

# Current Cigarette Smoking Among Women Aged 18-44 Years, Mississippi, 2020

The Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is conducted annually to monitor the prevalence of behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among adults in our state. The 2020 Mississippi BRFSS was completed by 6,479 Mississippians aged 18 years or older. Of these, 1,240 respondents were women of reproductive age (18-44 years).

## Cigarette Smoking in the United States

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable illness, disability, and death in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- About 34 million adults smoke cigarettes. More than 480,000 deaths each year are due to cigarette smoking, including 41,000 deaths from secondhand smoke.<sup>1</sup>
- Cigarette smoking can negatively affect fertility, making it harder for women to become pregnant.<sup>1</sup>
- Cigarette smoking during pregnancy has been linked to an increased risk of low birthweight, premature birth, birth defects, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).<sup>1</sup>

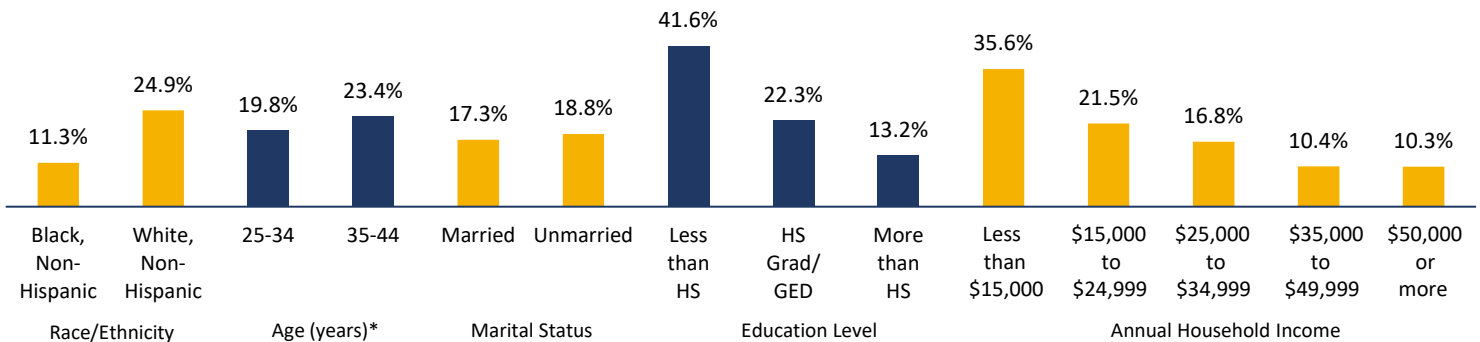
## Cigarette Smoking Among Women Aged 18-44 Years in Mississippi in 2020

- Approximately 1 in 5 women aged 18-44 years (18.1%) were current smokers.<sup>3</sup>
- The percentage of current smokers was significantly **lower** among **Black women** (11.3%) compared to white women (24.9%).<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1)
- The percentage of current smokers was **lower** among women **aged 25 to 34 years** (19.8%) compared to those aged 35 to 44 years (23.4%), although the difference was not statistically significant.<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1) The 18 to 24 year age group was not assessed due to low sample size.
- The percentage of current smokers was **higher** among **unmarried** women (18.8%) compared to married women (17.3%), though the difference was not statistically significant.<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1)
- The percentage of current smokers was significantly **higher** among women who have **not completed a high school education** (41.6%) compared to those with more than a high school education (13.2%).<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1)
- The percentage of current smokers was significantly **higher** among women with an annual household **income of less than \$15,000** (35.6%) compared to those in the \$25,000 to \$24,999 group and higher income groups.<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1)

## Definitions

- The BRFSS defines a **current cigarette smoker** as an adult who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and who, at the time of participation in the survey, reported smoking every day or some days.<sup>2</sup>
- In this report, “**current smokers**” refers to women aged 18-44 years who **reported** current cigarette smoking.
- The difference between two estimates is considered **statistically significant** (also stated as “significantly higher/lower” or “significant” in this fact sheet) if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

Figure 1. 2020 Percentage of Current Cigarette Smoking Among MS Women Aged 18-44 Years by Demographic Characteristic



## References

- 1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2021, March 3). Tobacco use. *National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion*. Retrieved 5-13-2021, from <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/pdf/factsheets/tobacco-H.pdf>
- 2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2021, July 6). Calculated variables in the 2020 data file of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Retrieved 5-12-2022, from [https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual\\_data/2020/pdf/2020-calculated-variables-version4-508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/2020/pdf/2020-calculated-variables-version4-508.pdf)
- 3) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2022, May 4). *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. Retrieved 5-12-2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>

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