



**Smoking Prevalence Declines in New York Overall but Disparities Exist among Different Socio-Demographic Groups**

The New York Tobacco Control Program’s mission is to reduce tobacco-related morbidity and mortality and the social and economic burden caused by tobacco use. Smoking prevalence broken down by gender, race/ethnicity, education, income and mental health shows disparities in smoking prevalence among these different groups.

- Demographic groups who benefitted the most from tobacco control efforts with reduced smoking prevalence included females and males, whites, those with more education and higher income, and those with better self-reported mental health. Declines in smoking rates between 2000 and 2010 were statistically significant for females, whites and those who reported good mental health.
- The groups who benefitted the least included individuals with less than high school educations and those earning less than \$15,000 per year. Individuals reporting their mental health as poor also saw little improvement in smoking rates.
- Innovative solutions are needed to reach these groups.

**Percentage of Adults Who Currently Smoke in New York by Demographic Groups**

BRFSS Indicator		2000	2010	Relative % Decline
Gender	Female	20.7%	13.0 %	37.2
	Male	22.6%	18.1%	19.9
Race/Ethnicity	White	22.6%	15.9%	29.6
	African American	21.6%	14.2%	34.2
	Hispanic	18.1%	16.0%	11.6
Education	Less than high school	23.9%	24.0%	- 0.5
	High school	26.6%	22.3%	16.2
	Some college	23.7%	18.2%	23.2
	College graduate	14.2%	8.2%	42.2
Income	less than \$15,000	23.3%	22.8%	2.1
	\$15,000-\$24,999	28.5%	21.6%	24.2
	\$25,000-\$34,999	22.1%	20.0%	9.5
	\$35,000-\$49,999	25.7%	19.0%	26.1
	\$50,000 and more	17.9%	12.2%	31.8
ATS Indicator		2003	2010	Relative % Decline
Mental Health	Good	20.4%	16.2%	21%
	Not Good	35.8%	34.0%	5%

Source: Data are from the New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2000 and 2010 except for mental health, which is from the New York Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS), 2003 and 2010. Analysis conducted by RTI, International and abstracted from the report “Who’s Quitting in New York” available at: [http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/tobacco\\_control/reports\\_brochures\\_fact-sheets.htm](http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports_brochures_fact-sheets.htm). For more information, contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or type ‘StatShot’ in the subject line of an e-mail and send it to [tcp@health.state.ny.us](mailto:tcp@health.state.ny.us).