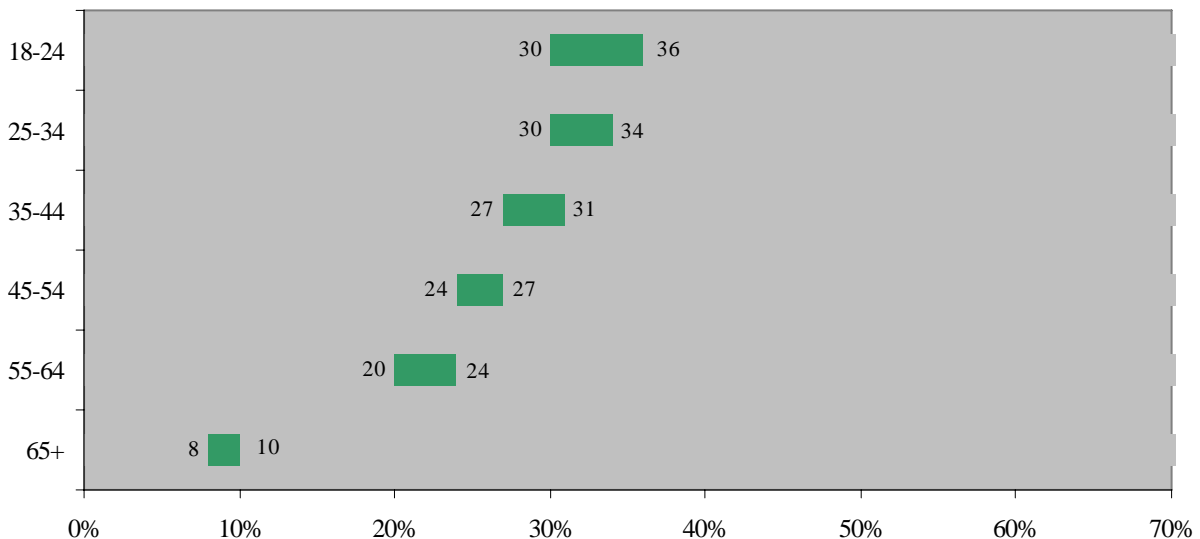


4. Smoking-Related Disparities

Different population groups use tobacco products at different rates. This disparate use of tobacco impacts the health and well-being of some populations substantially more than others. In addition to affecting the health of certain groups differently, understanding different use patterns facilitates the development of appropriate smoking control programs.

Looking at the prevalence of current cigarette smoking among adults by age, we see that the younger adults use cigarettes most often, and older Pennsylvanians use cigarettes least. The charts below and on the following pages show the confidence intervals of current cigarette use among the various populations, including age, race, education, and income. For example, among Pennsylvania residents aged 25 to 34, based on three years (2002-2004) of BRFSS survey data, between 30 and 34 percent of adults were current cigarette smokers.

