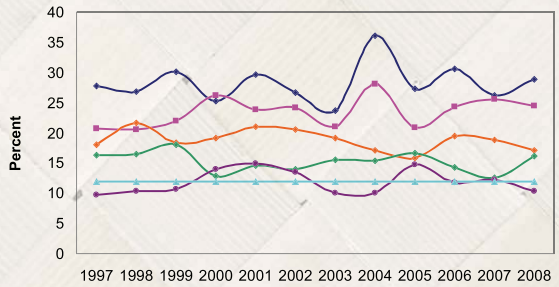
# HEALTH DISPARITIES IN ADULT TOBACCO USE

## Adult Smoking Prevalence by Income

The pattern of high smoking rates among those with the lowest annual household incomes (less than $25,000 per year) has persisted for more than 10 years (Figure 10).

**Figure 10. Adult Smoking Prevalence by Income, BRFSS 1997–2008**

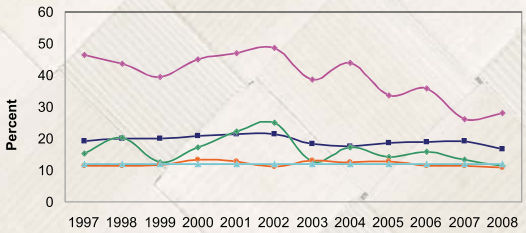



| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| less than $15,000 | 27.8 | 26.9 | 30.1 | 25.2 | 29.6 | 26.6 | 23.7 | 36.1 | 27.3 | 30.6 | 26.2 | 28.9 |
| $15,000-24,999 | 20.7 | 20.6 | 22 | 26.2 | 23.9 | 24.2 | 21 | 28.1 | 20.9 | 24.3 | 25.6 | 24.5 |
| $25,000-49,000 | 18 | 21.7 | 18.3 | 19.1 | 21 | 20.5 | 19.2 | 17.1 | 15.8 | 19.5 | 18.9 | 17.1 |
| $50,000-74,999 | 16.3 | 16.4 | 18 | 12.9 | 14.6 | 13.9 | 15.5 | 15.3 | 16.7 | 14.3 | 12.6 | 16.1 |
| more than $75,000 | 9.8 | 10.4 | 10.7 | 14 | 14.9 | 13.5 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 14.7 | 11.7 | 12.2 | 10.4 |
| HP2010 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |

## Adult Smoking Prevalence by Employment Status

Smoking prevalence also varies considerably by employment status (Figure 11). Over the past 10 years, the unemployed have consistently had the highest smoking prevalence with annual estimates ranging from 46.3% in 1997 to 48.6% in 2002. While there is a consistent downward trend in rates to a low of 26% in 2007 and 28% in 2008, smoking among the unemployed is consistently the highest smoking prevalence rate statewide.

**Figure 11. Adult Smoking Prevalence by Employment Status, BRFSS 1997–2008**

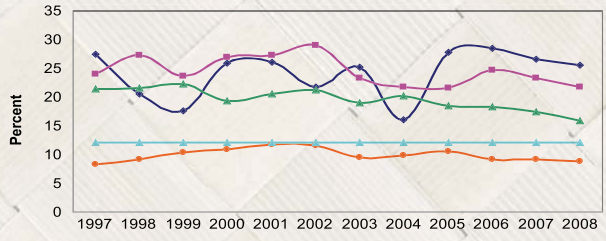



| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Employed | 19.1 | 20.1 | 20 | 20.7 | 21.3 | 21.5 | 18.2 | 17.6 | 18.5 | 18.9 | 19.1 | 16.8 |
| Unemployed | 46.3 | 43.7 | 39.4 | 44.9 | 47 | 48.6 | 38.7 | 43.9 | 33.7 | 35.9 | 26 | 28 |
| Student/ Homemaker | 15.4 | 20.2 | 12.4 | 17.2 | 22.3 | 25.1 | 12.8 | 17.3 | 14.1 | 15.9 | 13.4 | 11.4 |
| Retired/ Can't work | 11.5 | 11.4 | 11.6 | 13.2 | 12.9 | 11.1 | 13.1 | 12.6 | 12.7 | 11.3 | 11.4 | 10.7 |
| HP2010 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |

## Adult Smoking Prevalence by Education

The pattern of high smoking rates among those with the lowest educational levels (high school or less) has persisted for more than 10 years (Figure 12).

**Figure 12. Adult Smoking Prevalence by Educational Level, BRFSS 1997**

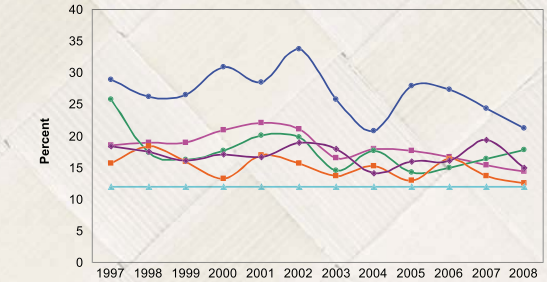



| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less than HS | 27.4 | 20.5 | 17.6 | 25.8 | 26.1 | 21.8 | 25.1 | 16 | 27.7 | 28.4 | 26.6 | 25.6 |
| HS Grad | 24 | 27.2 | 23.7 | 26.9 | 27.2 | 28.9 | 23.2 | 21.8 | 21.5 | 24.7 | 23.2 | 21.7 |
| Some College | 21.4 | 21.5 | 22.2 | 19.3 | 20.6 | 21.2 | 18.9 | 20.2 | 18.4 | 18.2 | 17.4 | 15.9 |
| College | 8.2 | 9.2 | 10.3 | 10.8 | 11.8 | 11.6 | 9.4 | 9.8 | 10.5 | 9.2 | 9.1 | 8.8 |
| HP2010 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |

## Adult Smoking Prevalence by Ethnicity

Native Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians are more likely to smoke than any other ethnic group in Hawai‘i. This has held true for the past 10 years (Figure 13). In 2008, the ethnic groups with the highest smoking prevalence were Native Hawaiians (21.2%), and the “Others” ethnic group (15.0%). Among the general adult population about one in seven adults smoke cigarettes, yet among Native Hawaiians more than one in five smoke cigarettes. Since 2005, reported smoking prevalence has been declining among Hawaiians and Whites, but increasing among Filipinos and “Others”.

**Figure 13. Adult Smoking Prevalence by Ethnicity, BRFSS 1997–2008**




| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hawaiian | 28.9 | 26.2 | 26.5 | 30.9 | 28.4 | 33.8 | 25.8 | 20.8 | 27.9 | 27.4 | 24.3 | 21.2 |
| White | 18.5 | 19 | 18.9 | 20.9 | 22 | 21 | 16.5 | 18 | 17.7 | 16.7 | 15.4 | 14.4 |
| Filipino | 25.8 | 17.3 | 16.2 | 17.6 | 20.1 | 19.8 | 14.5 | 17.6 | 14.2 | 15 | 16.4 | 17.8 |
| Japanese | 15.6 | 18.4 | 16 | 13.2 | 16.9 | 15.6 | 13.6 | 15.2 | 12.9 | 16.3 | 13.6 | 12.5 |
| Others | 18.3 | 17.5 | 16.1 | 17.1 | 16.6 | 19 | 18 | 14.1 | 16 | 16.1 | 19.4 | 15 |
| HP2010 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |