



Cigarette Use In Cleveland



During 2005 through 2009, about one in every three, or 31.0%, of Cleveland adults said that they had smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days. This is 75% higher than the national average (17.9%). When asked about use of any tobacco product such as cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, snus (in-cheek packets), pipe or chewing tobacco, current tobacco usage increased to 35.0%. These estimates are based on new analyses of data from the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS).¹

More than 6,300 Cleveland residents participated in five years of surveys. This data brief is focused on the prevalence of cigarette tobacco use among Cleveland adults.

Rates vary by gender and age

In Cleveland, prevalence (percent) of current cigarette use was higher for males than females and lowest among those 65 and older. Prevalence during 2005 through 2009 was significantly higher among males

(34.8%) than females (27.7%), especially during the last two survey years, 2008-2009: (34.6% males vs. 26.0% females). See Table 2 for these local results. This difference in current cigarette use between genders is consistent with state and national data.² Local data confirm a small decrease in current cigarette use for women from 2005-2007 to the 2008-2009 survey (29.5% to 26.0%) but the change was not significant. Prevalence was nearly unchanged between survey years among males.

About one in three Cleveland adults age 64 or younger were current cigarette smokers (see Table 2). At age 65 and older, the prevalence of current cigarette smokers dropped to half that level, consistent with data for Ohio and nationwide.² However, twice as many Cleveland seniors age 65 and older were current cigarette smokers compared to seniors across Ohio (16.9% Cleveland versus 7.7% Ohio in 2009, [data not shown]).

Locally, current cigarette smoking prevalence does not differ by race. In Cleveland, black/African American adults (30.1%) were just as likely to currently smoke cigarettes as white adults (32.7%) between 2005 and 2009.

When compared to similar cities, the state and the nation, cigarette rates in Cleveland in 2009 were significantly greater than that for Ohio and the US, Allegheny County (Pittsburgh) and Wayne County (Detroit) (see Table 1).

Current cigarette smoking in Cleveland Neighborhoods

Figure 1 shows current cigarette use across groups of Cleveland neighborhoods. The highest levels were in Northwest (34.9%), South/Southwest (33.5%), and Eastern Corridor neighborhoods (34.4%), and lowest in the West (27.3%) and East (27.9%) neighborhoods. Differences across all neighborhoods were not statistically significant.

Figure 2 shows differences in current cigarette use between the two survey periods. The Northwest (NW) cluster showed the widest variation in prevalence, from 41.8% (2 in 5 adults) in 2005-07 to 35.8% (2 in 6 adults) in 2008-09. However, these changes across time were not statistically significant.

Not surprisingly, Cleveland adults who were current cigarette smokers were more likely to have limited activity for at least one day in the past month due to physical or mental health issues; they also were more likely to view their health as fair or poor compared to those not currently smoking cigarettes (data not shown).

No effect from Ohio's Smoke Free Work Place Law

In May 2007, a statewide law went into effect prohibiting tobacco use in most work places.³ By 2009, current cigarette use dropped in Ohio and Cuyahoga County, but little change was seen in Cleveland (see Table 1). In fact, while a larger statewide BRFSS indicated that 15.0% of Cuyahoga County residents (including Cleveland residents) were current cigarette smokers in 2009, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County BRFSS showed that twice as many Cleveland adults (31.3%) were current cigarette smokers.

For more detailed statistical figures, visit www.prchn.org.

