [BRFSS 2010 data]. Percent of current smokers varied by SGM subgroup from 35% to 42%

The youngest SGM age groups smoke substantially more than Missouri mainstream population (13%), [BRFSS 2010 data]

Transgender individuals have consistenly high smoking rates in all age group; whereas all other SGM subgroups' smoking rates decrease with age

SGM former and never smokers (70%, 77%) reflect MO mainstream (72%) support of indoor workplaces smokefree policy [BRFSS, 2010 data]

Current SGM smokers are almost 2x more likely to allow smoking in the home (53%) compared to the Missouri population (31%) [County Level Study, 2007 data]

Three times more SGM smokers (except bisexual males) have 4-year college degree or higher compared to mainstream population (12%), [BRFSS 2010 data]

Approximately eight times as many SGM smokers (32%) are some day smokers compared to mainstream population (4%), [BRFSS 2010 data] (data not shown)

Conclusion

SGM community has high smoking rates including college educated individual compared to the mainstream population. These rates vary by race.

Transgender individuals who are also within racial minority group smoke at the highest rates among all SGM subgroups. Unlike all other subgroups, these high smoking rates do not decrease in the older age groups. Special attention needs to be given to tobacco cessation interventions for SGM trans.

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