

Smoking and Alcohol Behaviors Reported by Adults: United States, 1999–2002

by Cheryl D. Fryar, M.S.P.H.; Rosemarie Hirsch, M.D., M.P.H.; Kathryn S. Porter, M.D., M.S.; Benny Kottiri, Ph.D.; Debra J. Brody, M.P.H.; Tatiana Louis, M.S., Division of Health and Nutrition and Examination Surveys

Abstract

This report presents prevalence estimates for self-reported adult smoking and alcohol related health risk behaviors in the United States. Data are from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) collected from 1999 to 2002. NHANES is a stratified multistage probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Tables included in this report present estimates for smoking and alcohol risk behaviors by selected sociodemographic characteristics among adults 20 years of age and older.

Keywords: smoking • alcohol use • National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

Introduction

The use of tobacco and alcohol has been linked to various diseases and adverse health outcomes. From the first Surgeon General's report on cigarette smoking in 1964 to the latest of the Surgeon Generals' 28 reports, smoking has been found to cause many diseases and adverse health effects and is the single greatest cause of avoidable morbidity and mortality in the United States (1). Alcohol consumption studies have shown that excessive use contributes to a variety of biological, psychological, behavioral, nutritional, and social problems (2–4). However, over the past several decades, a growing number of epidemiologic studies have shown that low to moderate alcohol consumers may have a protective effect

against coronary heart disease and reduced overall mortality (5,6).

A nationwide health promotion and disease prevention agenda for the improved health status of the United States by year 2010 has targeted some of these health risk behaviors (7). Several federal surveys track the prevalence of health risk behaviors, including smoking and alcohol use in the U.S. population (8–10). Data used for this report were collected in the 1999–2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. Prevalence estimates for adult health risk behaviors are shown by selected sociodemographic characteristics including gender, age, and

ethnicity, education, poverty status, and marital status (Tables 1–19). Health risk behaviors analyzed are cigarette smoking, smokeless and cigar tobacco use, and alcohol use.

Methods

NHANES is composed of a series of cross-sectional, nationally representative health and nutrition examination surveys of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population. Samples are selected through a complex, multistage probability design (11,12). Beginning in 1999, NHANES became a continuous survey. Low-income persons, adolescents 12–19 years, persons 60 years of age and older, African-American and Mexican-American persons were oversampled. The data are released on public-use data files every 2 years. The data used for this report are from a combination of two, 2-year cycles, 1999–2000 and 2001–02. Four years of data were used to provide estimates with greater statistical reliability for demographic subdomains.

Participants in the survey were administered detailed in-person home interviews followed by standardized health examinations in a Mobile Exam Center (MEC). A combined total of 25,316 sample persons, ranging in age



from birth to 85 years and older, were eligible for the surveys in 1999–2002; of these, 21,004 (83.0%) were interviewed in the home and 19,759 (78%) had examinations at the MEC. Smoking and tobacco use information for adults 20 years of age and older (n=10,291) was collected during the household interview. Alcohol use information for adults 20 years and older (n=9,471) was collected at the MEC. Both the alcohol and smoking and tobacco interview data were collected using Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) software.

Public-use data files and questions for each of these components can be found at the National Center for Health Statistics' NHANES website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm>. Definitions for smoking and alcohol risk behaviors used in this report can be found in the "Technical Notes" of this report.

Statistical Analysis

Percentages and standard errors are presented for all adult health risk behaviors in this report. The standard errors of the percentages (or means) were estimated by Taylor Series Linearization (13), a method that incorporates the sample weights and accounts for the sample design. Four-year interview weights were applied to the smoking and tobacco use data and 4-year MEC weights were applied to the alcohol data in order to account for differential probabilities of selection, nonresponse, and noncoverage. A relative standard error (RSE) greater than 30% was used to identify unreliable estimates (11,12). The RSE is defined as the ratio of the standard error of the estimate divided by the estimate multiplied by 100. In the tables, an estimate with an RSE greater than 30% is identified with an asterisk (*). No estimates had an RSE greater than 40%. Age adjustment was performed using the direct method, employing U.S. Census population estimates for the year 2000 (14). Smoking and alcohol use estimates were age adjusted using the age groups: 20–44 years; 45–64 years; and 65 years and older.

T-tests at the .05 significance level with no adjustments for multiple comparisons were used to assess significance of differences between point estimates. Terms such as "more likely," "less likely," "was higher," "was lower," and "compared with" indicate a significant difference. Terms such as "similar" or "no difference" indicate that the statistics being compared were not statistically significant. Lack of comment regarding the difference between estimates does not mean that a significance test was performed and found to be not significant. All data analyses were performed using the statistical packages SAS version 9.1 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) and SUDAAN version 9.0 (RTI, Research Triangle Park, NC).

Selected Highlights

Cigarette smoking

All adults:

- In 1999–2002, 24% of U.S. adults 20 years and older were current smokers and 25% were former smokers (Table 1).
- Twenty percent of current smokers were daily smokers and 4% were nondaily smokers (Table 4).
- Fifty-eight percent of current smokers started smoking before the age of 18 years; and 21% of current smokers started smoking at age 21 years and older (Table 7).
- Current smokers smoked an average of 16 cigarettes per day (Table 10).
- The prevalence of cigar and smokeless tobacco use for adults was 2.5% and 2.4%, respectively (Table 11).

Age:

- Adults 65 years and older and adults 45–64 years were more likely to be former smokers than other age groups (40% and 33%, respectively) (Table 1).
- Younger people were more likely to have never smoked but were still more likely to be current smokers (Table 1).
- Younger adults were more likely to be nondaily smokers than older adults (Table 4).

Gender:

- The percentage of current and former smokers was higher for men than women (Tables 2,3).
- A higher percentage of women started smoking at 21 years and older than men (26% and 18%, respectively) (Tables 8,9).

Race and ethnicity:

- The percentage who never smoked was higher for non-Hispanic black and Mexican-American persons (57%) than non-Hispanic white persons (48%), and non-Hispanic black persons had the lowest percentage of former smokers (16%) (Table 1).
- Approximately 60% of non-Hispanic white persons first started smoking before the age of 18 years while 50% of non-Hispanic black and Mexican-American persons first started to smoke before the age of 18 years (Table 7).
- On average, non-Hispanic white persons smoked more cigarettes per day (17.7) than Mexican American and non-Hispanic black persons (8.5 and 11.9, respectively) (Table 10).
- Mexican-American persons were less likely to smoke cigars than either non-Hispanic black or non-Hispanic white persons (Table 11).
- Non-Hispanic white persons (3.1%) had a higher prevalence of snuff and chewing tobacco use than Mexican American persons (0.9%) (Table 11).

