



Characteristics of the Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Current Smoker

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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

A 36-item survey consisted of questions on tobacco and health related attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors and demographics

Venues were 5 Pride festivals in Missouri held in Jun and Aug of 2011 & online survey to relevant list serves in Oct and Nov

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

Current Smoking Characteristics

Q. Do you now smoke cigarettes everyday, somedays, not at all
Daily = everyday smokers

Q. On days you smoke, how many cigarettes do you smoke?

Light smokers: ≤5 cigarettes per day

Moderate smokers: 6-19 cigarettes per day

Heavy smokers: ≥20 cigarettes per day

Table 1. Current smoker subgroups by type of smoking level

	Lesbian	Gay	Male bisexual	Female bisexual	Other	Transgender/Transsexual	Sexual and Gender Minority
	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent
	n=328	n=333	n=32	n=130	n=69	n=50	n=942
Some day	30%	30%	50%	30%	43%	30%	32%
	n=230	n=233	n=16	n=91	n=39	n=35	n=644
Every day	70%	70%	50%	70%	57%	70%	68%
Light	43%	31%	19%	32%	39%	43%	36%
Moderate	54%	60%	63%	64%	59%	49%	58%
Heavy	4%	9%	19%	4%	3%	9%	7%

Table 2. Characteristics of study population by smoking status, age group and race

	Lesbian	Gay	Male bisexual	Female bisexual	Other	Transgender/Transsexual	Sexual and Gender Minority
	n=1102	n=1307	n=106	n=378	n=223	n=157	n=3275
	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent
Current Smoker	n=431	n=459	n=44	n=153	n=75	n=65	n=1227
Race							
White	77%	78%	59%	76%	78%	65%	76%
Black	18%	13%	21%	11%	14%	22%	15%
Other	6%	9%	21%	13%	9%	13%	9%
Hispanic	3%	7%	5%	6%	8%	6%	5%
Former smoker	n=134	n=184	n=5	n=44	n=32	n=14	n=413
Race							
White	88%	91%	60%	91%	88%	93%	89%
Black	6%	7%	20%	5%	6%	7%	7%
Other	6%	2%	20%	5%	6%	0%	4%
Hispanic	6%	4%	0%	5%	10%	0%	5%
Never smoker	n=530	n=655	n=56	n=179	n=112	n=77	n=1611
Race							
White	70%	77%	67%	66%	67%	76%	72%
Black	24%	15%	25%	21%	21%	12%	19%
Other	6%	8%	7%	13%	12%	12%	8%
Hispanic	5%	6%	13%	4%	6%	8%	6%
Intention to quit¹							
now	13%	16%	20%	14%	17%	23%	15%
within 1 month	20%	23%	23%	17%	16%	23%	21%
within 6 months	43%	42%	25%	38%	41%	30%	41%
no intention	25%	20%	32%	31%	27%	25%	24%
Current smoker	n=431	n=459	n=44	n=153	n=75	n=65	n=1227
Age							
18-24	34%	35%	55%	54%	47%	32%	38%
25-34	34%	29%	27%	30%	31%	25%	31%
35-44	17%	18%	11%	12%	9%	19%	16%
45-54	9%	12%	7%	2%	12%	9%	10%
≥55	6%	6%	0%	1%	1%	15%	6%
Former smoker	n=134	n=184	n=5	n=44	n=32	n=14	n=413
Age							
18-24	11%	9%	0%	36%	22%	7%	14%
25-34	33%	19%	0%	39%	38%	36%	27%
35-44	29%	29%	60%	14%	25%	21%	27%
45-54	16%	24%	40%	7%	3%	14%	18%
≥55	10%	19%	0%	5%	13%	21%	19%
Never smoker	n=530	n=655	n=56	n=179	n=112	n=77	n=1611
Age							
18-24	37%	35%	54%	58%	49%	36%	40%
25-34	25%	25%	21%	26%	27%	23%	25%
35-44	20%	17%	13%	14%	12%	16%	17%
45-54	13%	14%	7%	2%	6%	14%	11%
≥55	5%	9%	5%	<1%	6%	10%	7%

¹Intention to quit current smoker only

Table 3. Current smoker subgroups by age group and by smoking level

	Lesbian	Gay	Male bisexual	Female bisexual	Other	Transgender/Transsexual	Sexual and Gender Minority
	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent
Age (in years)	n=333	n=355	n=28	n=114	n=45	n=48	n=923
18-24	n=81	n=77	n=9	n=43	n=19	n=10	n= 239
Light	41%	30%	33%	33%	32%	10%	33%
Moderate	56%	68%	67%	65%	63%	90%	64%
Heavy	4%	3%	0%	2%	5%	0%	3%
25-34	n=68	n=67	n=4	n=32	n=12	n=11	n= 194
Light	29%	16%	0%	28%	58%	64%	28%
Moderate	66%	72%	25%	66%	42%	36%	64%
Heavy	4%	12%	75%	6%	0%	0%	8%
35-44	n=38	n=38	n=2	n=14	n=4	n=7	n= 103
Light	32%	29%	0%	29%	25%	43%	30%
Moderate	61%	63%	100%	64%	75%	43%	62%
Heavy	8%	8%	0%	7%	0%	14%	8%
45-54	n=24	n=30	n=1	n=1	n=4	n=2	n= 62
Light	62%	37%	0%	100%	25%	0%	45%
Moderate	38%	43%	100%	0%	75%	50%	44%
Heavy	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	50%	11%
≥55	n=19	n=21	n=0	n=1	n=0	n=5	n= 46
Light	95%	71%	0%	100%	0%	80%	83%
Moderate	5%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%
Heavy	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	20%	9%

Table 4. Current smoker subgroups by education attainment levels¹

	Lesbian	Gay	Male bisexual	Female bisexual	Other	Transgender/Transsexual	Sexual and Gender Minority
	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent	percent
Education	n=286	n=300	n=20	n=70	n=40	n=44	n=760
Less than high school	3%	<1%	5%	3%	3%	7%	2%
High school graduate	12%	17%	15%	21%	10%	18%	15%
Technical, some college, 2-year	50%	46%	70%	40%	30%	50%	47%
4-year degree and postgraduate	35%	36%	10%	36%	58%	25%	36%

¹Restricted to SGM adults, 25 years or older

Results

Of the 4,646 participants recruited at the pride festivals & online, 608 were less than 18 years of age and 763 were not SGM

Total of 3,275 SGM adult participants were included in the analysis

Approximately eight times as many SGM smokers (32%) are some day smokers compared to mainstream population (4%), [BRFSS 2010 data]

Percent of current smoking status varied by subgroup from 35% to 42%

Smoking rates were almost twice as high compared to the mainstream population in MO (21%) [BRFSS 2010 data]

In Chi-square test, smoking status was statistically significantly different among SGM subgroups (21.4, p-value 0.04, 12 df)

Smoking status was statistically significantly different among SGM age groups (156.5, p-value < 0.001, 8 df)

Smoking status was statistically significantly different among SGM races (59.6, p-value <0.0001, 4 df)

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

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

Conclusion

High rates of smoking in SGM community are in part a reflection of the high rate of non-daily smokers.

The importance of encouraging some day smokers to quit is particularly important in order to reduce the health burden of tobacco use on the SGM community.

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