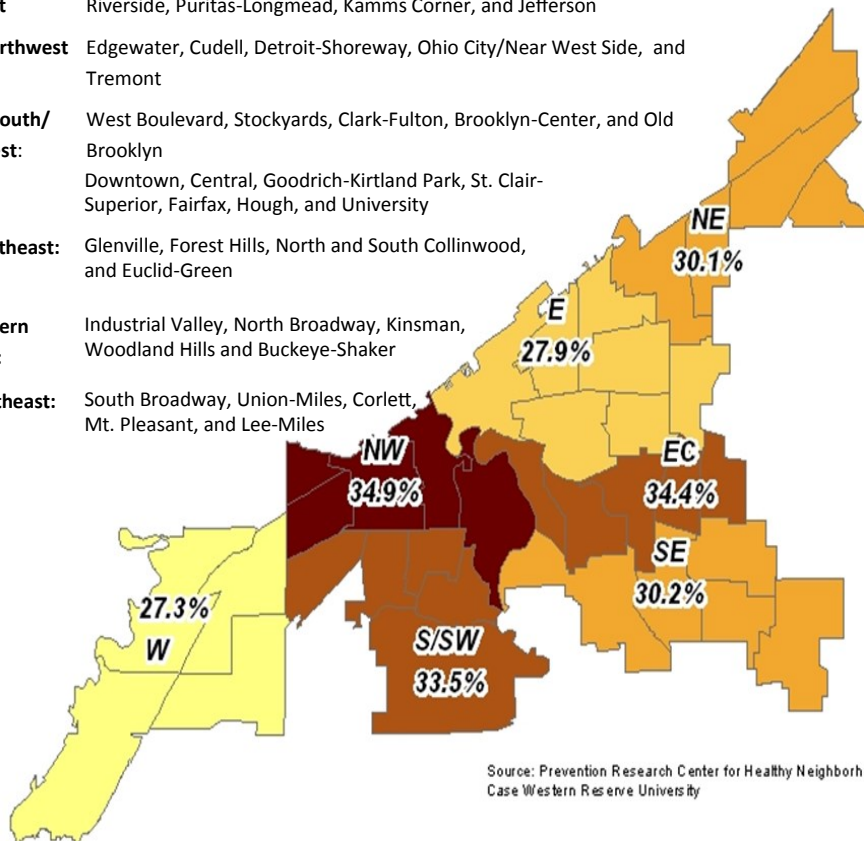
Figure 1.

Prevalence of cigarette use in Cleveland neighborhoods, 2005-2009

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Cleveland neighborhood clusters

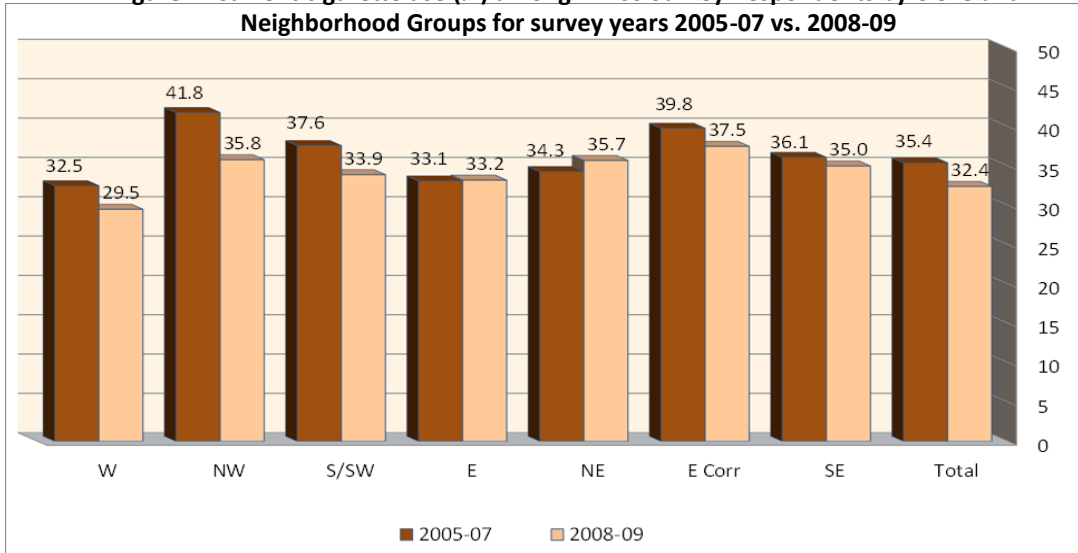
(W) West	Riverside, Puritas-Longmead, Kamms Corner, and Jefferson
(NW) Northwest	Edgewater, Cudell, Detroit-Shoreway, Ohio City/Near West Side, and Tremont
(S/SW) South/Southwest:	West Boulevard, Stockyards, Clark-Fulton, Brooklyn-Center, and Old Brooklyn
(E) East:	Downtown, Central, Goodrich-Kirtland Park, St. Clair-Superior, Fairfax, Hough, and University
(NE) Northeast:	Glenville, Forest Hills, North and South Collinwood, and Euclid-Green
(EC) Eastern Corridor:	Industrial Valley, North Broadway, Kinsman, Woodland Hills and Buckeye-Shaker
(SE) Southeast:	South Broadway, Union-Miles, Corlett, Mt. Pleasant, and Lee-Miles



Source: Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, Case Western Reserve University

How do Cleveland neighborhoods compare?