Education:

- Adults with more than a high school education were less likely (16.8%) to be current smokers than those with less education (36% for less than high school education; 31% for high school education) (Table 1).
- Adults with more than a high school education were also more likely to have never smoked (56%) than adults with less education (43%) (Table 1).
- Two-thirds of current smokers with less than a high school education started smoking before their 18th birthday (Table 7).

Poverty status:

- Adults below or near the poverty level were more likely to be current smokers (35% and 30%, respectively) than those two or more times the poverty level (20%) (Table 1).
- Forty-two percent of adults living below poverty and 37% of adults living near poverty first started smoking before age 16, compared with 29% of adults living greater than or equal to two times the poverty level (Table 7).
- The average number of cigarettes smoked by adults did not vary by poverty status (Table 10).

Marital status:

- Current smokers were more likely to be unmarried (more than 30%) than married (19%) (Table 1).

Alcohol use**All adults:**

- In 1999–2002, 70% of U.S. adults 20 years and older were current drinkers (Table 12).
- Eight percent of U.S. adults were heavier drinkers, defined as more than 14 drinks/week for males and more than 7 drinks/week for females (Table 15).
- Twenty-eight percent of U.S. adults had at least five or more drinks in 1 day in the prior year (Table 18).
- Thirty-eight percent of current drinkers had at least five or more drinks in 1 day in the prior year (Table 19).

Age:

- Younger adults were more likely to be current drinkers than older adults (Table 12).
- Younger adults were more likely to be heavier drinkers than adults 65 years and older (Table 15).
- One-half of adults age 65 years and older were nondrinkers (Table 15).
- Younger adults were more likely than older adults to have had at least five or more drinks in 1 day in the prior year (Tables 18,19).

Gender:

- More females (19%) were lifetime abstainers than males (7%) (Tables 13,14).
- Males (36%) had a higher percentage of moderate to heavier drinkers than females (14%), and a similar pattern for males and females that drank five or more drinks in 1 day for all adults (40% and 16%, respectively) and for current drinkers (51% and 23%, respectively) (Tables 16–19).

Race and ethnicity:

- Fewer non-Hispanic black persons (58%) were current drinkers compared with Mexican American and non-Hispanic white persons, 66% and 73%, respectively (Table 12).
- A similar pattern was evident for the prevalence of nondrinkers (non-Hispanic black, 42%; Mexican American, 34%; and non-Hispanic white persons, 27%) (Table 15).
- Non-Hispanic black persons also had a lower prevalence of drinking five or more drinks in 1 day for all adults (18%) and for current drinkers (30%) than Mexican American or non-Hispanic white persons for all adults (33% and 30%, respectively) and for current drinkers (47% and 39%, respectively) (Tables 18,19).

Education:

- The prevalence of current drinking increased with education (Table 12).

Poverty status:

- The prevalence of current drinking was higher for those adults living two or more times the poverty level than below the poverty level (Table 12).
- Moderate to heavier drinkers were more likely to live two or more times the poverty level (Table 15).

Marital status:

- Married adults had the lowest prevalence of heavier drinkers compared with adults who were previously or never married (Table 15).

References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The health consequences of smoking: A report of the Surgeon General. GPO (stock # 0-16-051576-2).
2. Naimi TS, Brewer RD, Mokdad A, Denny C, Serdula MK, Marks JS. Binge drinking among U.S. adults. *JAMA* 289:70–5. 2005.
3. Cherpitel CJ, Ye Y, Bond J. Attributable risk of injury associated with alcohol use: Cross-national data from the emergency room, collaborative alcohol analysis project. *AJPH* 95:266–72. 2005.
4. Moos RH, Brennan PL, Schutte KK, Moos BS. High-risk alcohol consumption and late-life alcohol use problems. *AJPH* 94:1985–91. 2004.
5. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 10th Special Report to the U.S. Congress on Alcohol & Health. Available from: <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/10report/chap01a.pdf>. Accessed July 17, 2006.
6. Mukamal KJ, Girotra S, Mittleman MA. Alcohol consumption, atherosclerotic progression, and prognosis among patients with coronary artery bypass grafts. *AHJ* 151(2):368–72. 2005.
7. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. 2000.
8. Schoenborn CA, Adams PF, Barnes PM, Vickerie JL, Schiller JS. Health behaviors of adults: United States, 1999–2001. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Stat* 10(219). 2004.
9. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.htm>. Accessed June 7, 2006.
10. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Available from: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh.htm>.
11. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Analytic and reporting guidelines: The Third National Health and Nutrition

- Examination Survey, NHANES III (1988–94). 1996. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhanes/nhanes3/nh3gui.pdf>. Accessed June 7, 2006.
12. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) analytic and reporting guidelines: Survey. 2004. Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhanes/nhanes_general_guidelines_june_04.pdf. Accessed June 7, 2006.
 13. Wolter KM. Introduction to variance estimation. New York, NY: Springer-Verlag. 1985.
 14. Klein RJ, Schoenborn CA. Age adjustment using the 2000 projected U.S. population. Healthy People Statistical Notes, no 20. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2001.
 15. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Helping patients who drink too much: A clinician's guide, 2005 edition. Available from: http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Practitioner/CliniciansGuide2005/clinicians_guide.htm. Accessed June 7, 2006.

