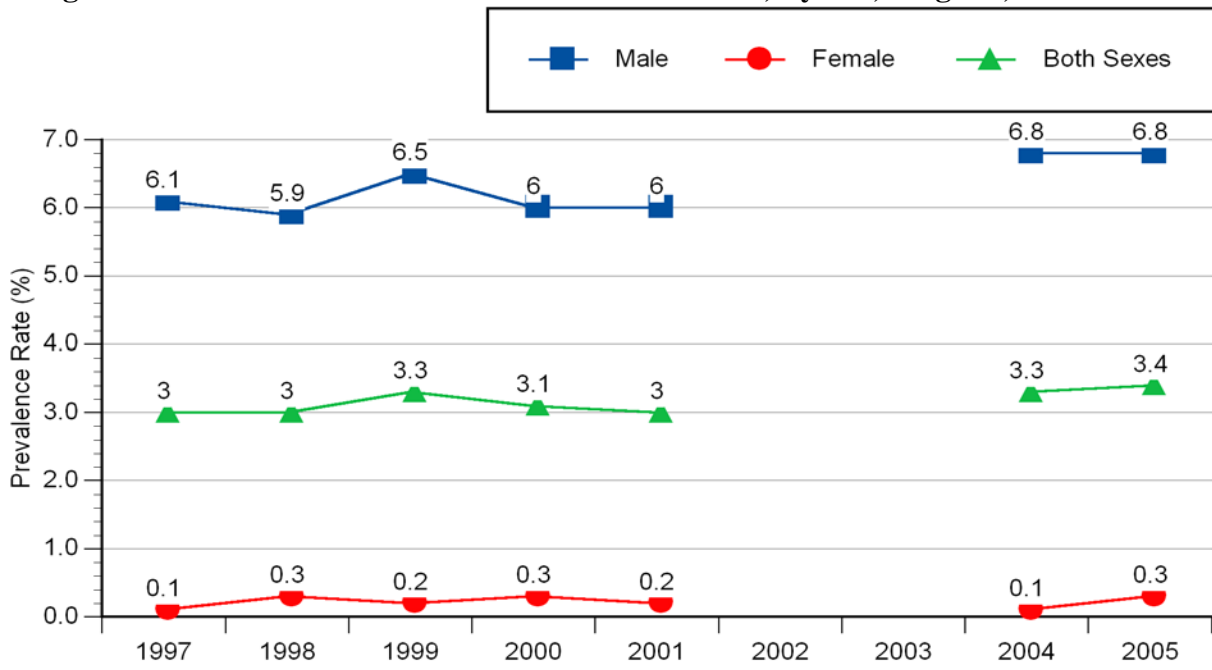


- According to a state health behavior survey, 3.4 percent of Virginia adults used smokeless tobacco (e.g., chew, snuff, dip) in 2005.¹ That translates into more than 353,000 Virginians who used tobacco either every day or some days. An additional 12 percent were former users of smokeless tobacco.
- In 2005, 6.8 percent of men used smokeless tobacco, compared to 0.3 percent of women.
- Smokeless tobacco use has remained steady over the last nine years (Figure 1). This is true for both men and women.
- Over a third (38.1%) of smokeless tobacco users tried to quit in the past 12 months.

Figure 1. Current Smokeless Tobacco Use Prevalence, By Sex, Virginia, 1997 to 2005



Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Percentages are population-weighted.

