



RESULTS AMERICA

Smoking

Kentucky has the most smokers, Utah the least



HIGHLIGHTS

Utah, California, and Hawaii are the states with the smallest proportional smoking populations.

Alabama, Missouri, and Ohio have the largest proportional smoking populations.

Despite recent focus on other problems, smoking remains a major public issue

Results America examines many measures in several of the most important policy fields, including public health. Besides measures regarding nutrition and the cost of healthcare, the rate of smokers in a state tends to be one of the most common measures. Despite the fact that smoking generates hundreds of billions of dollars in profit, it is also the culprit for a drove of medical issues.

The CDC defines smoking as adults who are currently smoking and have smoked, at a minimum, 100 cigarettes during their life.

Utilizing the self-reported data provided by the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Results America has compiled data from 2012.

Rank	State	Percent of Adult Smokers
1	Utah	11.8%
2	California	13.7%
3	Hawaii	16.8%
4	New Jersey	16.8%
5	Connecticut	17.1%
6	Idaho	17.2%
7	Washington	17.5%
8	New York	18.1%
9	Massachusetts	18.2%
10	Colorado	18.3%

As a nation, the lowest percentage of smokers occurred in 2011 with an average of 17.9% of people who classified themselves as smokers. Since then, the percentage has increased by 3.4% to a national average of 21.3% in 2012. Utah tops the list of states with the fewest smokers at 11.8%. California comes in second at 13.7%, followed by 16.8% for Hawaii and New Jersey. Other states including Connecticut, Idaho,

Washington, New York, Massachusetts, and Colorado have ranges from 17.1% to 18.3%. The Northeast and the West of the nation are considered to have the lowest percentage of self-reported smokers in the year 2012.

“...when considering the number of smoking-related deaths of 480,000 per year, which is approximately one in every five deaths, smoking remains a major health issue...”

lose an average of 13 to 14 years of life due to their use of tobacco. This measure also directly affects a state’s healthcare and economic stability. It should be noted that on an annual basis, Americans spend \$96 billion on direct medical expenses, while

Turning to the highest percentage of smokers for the same year, the states that appear in the bottom 10 are generally located in the South and Midwest.

Noteworthy, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Arkansas ranks in the top 10 states, which may be due to the absence of a statewide ban on smoking in designated areas, which has a noticeable effect on how states are ranked. States such as Oklahoma, Louisiana, Indiana, Ohio, and Alabama have a percentage of smokers ranging from 24.3% to 26.1%.

A possible explanation for Utah having the least amount of smokers is largely attributed to the religious beliefs of their population – roughly 6 out of 10 identify themselves as Mormons, in which only 5% of Mormons reported smoking. With an overwhelming amount of tobacco being sold – 293 billion cigarettes, 124.6 million pounds of smokeless tobacco, and 13.7 billion cigars – the tobacco industry is generating revenue near to \$500 billion a year. But, when considering the number of smoking-related deaths of 480,000 per year, which is approximately one in every five deaths, smoking remains a major health issue that the states must contend with.

It is clear that tobacco smoking has many adverse health effects on smokers and nonsmokers. Tobacco smokers should expect to

another \$97 billion are associated in loss of productivity. With that in mind, states with high

percentages of smokers, such as Kentucky, West Virginia, and Arkansas are likely to have greater health risks, poor healthcare, and economic instability, than states with the least amount of smokers, which includes Utah, California, and Hawaii.

Rank	State	Percent of Adult Smokers
41	Alabama	24.3%
42	Missouri	25.0%
43	Ohio	25.1%
44	Indiana	25.6%
45	Louisiana	25.7%
46	Mississippi	26.0%
47	Oklahoma	26.1%
48	Arkansas	27.0%
49	West Virginia	28.6%
50	Kentucky	29.0%

References & Data Sources

Tobacco Atlas.org
The Center for Disease Control
America’s Health Rankings.org

Results America is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that exists to inspire and enable the spread of results-driven government. Its sole purpose is to demonstrate how focusing government on results is key to fulfilling the promise of America.

More information and measures data available at www.resultsamerica.org