STATE RANKINGS REPORT
OCTOBER
2019 • mississippi tobacco data
METHODS

THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) was designed in 1990 to determine the prevalence of health risk behaviors such as tobacco use, unhealthy dietary behaviors, inadequate physical activity, alcohol and drug use, sexual behaviors contributing to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and behaviors contributing to unintended injuries and violence. The YRBSS is intended to assess whether health risk behaviors increase, decrease, or stay the same over time, as well as examine the co-occurrence of health risk behaviors. The YRBSS data are provided for 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015 (the 2005 survey was not administered in Mississippi due to Hurricane Katrina).

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a state-based system of health surveys that was developed and conducted in order to monitor state-level prevalence of the major behavioral risks among adults associated with premature morbidity and mortality. The basic philosophy was to collect data on actual behaviors, rather than attitudes or knowledge, that would be particularly useful for planning, initiating, supporting, and evaluating health promotion and disease prevention programs. The BRFSS is a cross-sectional telephone survey conducted by state health departments with technical and methodological assistance provided by the CDC. Every year, states conduct monthly telephone surveillance using a standardized questionnaire to determine the distribution of risk behaviors and health practices among non-institutionalized adults. Adults 18 and over are asked to take part in the survey. Only one adult is interviewed per household.

The following tables provide prevalence estimates for current smoking, as well as 95% confidence intervals. States are ranked from highest prevalence to lowest prevalence. State rankings, however, should be interpreted with caution. Rank differences do not necessarily reflect meaningful differences between states. Also, states and communities are rapidly implementing new tobacco control policies. Thus, some rankings may have changed since we produced this report.

Data from Mississippi adults are available on the BRFSS website from 1995-2018.
Prior to 2006, less than 0.01% of the Mississippi population was protected from tobacco smoke by 100% smoke-free air laws in indoor public places. Mississippi currently ranks 34th in percent of the population protected from tobacco smoke in indoor public places.

**Source**
American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation, January, 2019
Mississippi ranks 5th in the prevalence of current smoking among public high school students (37 states administered the YRBSS in 2015). State rankings, however, should be interpreted with caution. Rank differences do not necessarily reflect meaningful differences between states.

**SOURCE**

2015 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Mississippi ranks 6th among the 50 states and Washington D.C. in the prevalence of current smoking among adults. State rankings, however, should be interpreted with caution. Rank differences do not necessarily reflect meaningful differences between states.

**Source**
2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The Tax Burden on Tobacco is published yearly and details tobacco revenue and industry statistics. Per capita consumption rates are available for each state from 1955-2017. In 1955, per capita consumption was substantially lower in Mississippi than in the U.S. However, consumption increased until the early 1980s and began to approximate that of the U.S. as a whole.

By the mid 1980s, per capita consumption was decreasing for both Mississippi and the U.S., but the rate of decrease was greater in the U.S. In 2017, per capita consumption (59.4 packs per adult) in Mississippi was substantially higher than in the U.S. (39.4 packs per adult).

**Source**
Tax Burden on Tobacco, 2017
Mississippi ranks 39th, with 38 states placing a higher state tax on cigarettes. Moreover, the 68 cent tax in Mississippi is substantially lower than the average state cigarette tax of $1.81.

### SOURCE
State Cigarette Excise Tax Rates and Rankings, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, 2019
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