Table 1. Percent distribution of lifetime cigarette smoking status for adults 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Never smoked	Former smoker	Current smoker
Both sexes		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	50.5 (1.1)	25.1 (0.8)	24.4 (0.8)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	50.5 (1.2)	25.0 (0.9)	24.5 (0.9)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	57.3 (2.4)	10.9 (1.3)	31.8 (1.7)
30–44 years	100.0	53.4 (1.6)	18.2 (1.1)	28.4 (1.3)
45–64 years	100.0	43.2 (1.3)	32.7 (1.2)	24.1 (1.2)
65 years and over	100.0	50.9 (1.5)	39.5 (1.3)	9.6 (0.8)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	56.8 (1.4)	22.8 (0.8)	20.3 (1.4)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	47.8 (1.4)	27.3 (1.0)	24.9 (1.2)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	56.8 (1.7)	16.4 (1.0)	26.8 (1.2)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	43.1 (1.6)	20.6 (1.3)	36.3 (1.4)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	43.4 (1.2)	25.5 (1.0)	31.1 (1.3)
More than high school	100.0	56.3 (1.4)	26.8 (1.2)	16.8 (0.9)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	46.8 (2.4)	17.8 (1.2)	35.4 (2.4)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	47.3 (1.4)	22.5 (0.9)	30.2 (1.3)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	52.1 (1.4)	27.7 (1.0)	20.2 (0.9)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	52.8 (1.3)	28.2 (1.1)	19.0 (1.0)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	43.4 (1.7)	21.7 (1.7)	34.9 (1.8)
Never married	100.0	54.1 (2.0)	16.4 (1.5)	29.5 (1.8)
Cohabiting	100.0	39.2 (3.3)	21.6 (2.7)	39.2 (3.6)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 2. Percent distribution of lifetime cigarette smoking status for adult males 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Never smoked	Former smoker	Current smoker
Male				
Percent distribution (standard error)				
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	42.6 (1.4)	30.4 (0.9)	26.9 (1.1)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	43.0 (1.4)	29.5 (0.9)	27.5 (1.1)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	52.6 (2.7)	10.4 (1.3)	37.0 (2.3)
30–44 years	100.0	50.3 (2.0)	18.9 (1.6)	30.7 (1.4)
45–64 years	100.0	33.4 (1.7)	40.8 (1.8)	25.8 (1.7)
65 years and over	100.0	34.2 (1.9)	54.4 (1.5)	11.4 (1.0)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	43.0 (1.7)	30.1 (1.6)	27.0 (1.8)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	42.5 (1.6)	31.6 (1.0)	26.0 (1.3)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	44.6 (2.4)	20.8 (1.1)	34.6 (2.4)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	30.1 (1.6)	29.0 (1.9)	40.9 (2.1)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	35.2 (1.5)	32.0 (1.3)	32.8 (1.8)
More than high school	100.0	51.1 (1.6)	30.2 (1.3)	18.6 (1.0)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	34.9 (3.2)	25.4 (2.3)	39.7 (3.1)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	37.2 (1.6)	28.2 (1.4)	34.6 (1.8)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	45.4 (1.7)	32.1 (1.0)	22.5 (1.1)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	45.2 (1.7)	33.4 (1.3)	21.4 (1.1)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	35.4 (2.7)	27.1 (3.1)	37.6 (2.9)
Never married	100.0	47.2 (2.8)	19.8 (2.6)	33.0 (3.0)
Cohabiting	100.0	34.0 (4.5)	25.5 (3.5)	40.5 (4.7)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 3. Percent distribution of lifetime cigarette smoking status for adult females 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Never smoked	Former smoker	Current smoker
Female		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	57.3 (1.3)	20.7 (1.1)	22.0 (0.9)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	57.3 (1.4)	20.9 (1.2)	21.8 (0.9)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	61.9 (2.9)	11.4 (2.0)	26.7 (1.5)
30–44 years	100.0	56.4 (1.9)	17.5 (1.4)	26.1 (1.6)
45–64 years	100.0	52.3 (1.6)	25.1 (1.4)	22.6 (1.6)
65 years and over	100.0	63.1 (2.2)	28.6 (1.8)	8.3 (1.1)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	71.2 (2.1)	15.7 (0.9)	13.1 (1.6)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	52.4 (1.7)	23.8 (1.5)	23.8 (1.3)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	66.2 (2.1)	13.1 (1.4)	20.6 (1.5)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	55.0 (2.1)	13.3 (1.2)	31.7 (1.7)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	49.8 (1.6)	20.7 (1.6)	29.5 (1.4)
More than high school	100.0	61.4 (1.7)	23.5 (1.5)	15.1 (1.0)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	54.2 (2.6)	12.9 (1.5)	32.8 (2.4)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	55.3 (2.0)	18.3 (1.4)	26.4 (1.9)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	58.8 (1.6)	23.4 (1.5)	17.8 (1.0)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	61.5 (1.4)	21.9 (1.3)	16.7 (1.1)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	46.6 (2.3)	19.4 (2.1)	34.0 (2.0)
Never married	100.0	61.2 (2.4)	13.5 (1.7)	25.3 (1.9)
Cohabiting	100.0	44.3 (3.8)	17.6 (3.1)	38.2 (4.1)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 4. Percent distribution of current cigarette smoking status for adults 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Nonsmoker	Nondaily smoker	Daily smoker
		Percent distribution (standard error)		
Both sexes				
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	75.6 (0.8)	3.8 (0.3)	20.5 (0.8)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	75.5 (0.9)	3.8 (0.3)	20.7 (0.8)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	68.2 (1.7)	7.4 (0.8)	24.4 (1.4)
30–44 years	100.0	71.6 (1.3)	4.2 (0.4)	24.2 (1.3)
45–64 years	100.0	75.9 (1.2)	2.4 (0.3)	21.7 (1.3)
65 years and over	100.0	90.4 (0.8)	1.8 (0.4)	7.8 (0.7)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	79.7 (1.4)	7.0 (0.6)	13.4 (1.1)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	75.1 (1.2)	3.3 (0.3)	21.6 (1.2)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	73.2 (1.2)	3.6 (0.5)	23.2 (1.2)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	63.7 (1.4)	4.2 (0.5)	32.2 (1.2)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	68.9 (1.3)	4.4 (0.4)	26.7 (1.4)
More than high school	100.0	83.2 (0.9)	3.3 (0.4)	13.5 (0.8)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	64.6 (2.4)	5.3 (0.7)	30.1 (2.2)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	69.8 (1.3)	4.4 (0.6)	25.9 (1.6)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	79.8 (0.9)	3.5 (0.4)	16.7 (0.9)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	81.0 (1.0)	2.6 (0.3)	16.4 (1.0)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	65.1 (1.8)	5.0 (0.9)	29.9 (1.7)
Never married	100.0	70.5 (1.8)	5.7 (0.8)	23.8 (1.8)
Cohabiting	100.0	60.8 (3.6)	3.6 (0.8)	35.6 (3.4)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 5. Percent distribution of current cigarette smoking status for adult males 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Nonsmoker	Nondaily smoker	Daily smoker
Male		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	73.1 (1.1)	4.8 (0.4)	22.2 (1.1)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	72.5 (1.1)	4.9 (0.4)	22.6 (1.1)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	63.0 (2.3)	10.5 (1.2)	26.4 (1.8)
30–44 years	100.0	69.3 (1.4)	5.1 (0.7)	25.6 (1.6)
45–64 years	100.0	74.2 (1.7)	2.6 (0.5)	23.2 (1.6)
65 years and over	100.0	88.6 (1.0)	1.9 (0.5)	9.5 (0.8)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	73.0 (1.8)	9.8 (1.1)	17.2 (1.6)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	74.0 (1.3)	3.7 (0.5)	22.3 (1.4)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	65.4 (2.4)	4.9 (1.0)	29.7 (2.2)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	59.1 (2.1)	5.6 (0.6)	35.3 (1.8)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	67.2 (1.8)	5.4 (0.8)	27.3 (2.1)
More than high school	100.0	81.4 (1.0)	4.1 (0.5)	14.6 (0.9)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	60.3 (3.1)	8.0 (1.1)	31.8 (3.0)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	65.4 (1.8)	5.9 (1.1)	28.7 (1.9)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	77.5 (1.1)	3.9 (0.5)	18.6 (1.1)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	78.6 (1.1)	3.5 (0.6)	17.9 (1.2)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	62.4 (2.9)	6.5 (1.5)	31.1 (2.5)
Never married	100.0	67.0 (3.0)	7.3 (1.3)	25.7 (2.6)
Cohabiting	100.0	59.5 (4.7)	3.6 (0.7)	36.9 (4.8)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 6. Percent distribution of current cigarette smoking status for adult females 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Nonsmoker	Nondaily smoker	Daily smoker
Female		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	78.0 (0.9)	2.9 (0.3)	19.1 (0.8)
Age 20 years and over (crude)	100.0	78.2 (0.9)	2.9 (0.3)	18.9 (0.8)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	73.3 (1.5)	4.3 (0.9)	22.5 (1.4)
30–44 years	100.0	73.9 (1.6)	3.3 (0.6)	22.8 (1.3)
45–64 years	100.0	77.4 (1.6)	2.3 (0.4)	20.2 (1.7)
65 years and over	100.0	91.7 (1.1)	1.7 (0.4)	6.6 (1.0)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	86.9 (1.6)	3.8 (0.6)	9.3 (1.2)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	76.2 (1.3)	2.9 (0.5)	21.0 (1.2)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	79.4 (1.5)	2.6 (0.6)	18.0 (1.4)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	68.3 (1.7)	2.4 (0.5)	29.4 (1.5)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	70.5 (1.4)	3.4 (0.6)	26.1 (1.4)
More than high school	100.0	84.9 (1.0)	2.7 (0.4)	12.4 (0.9)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	67.2 (2.4)	3.4 (0.7)	29.5 (2.3)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	73.6 (1.9)	3.0 (0.6)	23.5 (2.1)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	82.2 (1.0)	3.0 (0.5)	14.8 (0.9)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	83.3 (1.1)	1.7 (0.4)	14.9 (1.0)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	66.0 (2.0)	4.2 (1.0)	29.9 (1.8)
Never married	100.0	74.7 (1.9)	4.0 (0.8)	21.3 (2.0)
Cohabiting	100.0	61.8 (4.1)	*3.6 (1.3)	34.5 (4.0)

