Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. Cigarette smoking kills more than 480,000 Americans each year, with more than 41,000 of these deaths from exposure to secondhand smoke.[1](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/resources/data/cigarette-smoking-in-united-states.html#one) In addition, smoking-related illness in the United States costs more than $300 billion a year, including nearly $170 billion in direct medical care for adults and $156 billion in lost productivity.[1](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/resources/data/cigarette-smoking-in-united-states.html#one), [2](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/resources/data/cigarette-smoking-in-united-states.html#two)

In 2014, an estimated 16.8% (40.0 million) U.S. adults were current\* cigarette smokers. Of these, 76.8% (30.7 million) smoked every day, and 23.2% (9.3 million) smoked some days.[3](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/resources/data/cigarette-smoking-in-united-states.html#three)

**By Age**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Prevalence** |
| 18–24 years | 16.7% |
| 25–44 years | 20.0% |
| 45–64 years | 18.0% |
| 65 years and older |   8.5% |

**By Education**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Education Level** | **Prevalence** |
| Less than high school | 22.9% |
| GED | 43.0% |
| High school graduate | 21.7% |
| Some college | 19.7% |
| Associate degree | 17.1% |
| Undergraduate degree |   7.9% |
| Postgraduate degree |   5.4% |