

CHAPTER 9: SMOKELESS TOBACCO USE

Smokeless Tobacco Users: Use smokeless tobacco products such as chewing tobacco or snuff every day or some days.

State Prevalence	7.7% (95% CI: 6.6-8.9); 1 st among 12 BRFSS participants.
Time Trends	Smokeless tobacco use decreased slightly between 2002 and 2003 (from 8.4% to 7.7%). Since 1986, there has been an overall decline in the prevalence of smokeless tobacco use. In fact, the rate has significantly decreased from a high of 9.7% in 1988 to a low of 7.7% in 2003. Because smokeless tobacco use is overwhelmingly a male activity, changes in prevalence for the adult population primarily reflect changes in men's behavior (therefore, this discussion will focus on men).
Gender	Men 15.9% (95% CI: 13.6-18.1); Women 0.3% (95% CI: 0.03-0.52). Men had a significantly higher prevalence of smokeless tobacco use than women. Between 2002 and 2003, the rate among men decreased from 17.2% to 15.9% (although the decline was not significant).
Age	The highest prevalence of smokeless tobacco use occurred among men aged 25 to 34 (26.3%) and 35 to 44 (22.1%). Men aged 25 to 34 were significantly more likely to use smokeless tobacco than men in most other age groupings. Among men, those in the youngest age grouping (18-24) were least likely to use smokeless tobacco (8.3%).
Education	The prevalence of smokeless tobacco use significantly decreased as educational attainment increased. Men without a high school diploma/GED were more than three times as likely as college graduates to use smokeless tobacco (21.1% versus 6.7%). College graduates had a significantly lower prevalence of smokeless tobacco use than adults at all other levels of education.
Household Income	There was no consistent relationship between smokeless tobacco use and household income. Among men, smokeless tobacco use was lowest among those in the poorest and wealthiest households and highest among those with an income between \$25,000 and \$34,999 (although this pattern was not statistically significant).
Quick Stats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 34.5% of all every day smokeless tobacco users tried to quit for at least one day in the past 12 months. This is a decline from the 2002 prevalence of 41.7%.• 68.2% of all current smokeless tobacco users were not advised by a health professional to quit using smokeless tobacco in the past 12 months.

West Virginia Healthy People 2010 Objectives

Objective 27.7	Reduce smokeless tobacco use among adult men aged 18+ to 13% or lower. (Baseline: 18% in 1998; Current: 15.9% in 2003)
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Table 9.1: Current smokeless tobacco use: WVBFRSS, 2003

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,307	15.9	(13.6-18.1)	2,002	0.3	(0.03-0.52)	3,309	7.7	(6.6-8.9)
Age									
18-24	88	8.3	(1.5-15.0)	109	0.8	(-)	197	4.6	(1.0-8.2)
25-34	185	26.3	(19.5-33.2)	261	0.0	(-)	446	13.2	(9.5-16.9)
35-44	230	22.1	(16.4-27.8)	318	0.2	(-)	548	10.9	(7.9-13.8)
45-54	283	12.6	(8.3-16.9)	385	0.7	(-)	667	6.7	(4.4-9.0)
55-64	248	12.3	(8.0-16.6)	392	0.0	(-)	640	6.0	(3.9-8.2)
65+	273	12.4	(8.0-16.7)	526	0.1	(-)	799	5.1	(3.3-6.9)
Education									
Less than H.S.	243	21.1	(15.0-27.2)	386	0.9	(-)	629	10.8	(7.7-14.0)
H.S. or G.E.D.	520	17.2	(13.6-20.8)	775	0.1	(-)	1,295	8.3	(6.5-10.2)
Some Post-H.S.	263	16.6	(11.8-21.4)	475	0.3	(-)	738	7.4	(5.2-9.6)
College Graduate	278	6.7	(3.6-9.9)	365	0.0	(-)	643	3.5	(1.8-5.1)
Income									
Less than \$15,000	170	13.4	(7.7-19.0)	353	0.6	(-)	523	6.0	(3.5-8.5)
\$15,000- 24,999	257	18.9	(13.4-24.4)	455	0.2	(-)	712	8.3	(5.8-10.9)
\$25,000- 34,999	193	19.7	(13.4-26.0)	267	0.4	(-)	460	9.6	(6.4-12.7)
\$35,000- 49,999	210	18.0	(12.3-23.7)	265	0.7	(-)	475	9.9	(6.7-13.0)
\$50,000- 74,999	167	15.5	(9.6-21.4)	223	0.0	(-)	390	7.7	(4.7-10.8)
\$75,000+	182	13.0	(7.0-19.1)	144	0.0	(-)	326	8.4	(4.4-12.4)

Note: The number of women reporting use of smokeless tobacco is too small for subgroup analysis.

Figure 9.1: Current smokeless tobacco use by year: WVBFRSS, 1986-2003