



Female Smoking in Nevada 2011

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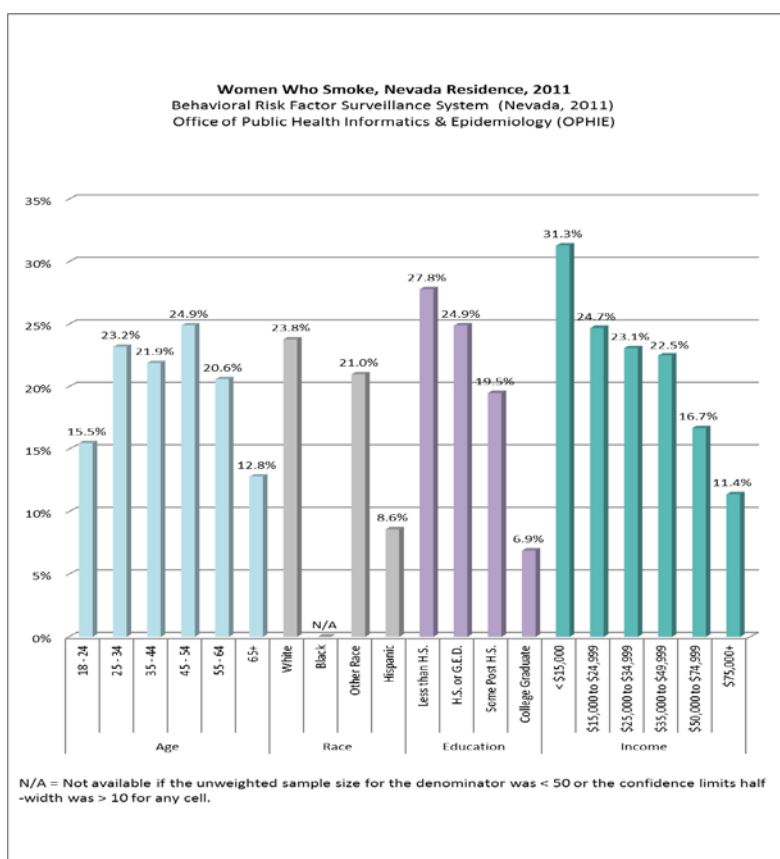
Who is the average female smoker? Per 2011 data from the Nevada Health Division's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS); **female smokers in Nevada are most likely to be between the ages of 25 to 54 years of age, White, with a high school education or less, earning an income under \$25,000 annually.**¹

Women who smoked during pregnancy had babies with a 3 times greater risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and infants who breathed second-hand smoke had a 2.5 times greater risk of SIDS.² **In Nevada, 7.6 percent of all women smoked while pregnant.**³ Hispanic women were most likely to abstain from tobacco use, while White and Native American women were least likely. The rate of pregnant women abstaining from tobacco increased slightly for all age groups in Nevada from 2000-2008.³ Pregnant women aged 14 years and younger reported the highest abstinence and those 40 to 44 years reported the lowest proportion of abstinence from smoking.³

Statewide, an average 20.2 percent of all Nevada women smoked according to BRFSS data for 2011.¹ In 2010, 22.7 percent of Nevada women who died from lung cancer were smokers.⁴ In 1987, the American Lung Cancer Association reported lung cancer had surpassed breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States.⁵ This remains true. In Nevada, 7.2 percent of all deaths among Nevada women were attributed to tracheal, bronchial, and lung cancer, while 3.8 percent were attributed to breast cancer.

