

Tobacco Use in Cuyahoga County

2003-2006

April 2007

Data Brief

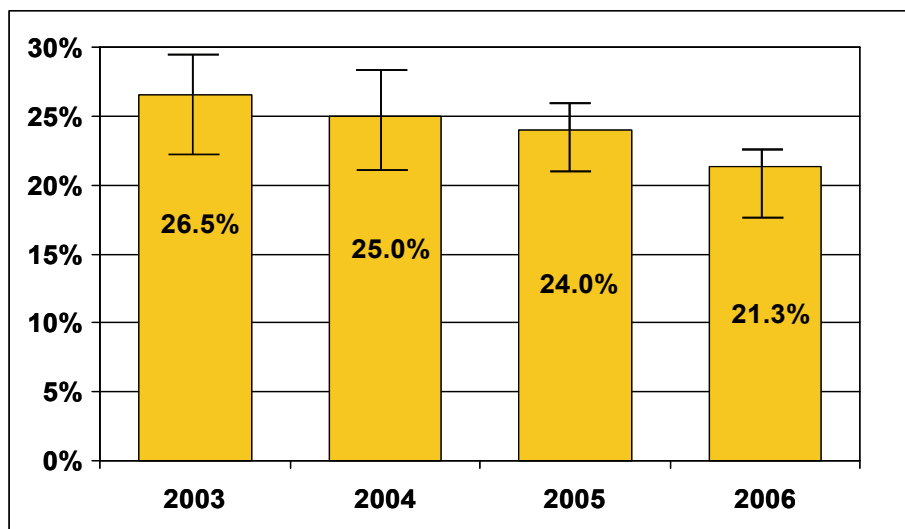
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“The consistent drop in cigarette smoking in Cuyahoga County has brought the local estimate, not only to its lowest in the past four years, but also below that of the 2006 state average (21.3% vs. 22.4%).”

The Cuyahoga County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey is supported with funds from the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation and the Community Vision Council

Cigarette Smoking in Cuyahoga County

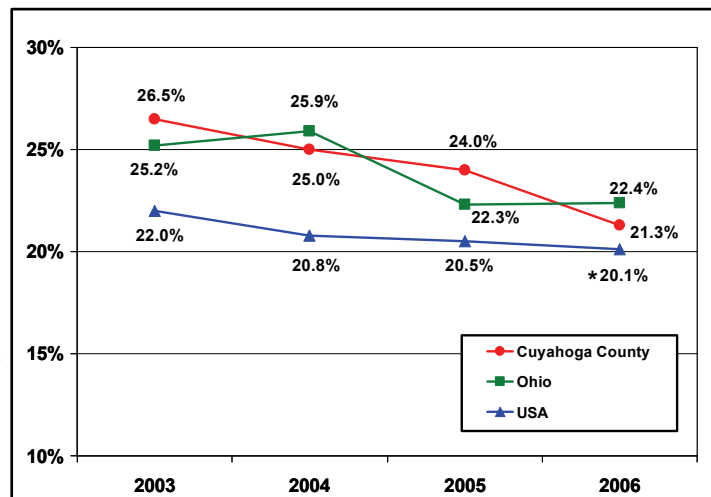


Cigarette use in Cuyahoga County has been on the decline since 2003. As shown in the figure above, the prevalence rate was 26.5% in 2003 and has consistently dropped each year to a low of 21.3% in 2006. The estimates were within overlapping ranges (confidence intervals) and thus, we cannot conclude that the differences between the estimates are statistically significant. See an explanation of the confidence intervals (symbols at the top of each bar) on page 4.