Chart 4-1. Percentage of Current Smoking* by Age, Pennsylvania Adults, 2002-2004

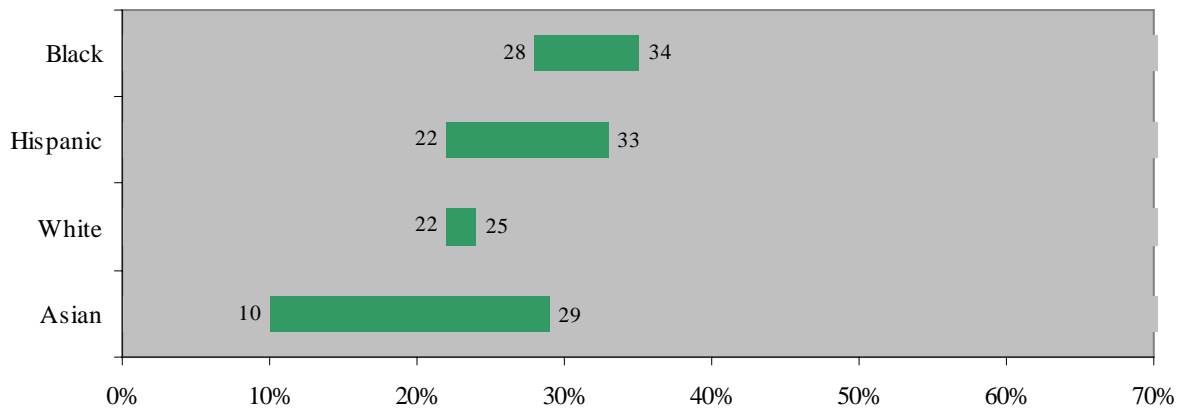


Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2002, 2003, and 2004, Division of Statistical Support, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research.

* Percentage of adults who smoked some days or every day of the 30 days prior to the survey, and had smoked 100 or more cigarettes in lifetime.

The aggregated 2002, 2003, and 2004 BRFSS surveys show that African American adults are smoking at significantly higher rates than Whites. However, while Pennsylvania adults who are African American are smoking at the highest rates, it is also true that they and Hispanics report more quit attempts in the past twelve months than do White adults (see Chart 4-3). The large confidence intervals shown in Chart 4-2, for Hispanic and Asian populations, are the result of small population samples.

Chart 4-2. Percentage of Current Cigarette Smoking* by Race, Pennsylvania Adults, 2002-2004

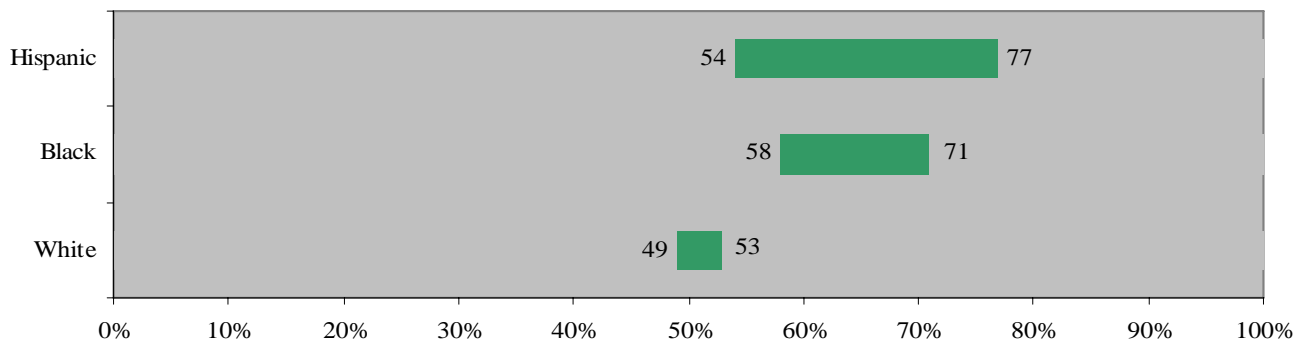


Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2002, 2003, and 2004, Division of Statistical Support, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research.

* Percentage of adults who smoked some days or every day of the 30 days prior to the survey, and had smoked 100 or more cigarettes in lifetime.

Note: The racial groups of Black, White, and Asian in this chart exclude those with Hispanic ethnicity.

Chart 4-3. Percentage of Current Cigarette Smokers* Who Stopped Smoking One or More Times in Past 12 Months by Race, Pennsylvania Adults, 2002-2004



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2002, 2003, and 2004 data, Division of Statistical Support, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research.

