

Smoking Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity

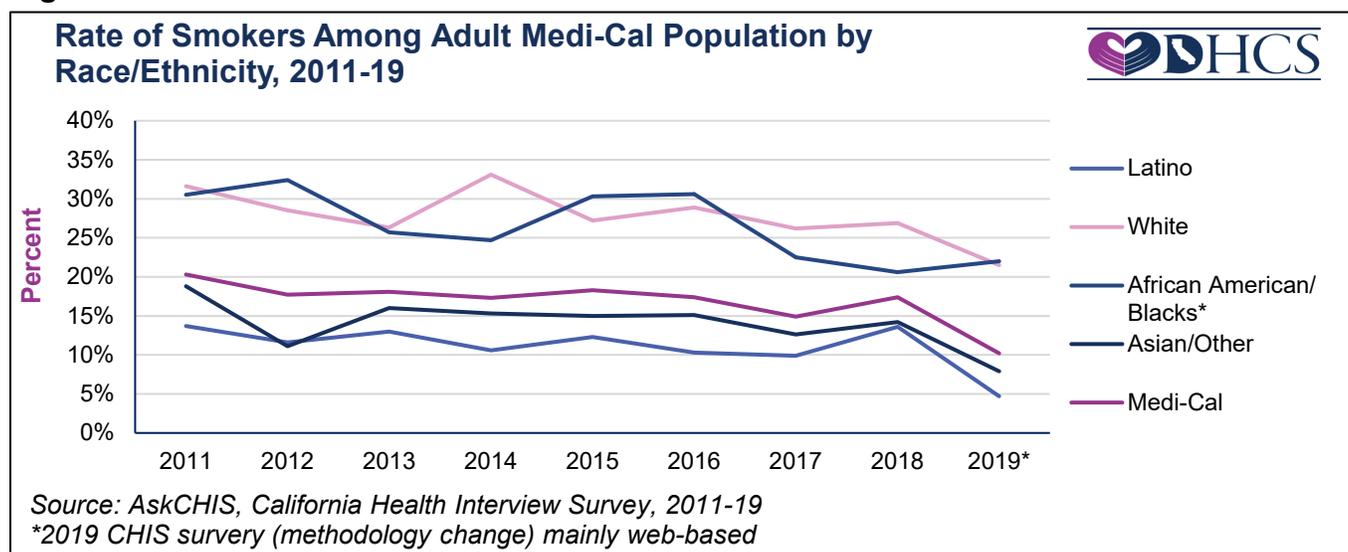


Smoking prevalence continues to be a national public health issue, with 1 in 5 deaths each year in the United States (U.S.) attributed to smoking.¹ 10 times as many people in the U.S. have died from smoking as have in all U.S. wars.¹ Smoking increases the risk of coronary heart disease (2-4 times), stroke (2-4 times), and lung cancer (25-25.7 times).²

Smoking in California continues to be a public health issue, with the number of Californian smokers at close to 4 million, a figure which exceeds the entire population of 21 U.S. states.³ From 1998 to 2014, the smoking prevalence in California declined by 51%.⁴ However, tobacco remains the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in California.² When looking at racial/ethnic differences, the data shows that African Americans/Blacks and Native Americans have higher smoking rates compared to other race/ethnicities.³

In 2018, the smoking rate for California was 11.2%, while it was 17.4% for the Medi-Cal population. From 2011 to 2018, in the Medi-Cal population, there were racial/ethnic smoking differences, with Whites and African Americans/Blacks having higher rates and Latinos having the lowest rate regardless of the year (see Figure).

Figure



1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General](#). Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. Accessed January 4, 2017.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Smoking and Tobacco. Health Effects of Cigarettes. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/index.htm. Published May 15, 2017. Accessed January 5, 2017.
3. California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program, *California Tobacco Facts and Figures, 2015*, Sacramento, CA: California Department of Public Health, 2015.
4. California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program, *California Tobacco Facts and Figures, 2016*, Sacramento, CA: California Department of Public Health, 2016.

[Link to Data Sources and Methods](#)