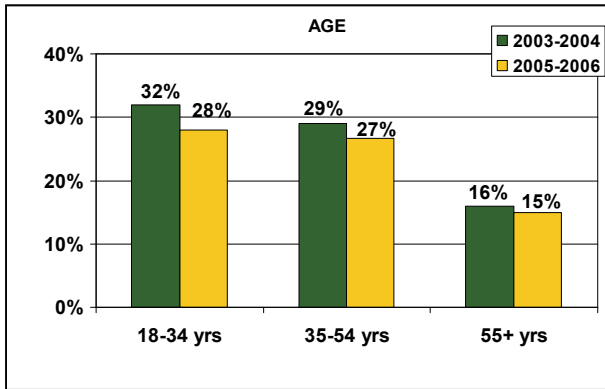
County, State and National Trends in Cigarette Smoking

The decline in cigarette smoking seen in Cuyahoga County has also been observed at the state and national levels, albeit less dramatic. The rates in Ohio ranged from 25.2% in 2003 to 22.4% in 2006; nationally, 22.0% of adults smoked in 2003 as compared to *20.1% in 2006.

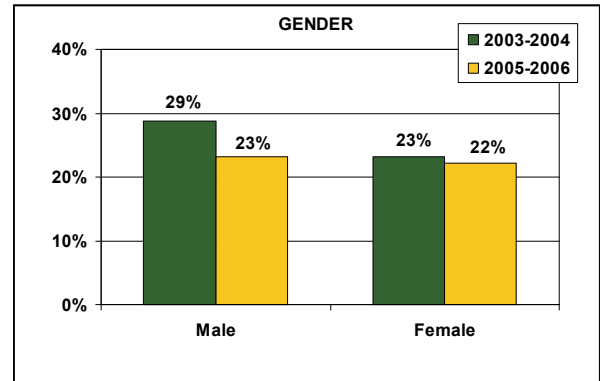
The consistent drop in cigarette smoking in Cuyahoga County has brought the local estimate, not only to its lowest in the past four years, but also below that of the 2006 state average (21.3% vs. 22.4%). However, both the county and the state rates continued to remain above the national average of *20.1%.



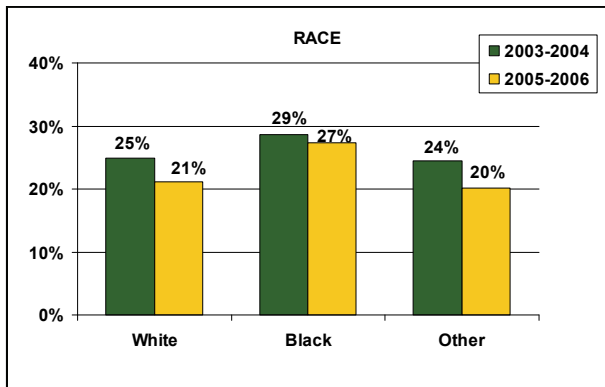
Cigarette Smoking by Demographic Characteristics



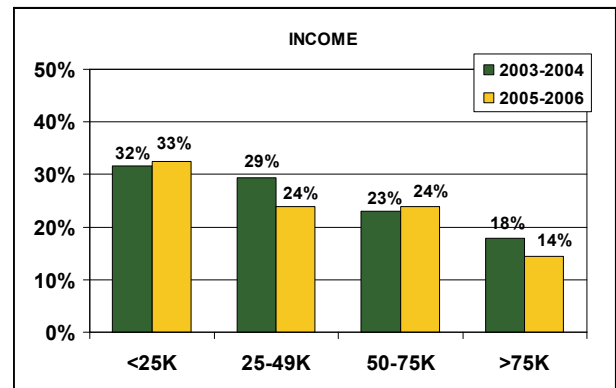
AGE (above): Overall, young adults were more likely to be current cigarette smokers than older adults. They also exhibited the greatest decline in cigarette smoking from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006; their rate dropped from 32% to 28%.



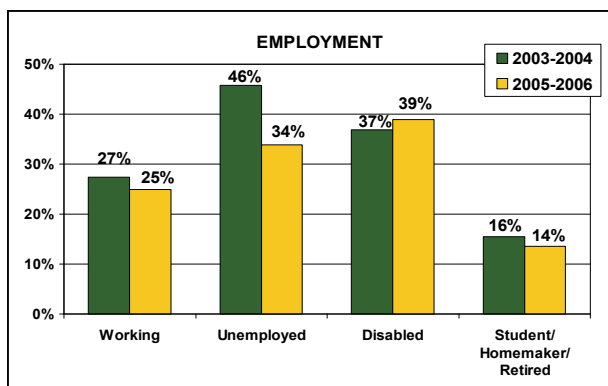
GENDER (above): In 2003-2004, men were more likely to smoke than women (29% vs. 23%). However, a significant decline was observed in 2005-2006 among men; their rate dropped by 6% while the rate for women dropped by only 1%.