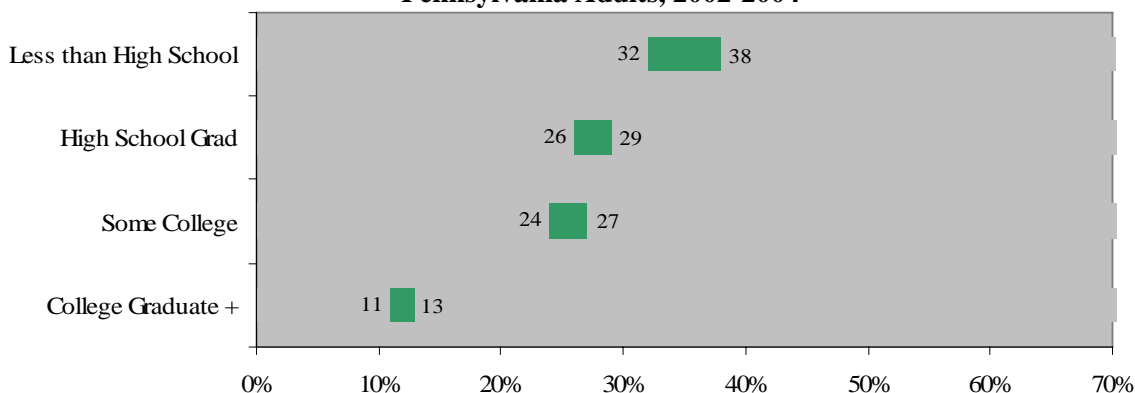
* Percentage of adults who smoked some days or every day of the 30 days prior to the survey, and had smoked 100 or more cigarettes in lifetime.

Note: The racial groups of Black, White, and Asian in this chart exclude those with Hispanic ethnicity.

Similar to race and age, there are notable differences in smoking prevalence based on education and income. Adults who reported having less than a high school diploma have a significantly higher rate of current tobacco use than those with more education. Adults with a college degree or more education smoke at much lower rates, as shown on Chart 4-4 below.

As with education, when smoking prevalence is broken out by household income, there is a similar trend toward higher rates for the lower incomes, and lower rates for higher incomes (see Chart 4-5).

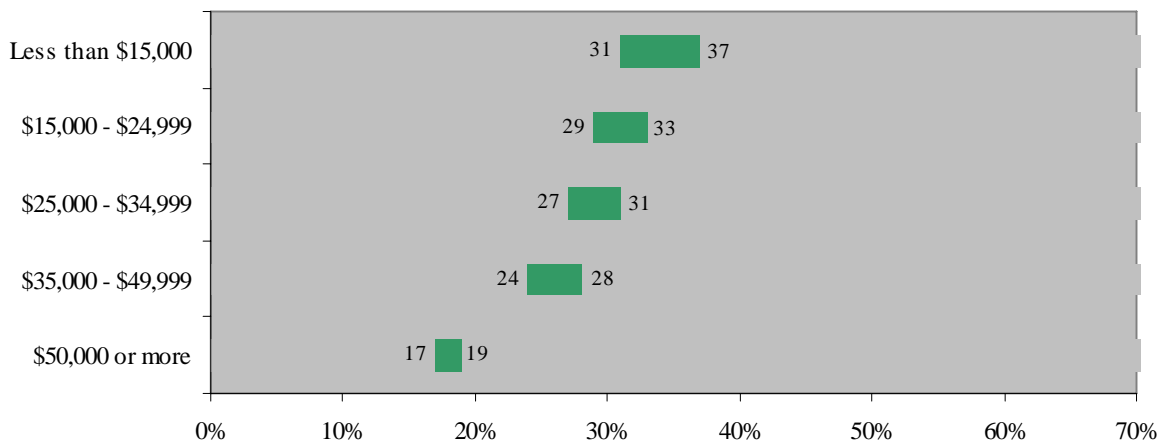
**Chart 4-4. Percentage of Current Cigarette Smoking* by Educational Status
Pennsylvania Adults, 2002-2004**



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2002, 2003, and 2004, Division of Statistical Support, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research.

* Percentage of adults who smoked some days or every day of the 30 days prior to the survey, and had smoked 100 or more cigarettes in lifetime.

**Chart 4-5. Percentage of Current Cigarette Smoking* by Household Income
Pennsylvania Adults, 2002-2004**



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2002, 2003, and 2004, Division of Statistical Support, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research.

* Percentage of adults who smoked some days or every day of the 30 days prior to the survey, and had smoked 100 or more cigarettes in lifetime.