Department of Public Health
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Tobacco Use

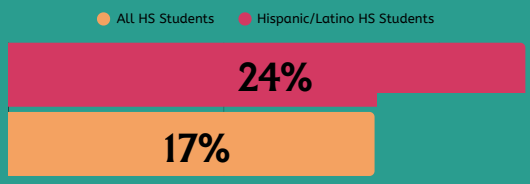
IN HISPANIC & LATINO COMMUNITIES

Health & Economic Impact of Tobacco Use

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, claiming more than 490,000 lives each year due to direct use and exposure to secondhand smoke.[1] All forms of tobacco, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, hookah, cigars, and other products that contain nicotine, can cause or worsen a wide range of diseases and health conditions. Beyond its devastating health impact, tobacco use carries a significant economic toll. Tobacco-related illnesses cost the U.S. over $600 billion annually, including $240 billion in direct medical expenses and $372 billion in lost productivity.[2]

Tobacco Use in Hispanic & Latino Communities

According to 2020–2022 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 17% of Hispanic and Latino individuals in the city reported smoking, which is similar to the smoking rate among all Philadelphians, but higher than the national smoking prevalence of 10%.[3] Youth Risk Behavior Survey data from 2021 show that 24% of Hispanic high school students in Philadelphia reported using vape products, a higher prevalence than the 17% reported among all high school students.



2 out 3 Hispanic & Latino people want to quit smoking

According to national data from 2020 – 2021, four of the five leading causes of death among Hispanic and Latino people are related to tobacco use: heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic respiratory disease.[4] Although national data from 2000–2015 estimate that 67% of Hispanic and Latino people reported wanting to quit smoking,[5] limited access to healthcare and less frequent counseling on quitting tobacco means that this community often faces barriers to effective cessation support.[4] Addressing these disparities is essential to improving long-term health outcomes within this community.

Supporting Tobacco Use Disorder Treatment

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health's Tobacco Policy and Control Program is dedicated to addressing health challenges that affect all Philadelphians, including Hispanic and Latino communities, who continue to experience a higher burden of tobacco-related disease and premature death.

The Health Department offers support through:

- Tobacco cessation training, tools, and resources. Spanish translation available upon request
- Technical assistance for implementing cessation programs & establishing tobacco-free policies
- Information related to insurance coverage of tobacco use disorder treatment
- Culturally relevant education addressing tobacco use, common myths, & disparities impacting communities
- Linkage to community services such as quitlines, nicotine replacement therapies & support groups
- Data & evaluation support to measure the effectiveness of cessation efforts & policies

FREE Pennsylvania Quitline Services:

TO ENROLL www.pa.quitlogix.org

- 1-800-QUIT-NOW
  1-855-DEJELO-YA
- Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)
- Web-based chat & text messaging support
- Up to five free coaching calls
- 24/7 access to trained quit coaches who create individualized cessation plans
- e-Referral system that allows providers to send secure messages to the Quitline

Contact

Together, we can build healthier, tobacco-free communities. For more information, please contact:

Kara Sapp,
Tobacco Special Projects Coordinator
kara.sapp@phila.gov

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