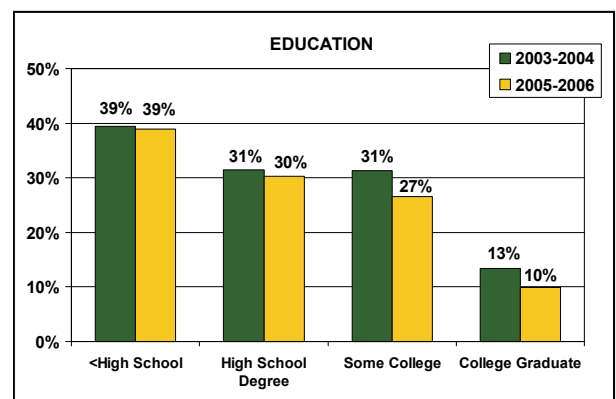
RACE (above): Black adults reported the highest level of cigarette smoking (29%, 27%), followed by White adults (25%, 21%) and adults from other race/ethnic groups (24%, 20%). However, all three groups reported a decline in smoking over the four year period.



INCOME (above): Smoking trends were not consistent across income levels. Those with an income of less than \$25,000 and with an income between \$50,000-\$75,000 showed an *increase* in smoking cigarettes.



EMPLOYMENT (above): Overall, unemployed and disabled adults reported the highest levels of smoking. Except for those that are disabled, all other categories of employment status showed a decline in smoking rates. Unemployed adults reported the largest decline across the four groups, from 46% to 34%.

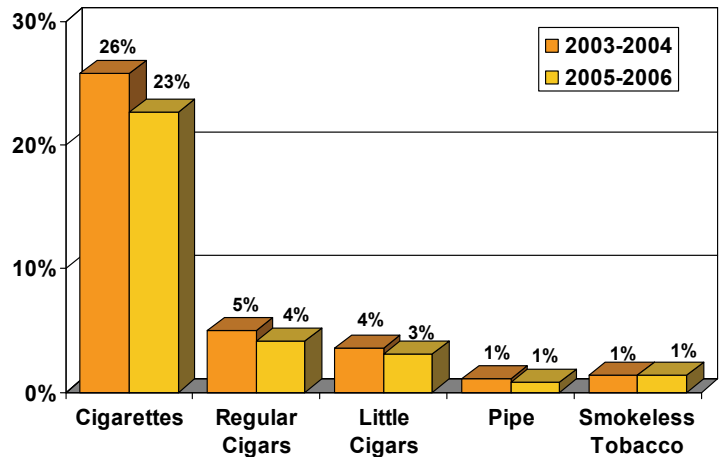


EDUCATION (above): Overall, the more educated the respondents, the lower the likelihood that they smoked cigarettes. Those most likely to report a decline in cigarette smoking over time had some college education (31% to 27%) or were college graduates (13% to 10%).

Types of Tobacco Products Used

Although the majority of tobacco users in Cuyahoga County prefer cigarettes, a variety of other tobacco products are also used. Cigar and little cigar smoking (see page 4 for distinction) had a higher prevalence rate than pipe and smokeless tobacco use in Cuyahoga County. Moreover, there was a decline in the use of cigarettes, cigars and little cigars over the past four years, but no change in use of pipe or smokeless tobacco. When taken together, in 2006, 25% of adults in Cuyahoga County regularly used at least one tobacco product (data not shown).

In 2006, 25% of adults in Cuyahoga County (or 253,000 people) regularly used at least one tobacco product.



