Indiana African Americans & Smoking

Each year, approximately 45,000 African Americans die from a preventable smoking-related disease. Smoking significantly elevates the risk of stroke, heart disease and cancers, the leading causes of death in Indiana.

Stroke rate is twice as high among African Americans as among Whites. Stroke and hypertension contribute to cardiovascular disease deaths, and 21% of all coronary heart disease deaths in the U.S. are due to smoking. Tobacco is the cause of 63% of cancer deaths among black men in the US, and cancer death rates among African American males would decline by two-thirds if they didn’t smoke.

Smoking Rates among African Americans in Indiana and the U.S.

- The current smoking rate for Hoosier African Americans (24.8%, 2013) is slightly lower than the current national smoking rate among African Americans (26.4%, 2012).

- The current smoking rate for African Americans in Indiana is higher than the smoking rates for all other race/ethnic groups in Indiana, and higher than the overall adult smoking rate of 21.9%.

![Image of Indiana Adult Smoking Rates by Race 2011-2013 BRFSS](image-url)
Menthol Cigarettes and African Americans

- Among current smokers, menthol cigarette smoking is dramatically higher among African Americans (90.0%) than Whites (28.8%).

- Studies have found higher relapse rates among menthol smokers when compared to smokers of non-mentholated cigarettes.

- Menthol may facilitate absorption of harmful cigarette smoke constituents. Higher rates of lung cancer in African American smokers may be linked to a preference for menthol cigarettes.

Quit Intentions of Hoosier African Americans

- A greater proportion of African American smokers plan to quit smoking in the next thirty days compared to other race/ethnic groups.

- Fifty-three percent (52.9%) of African American smokers reported a quit attempt in the last twelve months. This percentage is significantly higher than White smokers' reported quit attempts (43.2%).

- Less African American smokers quit smoking successfully in 2013 (3.4%) than Whites (13.4%) or Hispanics (5.7%).

Quit Intentions of Hoosier African Americans, 2013 Adult Tobacco Survey
**Indiana African Americans’ attitudes about smoke-free air policy**

- African Americans were more likely to believe that secondhand smoke is very harmful to one’s health (69.6%) compared to Whites (59.8%).

- The majority (78.9%) of African Americans in Indiana believe that smoking should not be allowed in most public places.

### Percentage of Smoke-free Homes among African Americans by Smoking Status,
2013 Adult Tobacco Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households with Smoker</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with Nonsmoker</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Households</td>
<td>69.5%</td>
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