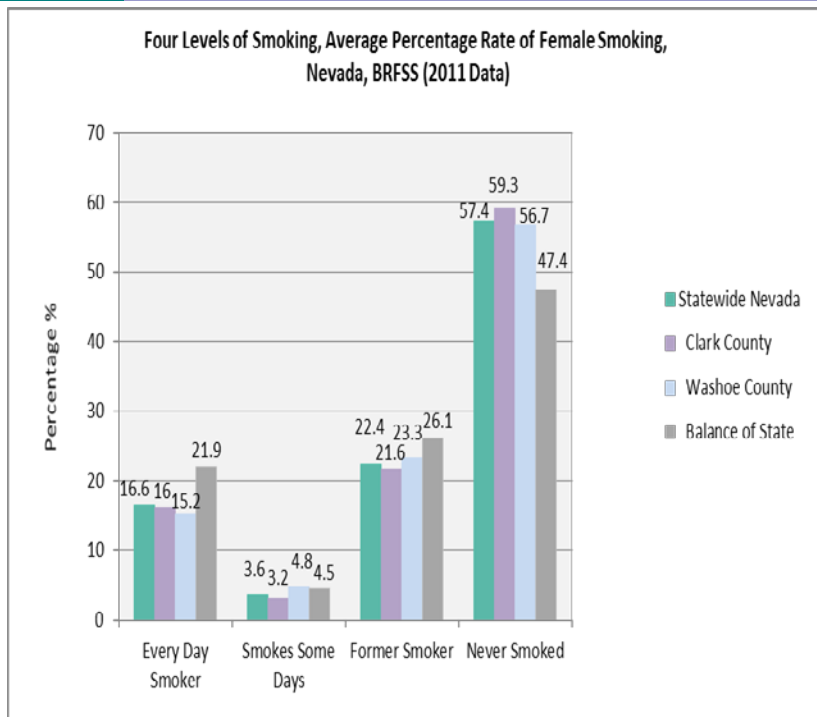
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD - emphysema and chronic bronchitis) is 13 times more likely to kill female smokers than women who have never smoked.⁵ Since the year 2000, women have made up more than half of the total reported number of COPD deaths annually.⁵

Women who smoke are at a greater risk for developing cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, pancreas, kidney, bladder, and uterine cervix.⁵ Females who smoke double their risk for coronary heart disease.⁵ Post-menopausal women who smoke report lower bone density than females who do not smoke.⁵ Women who smoke also report increased risk for hip fracture and pre-mature aging due to skin wrinkling.⁵



Although there are fewer women than men smokers, the percentage difference between the two has continued to decrease, with a much smaller gap (less than 5 percent) between men's and women's smoking rates. Women now share a much larger burden of smoking related diseases.⁵ **Cigarette smoking is a contributing factor in the deaths of nearly 400 women in Nevada every year; smoking was implicated in 398 female deaths in 2010.**⁴

Tobacco marketing has targeted women extensively, linking social desirability, independence, and weight control with the product. The reported decline in smoking prevalence among American high school girls of 37 percent between the years 1999 and 2003 has withered between 2003 to 2007 to a mere 2.3 percent decrease.⁵ **Parents should be aware that the legal age to smoke or purchase tobacco in Nevada is 18 years of age or older.**



Reports on related topics can be obtained from the Nevada State Health Division website at: www.health.nv.gov/FP_Publications.htm

For additional information and support regarding women's health and tobacco, contact:

American Cancer Society
 250 Williams Street NW,
 Atlanta, GA 30303
 (800) ACS-2345 (227-2345)
www.cancer.org
 Materials available
 Contact: National Office

Technical Notes:

- Nevada data are from the Nevada Vital Statistics Records and the Nevada Central Cancer Registry.
1. State of Nevada Health Division, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2011 Data), Office of Public Health Statistics and Epidemiology.
 2. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, Ventura SJ, et al. Births: Final data for 2006. National Vital Statistics Reports; Vol 57 No 7. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2009. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_07.pdf
 3. State of Nevada Health Division, Healthy People Nevada Report Moving From 2010 to 2020, March 2011, Pages 194-195 and 206-207, http://health.nv.gov/HSPER_HP.htm
 4. Nevada data are from Nevada Vital Statistics Records.
 5. The American Lung Association, Fighting for Air. 2012 <http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/about-smoking/facts-figures/women-and-tobacco-use.html>

Requests for additional information can be made to:
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