Multiple Tobacco Product Use*

Among CIGAR users:

- 49% also smoked cigarettes
- 40% also smoked little cigars
- 10% also used pipe tobacco
- 6% also used smokeless tobacco

Among LITTLE CIGAR users:

- 54% also smoked cigarettes
- 52% also smoked cigars
- 7% also used pipe tobacco
- 2% also used smokeless tobacco

Among CIGARETTE users:

- 9% also smoked cigars
- 8% also smoked little cigars
- 2% also used pipe tobacco
- 2% also used smokeless tobacco

As shown in the boxes above, cigar and little cigar users tended to be multiple product users, while cigarette users tended to limit themselves to cigarettes. **About half of all cigar and little cigar smokers also smoked cigarettes, as compared to less than 10% of smokers who used either of these products.** A little cigar smoker also smoked on average a half a pack of cigarettes and one cigar a day (data not shown).

Who smokes what?*

The table to the right provides a description of adult cigarette, cigar, and little cigar smokers in Cuyahoga County. Cigarette smokers were more likely to be female, while cigar and little cigar smokers were much more likely to be male. Little cigar users also appeared quite unique when compared to cigarette and cigar users with regard to age, race and income; little cigar users were more likely to be younger, Black and have a lower income. Moreover, cigar and little cigar users were more likely to be less educated and to live in the city of Cleveland than cigarette users.

Characteristics of Cigarette, Cigar and Little Cigar Users			
Characteristics	Among those who smoke cigarettes	Among those who smoke cigars (excluding little cigars)	Among those who smoke little cigars
Average Age (mean yrs)	43	44	35
Gender:			
Male	47%	82%	74%
Female	53%	18%	26%
Race:			
White	64%	60%	40%
Black	31%	33%	54%
Hispanic	3%	5%	5%
Other	2%	2%	1%
Income (<\$25,000)	38%	37%	48%
Education (<HS)	13%	17%	22%
Lives in the City of Cleveland	36%	43%	57%

*Note: Data for Multiple Tobacco Product Use and Characteristics of Users is from 2005 and 2006 only.

Local Data Source: Cuyahoga County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (CC-BRFSS), 2003-2006.

State/National Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data*. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003-2006. (See website: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/>)

*Note: The 2006 National smoking prevalence estimate of 20.1% was the latest available figure from the CDC at the time of this report; this figure excludes data from the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and The Virgin Islands. All other years include the U.S. and all of its territories.

Methodology: The local CC-BRFSS is a point-in-time survey modeled after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) state-based system of health surveys administered annually by each state. The BRFSS is conducted via telephone interviews of randomly selected adults from randomly sampled, telephone-equipped households. A total of 5,301 Cuyahoga County adults were surveyed between 2003 and 2006. All participants' answers were aggregated and weighted so that the overall group represents all Cuyahoga County adults based on Census population figures (see the Cuyahoga County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey Methodology Brief available on the Center for Health Promotion Research website for more details – see web address below).

Measures:

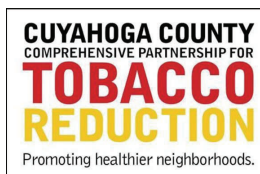
- Current cigarette smoker – Had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in lifetime and reported smoking everyday or some days
- Current cigar smoker – Reported smoking cigars (not including little cigars, such as Black & Milds) everyday or some days
- Current little cigar smoker – Reported smoking little cigars, such as Black and Milds, everyday or some days
- Current pipe smoker – Reported smoking pipe tobacco everyday or some days
- Current smokeless tobacco user – Reported using smokeless tobacco everyday or some days
- Lives in the city of Cleveland – Identified based on self-reported zip code

Definitions:

- A confidence band or interval around an estimate tells us that we can be (95%) confident that our estimate lies somewhere within this range. To determine if two estimates are “statistically” different from one another, the two confidence bars cannot overlap (i.e., the estimates cannot lie within the same range).

For more information on the methodology, including the sample description, please refer to the Cuyahoga County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey Methodology Brief available on the Center for Health Promotion Research website (see web address below).

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