Figure 2. Current cigarette use (%) among BRFSS Survey Respondents by Cleveland Neighborhood Groups for survey years 2005-07 vs. 2008-09



How does Cleveland/Cuyahoga County compare to other areas?

Table 1. Prevalence of cigarette use in adults (percent, 95% confidence interval) (Source: CDC, BRFSS and PRCHN)

BRFSS (year)	US*	Ohio	Cuyahoga County	Cleveland	Summit Co. (Akron)	Allegheny Co. (Pittsburgh)	Wayne Co. (Detroit)
2005	20.6%	22.3% (20.7-23.9)%	20.6% (16.9-24.4)%	30.8% (27.3-34.3)%	22.8% [†] (18.2-27.3)%	20.5% (17.0-24.1)%	23.3% (20.8-25.9)%
2009	17.9%	20.3% (19.1-21.6)%	15.0% (11.6-18.3)%	31.3% (27.7-35.0)%	16.4% (12.6-20.1)%	18.4% (14.4-22.3)%	22.0% (19.0-24.9)%

*median

[†]2006

Who is using cigarettes in Cleveland?

Table 2. Cigarette use prevalence by demographic characteristics

Demographics	Full Survey	Survey Periods	
	2005-09	2005-2007	2008-2009
Total	31.0%	32.0%	30.0%
Age (yrs)			
18-29	32.0%	34.5%	29.0%
30-49	34.5%	35.8%	33.2%
50-64	34.6%	34.2%	34.9%
65+	16.9% (2)	17.0%(2)	16.7%(2)
Gender			
male	34.8%(1)	34.9%	34.6% (1)
female	27.7%	29.5%	26.0%
Race			
white	32.7%	34.6%	29.2%
black/Af Am	30.1%	30.8%	28.5%
other	26.6%	26.3%	27.1%
(1) Significantly higher for males than females			
(2) Significantly lower among those 65+			

Methods: We used the method of Korn and Graubard (Wiley, 1999) to adjust sampling weights necessary when combining multiple years of survey weighted data. Additional methods were developed to improve the precision of estimates and estimate the error (confidence intervals) for these neighborhood clusters. A more detailed description is available at our website, <http://prchn.org>.

Contributors: The information in this report was obtained from the 2005-2009 Cleveland-Steps to a Healthier Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Surveys (CLE-BRFSS and CC-BRFSS). These telephone-based surveys are modeled after the CDC state-based system of health surveys administered annually by each state department of health, and are comprised of telephone surveys of county adults aged 18 years and older who are asked about their health, behavior and opinions on topics related to living healthier lives. Locally, the surveys involved the Cleveland Department of Public Health and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, with coordination by the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods (PRCHN) at Case Western Reserve University. Please refer to the Cleveland Steps and CC-BRFSS Methodology Briefs available at <http://prchn.org>. This data brief was prepared by the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods and authored by David Bruckman, MS, MT(ASCP), Erika S. Trapl, PhD, Jeri Jewett-Tennant, MPH and Elaine A. Borawski, PhD. For more information contact David Bruckman (david.bruckman@case.edu) or Dr. Elaine Borawski (elaine.borawski@case.edu).

Suggested citation: Bruckman D, Trapl ES, Jewett-Tennant J, Borawski E. (Jan. 2014). Data Brief: Cigarette Use in Cleveland Neighborhoods, (2005-2009). Cleveland, OH: Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods at Case Western Reserve University.

Additional References: PRCHN. About BRFSS. 2012; 2. CDC, BRFSS Prevalence and Trends Data, 2005-2009; 3. Ohio Rev. Code, Title 37, Ch.3794. 2006;