* Estimate does not meet standard of reliability or precision (RSE>30%).

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 7. Percent distribution of age of smoking initiation among current cigarette smokers for adults 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Under 16 years	16–17 years	18–20 years	21 years and over
Both sexes		Percent distribution (standard error)			
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	33.4 (1.1)	25.2 (0.9)	19.9 (0.9)	21.5 (1.4)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	33.8 (1.1)	25.5 (0.9)	20.3 (0.9)	20.4 (1.3)
Age					
20–29 years	100.0	35.0 (2.5)	30.7 (1.8)	23.8 (2.0)	10.4 (1.4)
30–44 years	100.0	36.3 (2.3)	24.0 (2.2)	17.8 (1.7)	21.9 (2.5)
45–64 years	100.0	30.2 (1.5)	23.7 (2.0)	21.3 (1.9)	24.9 (2.3)
65 years and over	100.0	32.2 (3.6)	23.4 (3.5)	16.7 (2.4)	27.7 (3.3)
Race and ethnicity ¹					
Mexican American	100.0	31.3 (2.9)	18.7 (2.1)	17.7 (2.5)	32.3 (3.0)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	33.9 (1.4)	26.4 (1.1)	20.7 (1.1)	18.9 (1.6)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	27.5 (2.2)	22.2 (2.5)	21.8 (3.0)	28.5 (2.5)
Education ¹					
Less than high school	100.0	44.7 (2.2)	22.7 (1.9)	15.5 (1.1)	17.1 (1.7)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	29.9 (1.9)	26.5 (1.8)	20.9 (2.1)	22.7 (1.8)
More than high school	100.0	25.9 (1.7)	25.9 (1.5)	23.5 (2.0)	24.7 (1.9)
Poverty status ^{1,4}					
Below poverty level	100.0	42.2 (3.3)	22.5 (2.6)	14.1 (1.9)	21.2 (2.8)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	37.4 (2.5)	28.1 (2.4)	17.3 (2.3)	17.2 (2.6)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	29.3 (1.8)	24.4 (1.3)	23.5 (1.7)	22.7 (2.1)
Marital status ¹					
Married	100.0	31.5 (1.4)	26.8 (1.5)	21.1 (1.7)	20.6 (1.9)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	36.3 (3.6)	20.7 (3.0)	16.6 (1.7)	26.4 (3.2)
Never married	100.0	27.2 (3.2)	29.5 (4.7)	27.9 (4.2)	15.4 (2.9)
Cohabiting	100.0	37.9 (4.4)	26.0 (6.5)	13.4 (2.1)	22.7 (4.4)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 8. Percent distribution of age of smoking initiation among current cigarette smokers for adult males 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Under 16 years	16–17 years	18–20 years	21 years and over
Male		Percent distribution (standard error)			
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	36.0 (1.5)	26.2 (1.2)	20.0 (1.1)	17.7 (1.7)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	34.9 (1.2)	27.1 (1.4)	20.7 (1.1)	17.3 (1.5)
Age					
20–29 years	100.0	30.3 (2.5)	32.2 (2.9)	26.2 (2.5)	11.3 (2.3)
30–44 years	100.0	34.9 (2.5)	25.3 (3.0)	18.5 (2.2)	21.3 (2.4)
45–64 years	100.0	37.3 (2.6)	26.3 (2.2)	19.6 (2.2)	16.8 (1.9)
65 years and over	100.0	42.7 (4.9)	20.4 (4.5)	15.7 (4.4)	21.1 (5.1)
Race and ethnicity ¹					
Mexican American	100.0	34.7 (3.7)	20.2 (2.5)	20.1 (3.0)	25.0 (3.3)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	36.1 (2.1)	27.4 (1.6)	20.6 (1.3)	15.8 (1.9)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	31.1 (2.8)	24.7 (3.4)	22.3 (3.4)	21.8 (3.0)
Education ¹					
Less than high school	100.0	50.3 (2.5)	22.5 (2.3)	15.0 (1.9)	12.2 (2.2)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	32.8 (3.1)	29.7 (3.2)	19.1 (2.3)	18.4 (3.0)
More than high school	100.0	25.3 (2.4)	26.0 (2.4)	25.2 (2.2)	23.5 (2.2)
Poverty status ^{1,4}					
Below poverty level	100.0	48.9 (3.7)	26.1 (3.6)	13.5 (2.4)	11.6 (2.4)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	36.8 (3.1)	30.3 (3.1)	16.3 (2.7)	16.7 (3.0)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	32.0 (2.3)	24.4 (1.7)	23.9 (2.0)	19.8 (2.1)
Marital status ¹					
Married	100.0	34.1 (1.8)	26.6 (2.2)	20.9 (2.0)	18.4 (2.5)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	38.2 (5.0)	25.0 (4.8)	15.8 (3.1)	21.1 (4.6)
Never married	100.0	30.2 (3.9)	28.6 (4.4)	29.1 (4.7)	12.2 (2.6)
Cohabiting	100.0	41.8 (6.1)	19.8 (3.6)	14.0 (2.8)	24.4 (6.8)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 9. Percent distributions of age of smoking initiation among current cigarette smokers for adult females 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Under 16 years	16–17 years	18–20 years	21 years and over
Female					
Percent distribution (standard error)					
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	30.8 (1.9)	24.0 (1.7)	19.7 (1.4)	25.6 (2.1)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	32.5 (2.0)	23.7 (1.8)	19.3 (1.4)	23.9 (1.9)
Age					
20–29 years	100.0	41.3 (3.8)	28.8 (3.9)	20.7 (3.0)	9.1 (1.9)
30–44 years	100.0	38.0 (4.1)	22.4 (3.0)	16.9 (2.5)	22.7 (3.9)
45–64 years	100.0	22.6 (2.5)	21.0 (3.4)	23.0 (3.0)	33.4 (3.8)
65 years and over	100.0	20.9 (4.3)	26.6 (6.4)	17.7 (5.0)	34.8 (5.1)
Race and ethnicity ¹					
Mexican American	100.0	24.7 (4.8)	15.1 (4.0)	13.1 (2.9)	47.1 (5.5)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	32.0 (2.3)	25.3 (1.9)	20.6 (1.8)	22.1 (2.2)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	22.1 (3.3)	18.0 (2.8)	20.6 (3.3)	39.3 (4.4)
Education ¹					
Less than high school	100.0	38.4 (4.5)	22.9 (3.0)	16.3 (2.3)	22.4 (3.0)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	28.4 (3.1)	22.9 (2.8)	21.5 (3.1)	27.1 (3.4)
More than high school	100.0	25.8 (2.9)	26.6 (2.7)	21.5 (2.7)	26.1 (3.3)
Poverty status ^{1,4}					
Below poverty level	100.0	35.2 (4.9)	19.1 (2.9)	14.8 (2.8)	30.9 (3.9)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	37.7 (4.0)	25.7 (4.2)	18.9 (3.0)	17.7 (4.7)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	26.8 (3.0)	24.4 (2.3)	22.7 (2.7)	26.1 (3.9)
Marital status ¹					
Married	100.0	27.5 (2.9)	27.0 (2.7)	22.2 (2.9)	23.3 (2.4)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	34.6 (3.8)	18.2 (2.8)	16.8 (2.0)	30.5 (3.7)
Never married	100.0	23.7 (3.8)	34.7 (5.7)	22.5 (3.6)	*19.2 (6.2)
Cohabiting	100.0	32.4 (5.9)	35.6 (5.7)	12.4 (3.5)	19.6 (4.5)

