Smoking rates in Virginia vary by subgroup. According to Virginia BRFSS 2017, which indicated a state smoking rate of 16.4%, the following groups had higher smoking rates:

- Male (18.4%)
- 25-34 years old (20.8%)
- Medically Uninsured (29.7%)
- Non-Hispanic Black (19.7%)
- Income less than $15,000 (28.4%)
- Mental Illness (30.3%)
- Without a high school diploma (30.7%)
- Unemployed (26.5%)
- Unable to work (36.8%)

At this time, there is little or no state specific data to estimate smoking prevalence among certain populations (e.g. homeless) in Virginia. Findings from national surveys and other epidemiological studies indicate several groups have higher smoking prevalence rates.

The smoking rate was 68% higher among LGBTQ+ adults than the general population.

Approximately 75% of adults who are homeless are cigarette smokers, a prevalence that is 4 times the U.S. adult population, and 2.5 times that among impoverished Americans in general.

Nearly 1 in 4 (24.0%) active duty military personnel smoked in comparison with the 19% of the non-military population; 38% of current smokers in the military began smoking after joining the military.

The estimates of smoking prevalence among the prison population range from 50 to 83%.

CONCLUSION
In Virginia, racial and ethnic minority groups, individuals of low socioeconomic status, and other groups remain at high risk for tobacco use. For more information about tobacco control and cessation, contact the Virginia Department of Health’s Tobacco Control Program at (804) 864-7749, or access information on our website: www.vdhlivewell.com/tobacco
SOURCES


* Estimates when the unweighted sample size for the denominator was <20 or the Confidence Intervals half width was >10 for any cell are suppressed.