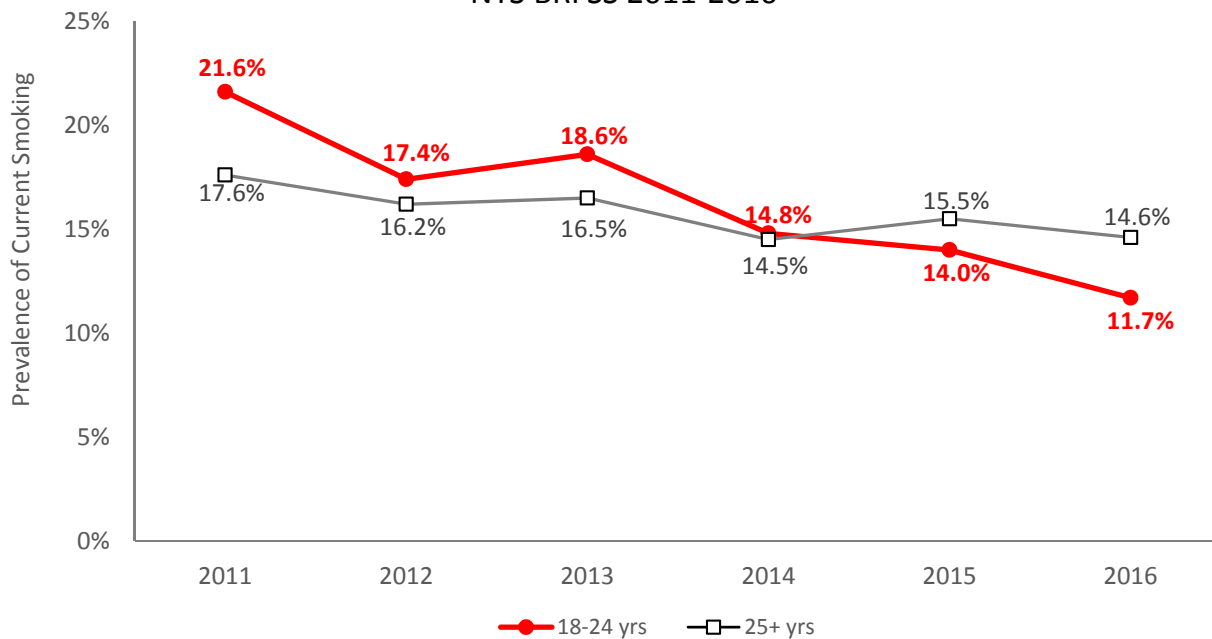


**Dramatic Declines in Smoking Among Young Adults in New York,
NYS BRFSS 2011-2016**

The prevalence of current smoking among young adults (18-24 years of age) decreased 46% in the past five years from 21.6% in 2011 to 11.7% in 2016, according to data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the New York State Department of Health. In contrast, smoking rates among adults aged 25 years and older decreased 17.0% in the same time period, from 17.6% in 2011 to 14.6% in 2016. While both age groups declined significantly, the rate of smoking among adults aged 18-24 years declined significantly faster than the rate of smoking among adults aged 25 years and older.

The large decline in current smoking among young adults is likely due to the remarkable decrease in current smoking observed among high school youth.¹ The success in achieving low rates of smoking among high school youth appears to be sustained as youth age into adulthood. With most cigarette smoking beginning before adulthood, reducing youth and young adult current smoking is a cornerstone to decreasing the number of adults who become daily smokers and experience greater difficulty in quitting smoking.²

**Current Smoking Among Adults by Age Category
NYS BRFSS 2011-2016**



1. Bureau of Tobacco Control [Statshot Vol. 10, No. 1/Mar 2017](#): "Youth cigarette Use at All-Time Low, ENDS Use Doubles".

2. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (US) Office on Smoking and Health. Atlanta (GA). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US); 2012.

Source: New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2011-2016.

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Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or send an e-mail to tcp@health.ny.gov.

StatShots can be accessed online at: https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/