* Estimate does not meet standard of reliability or precision (RSE>30%).

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 10. Percent distribution of usual number of cigarettes and mean number of cigarettes smoked in a day among all current smokers for adults 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Usual number of cigarettes		Mean number of cigarettes	Standard error
		Less than 20	20 or more		
Percent distribution (standard error)					
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	54.5 (1.6)	45.5 (1.6)	15.8	0.4
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	54.1 (1.6)	45.9 (1.6)	15.7	0.4
Age					
20–29 years	100.0	65.4 (2.6)	34.6 (2.6)	12.3	0.6
30–44 years	100.0	54.6 (2.3)	45.4 (2.3)	15.1	0.6
45–64 years	100.0	43.0 (2.0)	57.0 (2.0)	19.1	0.6
65 years and over	100.0	62.3 (3.5)	37.7 (3.5)	15.2	0.9
Sex ¹					
Male	100.0	51.6 (2.0)	48.4 (2.0)	16.7	0.5
Female	100.0	57.7 (1.8)	42.3 (1.8)	14.8	0.5
Race and ethnicity ¹					
Mexican American	100.0	83.5 (2.7)	16.5 (2.7)	8.5	0.5
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	47.1 (1.7)	52.9 (1.7)	17.7	0.4
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	71.3 (2.4)	28.7 (2.4)	11.9	0.4
Education ¹					
Less than high school	100.0	51.1 (2.9)	48.9 (2.9)	16.9	0.7
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	47.7 (3.5)	52.3 (3.5)	16.7	0.8
More than high school	100.0	63.4 (2.2)	36.6 (2.2)	14.2	0.5
Poverty status ^{1,4}					
Below poverty level	100.0	57.0 (3.2)	43.0 (3.2)	15.2	0.7
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	52.8 (4.0)	47.2 (4.0)	16.2	1.0
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	54.9 (1.6)	45.1 (1.6)	15.8	0.4
Marital status ¹					
Married	100.0	51.1 (2.3)	48.9 (2.3)	16.4	0.5
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	56.9 (2.8)	43.1 (2.8)	15.8	0.8
Never married	100.0	60.8 (5.3)	39.2 (5.3)	14.7	1.4
Cohabiting	100.0	43.7 (4.9)	56.3 (4.9)	16.9	0.9

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 11. Prevalence of current use of cigar or smokeless tobacco for adults 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Use of cigar or smokeless tobacco at least 20 times in life			
	Cigar (percent)	Standard error	Smokeless ¹ (percent)	Standard error
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{2,3}	2.5	0.2	2.4	0.4
20 years and over (crude)	2.5	0.2	2.4	0.4
Age				
20–29 years	2.5	0.4	3.0	0.7
30–44 years	2.5	0.4	2.9	0.5
45–64 years	3.1	0.4	2.1	0.4
65 years and over	1.3	0.3	1.6	0.3
Sex ²				
Male	5.2	0.4	4.8	0.8
Female	*0.3	0.1	*0.3	0.1
Race and ethnicity ²				
Mexican American	0.9	0.3	0.9	0.2
Non-Hispanic white	2.6	0.2	3.1	0.5
Non-Hispanic black	2.9	0.6	1.5	0.5
Education ²				
Less than high school	2.4	0.4	2.5	0.4
High school diploma or GED ⁴	2.9	0.5	4.0	0.8
More than high school	2.3	0.2	1.5	0.2
Poverty status ^{2,5}				
Below poverty level	1.6	0.3	2.3	0.5
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	2.8	0.5	3.5	0.9
2 or more times the poverty level	2.5	0.3	2.2	0.4
Marital status ²				
Married	2.7	0.3	2.4	0.5
Widowed, divorced, or separated	1.7	0.4	3.5	0.8
Never married	2.5	0.7	1.8	0.4
Cohabiting	*2.4	0.9	*2.4	0.9

* Estimate does not meet standard of reliability or precision (RSE>30%).

¹Smokeless tobacco is snuff or chewing tobacco.²Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.³Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.⁴GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.⁵Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 12. Percent distribution of lifetime alcohol drinking status for adults 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Lifetime abstainer	Former drinker	Current drinker
Both sexes		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	13.3 (1.6)	17.0 (0.8)	69.8 (1.9)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	13.2 (1.6)	17.0 (0.8)	69.8 (1.9)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	16.1 (2.9)	6.1 (0.8)	77.8 (3.1)
30–44 years	100.0	9.2 (1.4)	13.9 (1.0)	76.9 (1.8)
45–64 years	100.0	11.2 (1.3)	19.9 (1.4)	68.9 (1.9)
65 years and over	100.0	21.4 (2.1)	28.8 (1.4)	49.8 (2.8)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	15.9 (1.0)	18.2 (1.0)	66.0 (1.2)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	11.0 (2.1)	16.4 (1.0)	72.6 (2.5)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	20.0 (1.5)	21.7 (1.2)	58.3 (1.4)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	17.5 (1.1)	21.9 (1.4)	60.6 (1.5)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	12.8 (1.4)	18.5 (0.9)	68.7 (1.5)
More than high school	100.0	11.4 (2.1)	14.0 (0.9)	74.6 (2.6)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	23.4 (2.1)	20.3 (1.6)	56.2 (2.2)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	15.9 (1.6)	23.8 (1.5)	60.3 (2.1)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	9.9 (1.7)	14.6 (0.9)	75.5 (2.1)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	12.8 (2.1)	18.3 (1.0)	69.0 (2.7)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	11.7 (1.2)	17.2 (1.3)	71.1 (1.6)
Never married	100.0	16.4 (1.9)	16.4 (1.5)	67.3 (1.9)
Cohabiting	100.0	*8.1 (2.7)	11.8 (3.0)	80.1 (3.0)

* Estimate does not meet standard of reliability or precision (RSE>30%).

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 13. Percent distribution of lifetime alcohol drinking status for adult males 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Lifetime abstainer	Former drinker	Current drinker
Male		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	7.3 (1.5)	17.2 (0.9)	75.5 (1.8)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	7.2 (1.5)	16.7 (0.9)	76.0 (1.8)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	11.4 (2.5)	3.8 (1.0)	84.8 (2.9)
30–44 years	100.0	5.6 (1.6)	12.4 (1.2)	82.0 (1.9)
45–64 years	100.0	5.7 (1.2)	21.4 (1.6)	72.9 (1.9)
65 years and over	100.0	8.8 (1.5)	32.6 (2.3)	58.6 (2.8)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	4.6 (0.8)	18.8 (1.3)	76.6 (1.7)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	6.7 (1.9)	16.7 (1.2)	76.6 (2.2)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	11.6 (1.7)	21.6 (1.3)	66.7 (1.9)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	6.1 (0.7)	22.7 (1.6)	71.2 (1.6)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	6.5 (1.1)	19.5 (1.6)	74.0 (2.7)
More than high school	100.0	8.3 (2.3)	13.6 (1.0)	78.1 (2.7)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	11.9 (2.0)	19.5 (1.4)	68.5 (2.7)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	9.0 (1.2)	24.8 (2.0)	66.3 (2.3)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	5.7 (1.7)	15.2 (1.1)	79.1 (2.0)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	7.7 (2.2)	18.3 (1.2)	74.0 (1.8)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	3.0 (0.8)	16.9 (1.7)	80.1 (1.8)
Never married	100.0	8.1 (1.1)	18.2 (2.1)	73.8 (2.3)
Cohabiting	100.0	*1.7 (0.7)	*13.0 (4.1)	85.3 (4.2)

* Estimate does not meet standard of reliability or precision (RSE>30%).

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 14. Percent distribution of lifetime alcohol drinking status for adult females 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Lifetime abstainer	Former drinker	Current drinker
Female		Percent distribution (standard error)		
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	18.6 (1.8)	17.0 (0.9)	64.4 (2.0)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	18.8 (1.8)	17.3 (0.9)	63.9 (2.0)
Age				
20–29 years	100.0	20.9 (3.5)	8.5 (1.1)	70.6 (3.4)
30–44 years	100.0	12.8 (1.5)	15.5 (1.1)	71.7 (1.9)
45–64 years	100.0	16.3 (1.7)	18.6 (1.6)	65.2 (2.1)
65 years and over	100.0	30.7 (2.8)	26.0 (1.2)	43.3 (3.0)
Race and ethnicity ¹				
Mexican American	100.0	27.8 (1.9)	18.1 (1.4)	54.1 (2.2)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	14.8 (2.3)	16.2 (1.2)	68.9 (2.7)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	26.6 (1.8)	21.9 (1.6)	51.5 (2.1)
Education ¹				
Less than high school	100.0	28.1 (1.7)	22.3 (1.9)	49.6 (1.9)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	18.1 (1.9)	18.0 (1.1)	63.9 (1.9)
More than high school	100.0	14.3 (2.1)	14.3 (1.1)	71.3 (2.6)
Poverty status ^{1,4}				
Below poverty level	100.0	30.8 (2.6)	21.1 (2.4)	48.1 (2.7)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	21.5 (2.6)	23.4 (1.7)	55.1 (2.1)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	14.1 (1.9)	14.1 (1.0)	71.8 (2.4)
Marital status ¹				
Married	100.0	18.4 (2.2)	17.7 (1.0)	63.9 (2.9)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	15.5 (1.7)	17.5 (1.5)	67.1 (2.0)
Never married	100.0	25.6 (3.1)	14.5 (2.2)	59.9 (2.7)
Cohabiting	100.0	*15.0 (5.4)	*10.6 (3.3)	74.4 (6.2)

* Estimate does not meet standard of reliability or precision (RSE>30%).

