Adult Smoking Prevalence in 2013: Overall and Disparities

An adult smoker is an individual over the age of 18 who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smokes on at least some days. The chart below shows that disparities in smoking behavior exist among different groups.

- The prevalence of smoking for New York adults in 2013 is 16.6%.
- **Education**: Adults with less than a high school degree or GED have the highest prevalence of smoking (27.5%) while smoking prevalence is lowest among adults with a college degree or more (7.7%).
- **Income**: Rates of smoking prevalence are highest among adults with household incomes of less than $15,000 (26.8%) and lowest among adults in households with more than $75,000 in annual income (10.9%).
- **Mental Health**: Adults who report problems with stress, depression, or emotions on at least 14 of the previous 30 days are considered to have poor mental health. The prevalence of smoking is significantly higher among adults with poor mental health (33.7%) than among adults who do not have poor mental health (14.3%).
- There were no significant differences in smoking prevalence by race/ethnicity (not shown). Men smoked at a higher rate than women (19.3% vs 14.1%), as is the case nationally (not shown).

### Disparities in Smoking Prevalence among New York Adults

* The smoking prevalence among those who did not provide any information about their income was 14.1%.

Source: New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2013. 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. StatShots can be accessed online at [http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/)