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 15. Percent distribution of current alcohol drinking status for adults 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Nondrinker	Light drinker	Moderate drinker	Heavier drinker
Both sexes		Percent distribution (standard error)			
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	30.2 (1.9)	44.8 (1.3)	16.6 (0.7)	8.3 (0.5)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	30.2 (1.9)	44.9 (1.3)	16.6 (0.7)	8.3 (0.5)
Age					
20–29 years	100.0	22.2 (3.1)	48.8 (2.0)	18.4 (1.3)	10.6 (1.4)
30–44 years	100.0	23.1 (1.8)	48.8 (1.7)	19.4 (1.1)	8.7 (0.8)
45–64 years	100.0	31.1 (1.9)	44.5 (1.8)	15.6 (0.9)	8.8 (0.9)
65 years and over	100.0	50.2 (2.8)	34.0 (2.0)	11.6 (1.2)	4.2 (0.5)
Race and ethnicity ¹					
Mexican American	100.0	34.0 (1.2)	44.8 (1.2)	15.4 (0.6)	5.8 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	27.4 (2.5)	45.4 (1.7)	17.8 (0.9)	9.4 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	41.7 (1.4)	39.9 (1.5)	12.6 (0.9)	5.9 (0.9)
Education ¹					
Less than high school	100.0	39.4 (1.5)	37.0 (1.3)	15.0 (1.1)	8.7 (0.6)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	31.3 (1.5)	44.3 (1.4)	15.0 (1.0)	9.4 (0.8)
More than high school	100.0	25.4 (2.6)	48.4 (1.9)	18.4 (0.9)	7.9 (0.7)
Poverty status ^{1,4}					
Below poverty level	100.0	43.8 (2.2)	39.0 (2.0)	11.6 (1.2)	5.6 (0.8)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	39.7 (2.1)	38.8 (2.1)	13.4 (1.1)	8.1 (1.2)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	24.5 (2.1)	47.9 (1.5)	18.8 (1.0)	8.8 (0.5)
Marital status ¹					
Married	100.0	31.0 (2.7)	46.2 (2.0)	16.7 (1.0)	6.2 (0.7)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	28.9 (1.6)	45.0 (1.9)	16.2 (1.2)	9.9 (1.2)
Never married	100.0	32.7 (1.9)	40.9 (1.7)	15.9 (1.4)	10.5 (1.5)
Cohabiting	100.0	19.9 (3.0)	48.2 (3.1)	18.6 (2.9)	13.3 (1.9)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 16. Percent distribution of current alcohol drinking status for adult males 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Nondrinker	Light drinker	Moderate drinker	Heavier drinker
Male					
Percent distribution (standard error)					
Male 20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	24.5 (1.8)	39.5 (1.2)	25.7 (1.1)	10.4 (0.5)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	24.5 (1.8)	39.6 (1.2)	25.9 (1.1)	10.5 (0.5)
Age					
20–29 years	100.0	15.2 (2.9)	41.8 (2.1)	29.3 (1.8)	13.7 (1.9)
30–44 years	100.0	18.0 (1.9)	41.8 (2.0)	29.3 (1.8)	10.9 (1.1)
45–64 years	100.0	27.1 (1.9)	38.8 (1.5)	23.5 (1.4)	10.6 (1.3)
65 years and over	100.0	41.4 (2.8)	33.9 (2.2)	19.3 (1.6)	5.4 (0.8)
Race and ethnicity ¹					
Mexican American	100.0	23.4 (1.7)	42.0 (1.6)	26.2 (1.0)	8.4 (1.1)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	23.4 (2.2)	38.8 (1.5)	26.4 (1.4)	11.4 (0.7)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	33.3 (1.9)	38.0 (1.8)	21.1 (1.3)	7.7 (1.5)
Education ¹					
Less than high school	100.0	28.8 (1.6)	34.8 (2.0)	24.1 (1.5)	12.2 (1.1)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	26.0 (1.8)	39.8 (1.6)	22.4 (1.5)	11.8 (1.2)
More than high school	100.0	21.9 (2.7)	41.1 (2.0)	27.8 (1.6)	9.1 (0.6)
Poverty status ^{1,4}					
Below poverty level	100.0	31.5 (2.7)	38.3 (2.4)	20.6 (2.4)	9.6 (1.6)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	33.7 (2.3)	34.2 (2.3)	20.7 (1.9)	11.4 (1.9)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	20.9 (2.0)	41.3 (1.3)	27.7 (1.4)	10.0 (0.6)
Marital status ¹					
Married	100.0	26.0 (2.7)	41.2 (1.9)	25.8 (1.4)	6.9 (0.9)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	19.9 (1.8)	32.5 (2.9)	29.9 (2.8)	17.7 (2.4)
Never married	100.0	26.2 (2.3)	37.2 (2.6)	22.2 (2.1)	14.4 (2.7)
Cohabiting	100.0	14.7 (4.2)	46.0 (4.8)	24.5 (3.7)	14.8 (2.4)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 17. Percent distribution of current alcohol drinking status for adult females 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	Total	Nondrinker	Light drinker	Moderate drinker	Heavier drinker
Female					
Percent distribution (standard error)					
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	100.0	35.6 (2.0)	50.2 (1.6)	8.0 (0.5)	6.3 (0.7)
20 years and over (crude)	100.0	36.0 (2.0)	49.8 (1.6)	8.0 (0.5)	6.2 (0.7)
Age					
20–29 years	100.0	29.4 (3.4)	56.0 (2.9)	7.1 (1.1)	7.4 (1.4)
30–44 years	100.0	28.3 (1.9)	56.0 (1.8)	9.3 (1.0)	6.4 (1.2)
45–64 years	100.0	34.8 (2.1)	49.8 (2.3)	8.3 (1.0)	7.1 (1.2)
65 years and over	100.0	56.7 (3.0)	34.0 (2.3)	5.9 (1.0)	3.4 (0.6)
Race and ethnicity ¹					
Mexican American	100.0	45.9 (2.2)	48.1 (2.0)	3.3 (0.7)	2.7 (0.5)
Non-Hispanic white	100.0	31.1 (2.7)	52.1 (2.3)	9.5 (0.7)	7.4 (0.9)
Non-Hispanic black	100.0	48.5 (2.1)	41.7 (2.0)	5.3 (0.9)	4.5 (0.6)
Education ¹					
Less than high school	100.0	50.4 (1.9)	39.8 (1.7)	4.8 (0.9)	5.0 (1.0)
High school diploma or GED ³	100.0	36.1 (1.9)	49.0 (2.1)	8.0 (1.0)	6.8 (1.2)
More than high school	100.0	28.7 (2.6)	55.1 (2.1)	9.5 (0.7)	6.7 (1.0)
Poverty status ^{1,4}					
Below poverty level	100.0	51.9 (2.7)	40.2 (3.0)	5.1 (1.1)	2.9 (0.8)
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	100.0	44.9 (2.6)	43.4 (2.6)	6.6 (0.9)	5.1 (1.4)
2 or more times the poverty level	100.0	28.2 (2.4)	54.9 (2.1)	9.5 (0.7)	7.4 (0.8)
Marital status ¹					
Married	100.0	36.1 (2.9)	51.1 (2.5)	7.3 (1.0)	5.5 (0.8)
Widowed, divorced, or separated	100.0	32.9 (2.0)	52.6 (2.6)	8.7 (1.6)	5.8 (1.2)
Never married	100.0	40.1 (2.7)	45.4 (2.0)	8.4 (1.5)	6.0 (1.1)
Cohabiting	100.0	25.6 (6.2)	50.7 (5.8)	12.1 (2.6)	11.5 (2.5)

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 18. Percent of adults 20 years of age and over who had 5 or more drinks in 1 day at least once in the past year, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2002

Characteristic	5 or more drinks in 1 day					
	Both sexes (percent)	Standard error	Men (percent)	Standard error	Women (percent)	Standard error
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	28.1	0.8	40.4	1.1	16.1	0.8
20 years and over (crude)	28.0	0.7	41.2	1.1	15.6	0.8
Age						
20–29 years	46.0	2.9	62.8	3.1	28.6	3.3
30–44 years	35.6	1.0	50.3	1.5	20.6	1.3
45–64 years	21.9	0.9	32.6	1.4	11.8	1.2
65 years and over	6.4	0.5	12.0	1.0	2.2	0.5
Race and ethnicity ¹						
Mexican American	33.1	1.1	50.3	1.4	13.3	1.5
Non-Hispanic white	30.0	1.1	41.9	1.4	18.2	0.9
Non-Hispanic black	17.8	1.1	27.0	1.8	10.1	1.1
Education ¹						
Less than high school	29.6	1.3	41.8	1.5	15.9	1.8
High school diploma or GED ³	29.3	1.2	41.9	1.9	16.6	1.4
More than high school	27.2	1.0	39.1	1.5	16.0	1.1
Poverty status ^{1,4}						
Below poverty level	25.2	2.1	39.6	2.9	14.9	2.4
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	26.5	1.4	36.5	2.1	17.4	1.5
2 or more times the poverty level	29.4	1.1	41.5	1.3	16.3	1.0
Marital status ¹						
Married	24.3	1.1	35.9	1.5	12.7	1.0
Widowed, divorced, or separated	28.5	1.7	50.7	2.8	15.9	1.7
Never married	33.9	2.4	45.1	3.1	21.0	2.7
Cohabiting	38.4	2.2	51.0	3.3	24.3	2.6

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Table 19. Percent of current drinkers who had 5 or more drinks in 1 day at least once in the past year for adults 20 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–20025 or more drinks in 1 day

Characteristics	5 or more drinks in 1 day					
	Both sexes (percent)	Standard error	Men (percent)	Standard error	Women (percent)	Standard error
20 years and over (age adjusted) ^{1,2}	38.2	0.7	51.4	1.0	23.4	0.9
20 years and over (crude).	40.1	0.8	54.2	1.1	24.4	1.0
Age						
20–29 years.	59.1	1.8	74.1	2.1	40.5	3.4
30–44 years.	46.3	1.2	61.4	1.7	28.8	1.6
45–64 years.	31.7	1.5	44.7	1.6	18.1	2.1
65 years and over	12.9	1.1	20.6	1.8	5.2	1.2
Race and ethnicity ¹						
Mexican American	47.4	1.7	62.6	1.8	23.5	2.3
Non-Hispanic white	39.3	1.0	52.5	1.2	24.8	0.9
Non-Hispanic black	30.0	1.9	39.7	2.5	19.1	2.3
Education ¹						
Less than high school.	45.1	1.5	55.4	1.7	29.4	3.2
High school diploma or GED ³	40.3	1.4	54.4	2.1	24.5	1.9
More than high school	35.4	1.0	48.8	1.4	21.6	1.2
Poverty status ^{1,4}						
Below poverty level	41.2	2.3	54.0	3.2	28.2	3.6
1 to less than 2 times the poverty level	40.3	2.3	52.2	3.1	27.2	2.4
2 or more times the poverty level.	37.5	1.1	50.9	1.2	21.9	1.2
Marital status ¹						
Married.	34.0	1.4	46.8	1.6	19.1	1.4
Widowed, divorced, or separated.	37.4	2.0	61.4	2.9	21.9	2.3
Never married	47.7	3.2	59.5	3.8	31.0	3.8
Cohabiting	45.3	2.5	57.2	3.1	30.3	3.6

¹Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using age groups 20–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over.

²Persons of other race and ethnicity, unknown education, poverty status, or marital status are included in the total.

³GED is General Education Development high school equivalency diploma.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's appropriate poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau).

Technical Notes

Definitions of selected terms:

Smoking and tobacco use:

Lifetime smoking status: Never smokers—Never smoked a cigarette or smoked fewer than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.

Former smokers—Smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, but did not currently smoke; *Current smokers* had 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoked every day or some days.

Current smoking status:

Nonsmoker—Currently do not smoke cigarettes (includes former smokers and never smokers).

Daily smoker—Currently smoke every day.

Nondaily smoker—Currently smoke some days.

Age first smoked cigarettes—Age first started to smoke cigarettes regularly (asked of participant who said yes to having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their entire life).

Usual number of cigarettes smoked—Daily smokers were asked how many cigarettes, on average, they smoked in a day. Nondaily smokers were asked on the days that they smoked in the past 30 days, how many cigarettes they smoked. Nondaily smokers who had not smoked in the past 30 days were excluded. The mean number of cigarettes smoked and the distribution of the number of cigarettes smoked, less than 20 cigarettes or 20 or more cigarettes, is presented.

Cigar use—Used cigars at least 20 times in life and currently use every day or some days.

Smokeless tobacco use—Used snuff or chewing tobacco at least 20 times in life and currently use every day or some days.

Alcohol use:

Lifetime alcohol drinking status:

Lifetime abstainer—Had less than 12 drinks in lifetime; former drinker had 12 or more drinks in lifetime and none in the past year; current drinker had 12 or more drinks in lifetime and 1 or more drinks in the past year.

Current drinking status:

Nondrinkers—Had no drinks in the past year, including former drinkers and lifetime abstainers; light drinkers had an average of 3 drinks or less per week; moderate drinkers had an average of more than 3 drinks, and up to 14 drinks per week if male, or more than 3 drinks and up to 7 drinks per week if female; heavier drinkers had an average of more than 14 drinks per week if male or an average of more than 7 drinks per week if female (9,15). The average number of drinks per week was calculated as follows: ((#days per year)*(#drinks per day)/365)*7.

Five or more drinks in one day in the past year—Current drinkers were asked how many days in the past year they had five or more drinks of any alcoholic beverage. Estimates are presented as percent of all adults and of current drinkers.

Suggested citation

Fryar CD, Hirsch R, Porter KS, et al. Smoking and alcohol behaviors reported by adults, United States, 1999–2002. Advance data from vital and health statistics; no 378. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2006.

Copyright information

All material appearing in this report is in the public domain and may be reproduced or copied without permission; citation as to source, however, is appreciated.

National Center for Health Statistics

Director
Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Acting Co-Deputy Directors
Jennifer H. Madans, Ph.D.
Michael H. Sadagursky

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE & FEES PAID CDC/NCHS PERMIT NO. G-284
--

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

To receive this publication regularly, contact the National Center for Health Statistics by calling 1-866-441-NCHS (6247)
E-mail: nchsquery@cdc.gov
Internet: www.cdc.gov/nchs

06-0145 (11/06)
CS107046
T26833
DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2007-1250