Who Is More Likely to Use Smokeless Tobacco

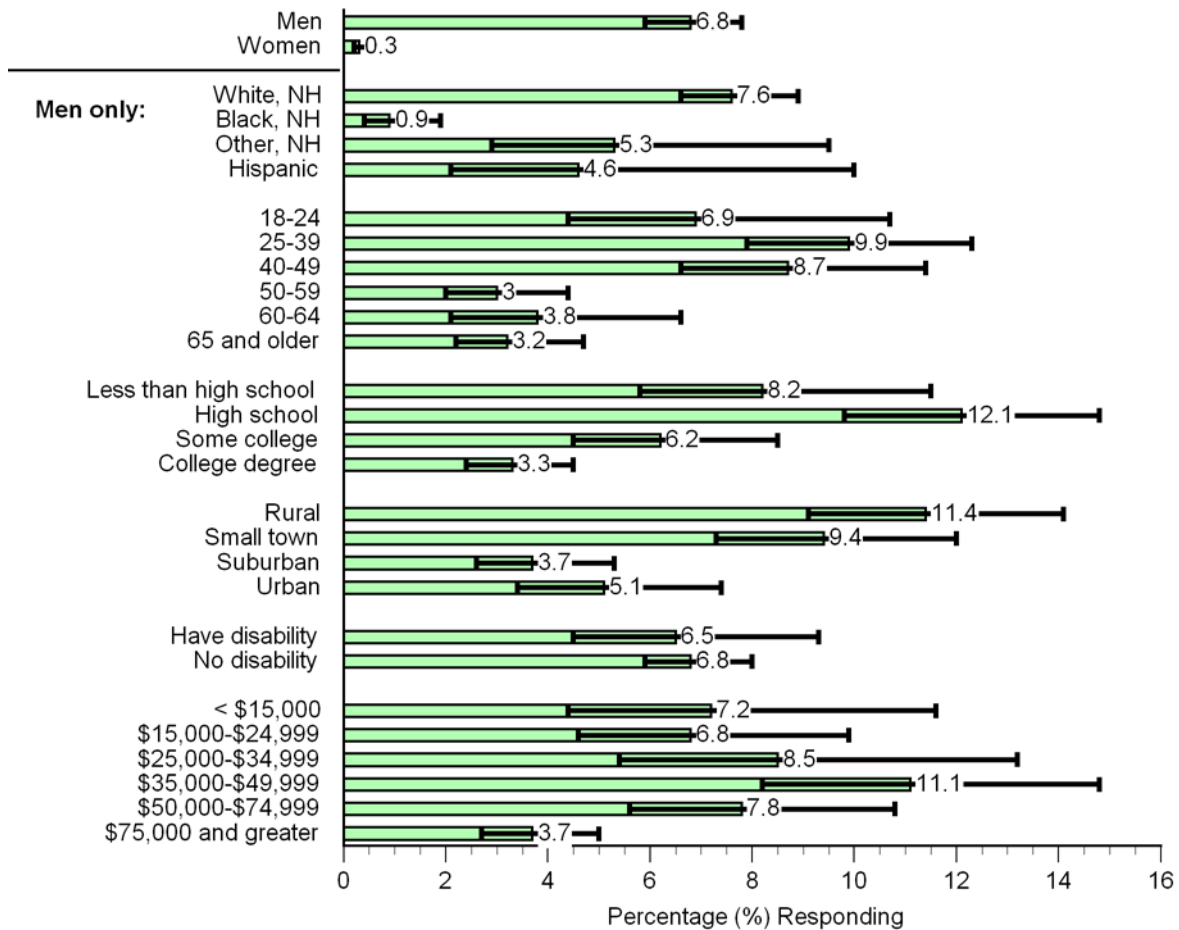
Looking at combined survey data across two years (2004 – 2005)², the findings indicate that men are **31 times** more likely than women to be users of smokeless tobacco.

Given that men are overwhelmingly the users of smokeless tobacco (95.1%), the following findings apply to men only. These groups are significantly more likely to use smokeless tobacco (Figure 2):

- White (non-Hispanic) men, who are **8.8 times** more likely than Black men. Nationally, American Indian and Alaskan Natives have high rates of smokeless tobacco use.
- Men under the age of 50, who are **2.8 times** more likely than men age 50 and older.
- Men without a college degree, who are **2.8 times** more likely than male college graduates.
- Men who live in rural areas or small town, who **2.5 times** more likely than city and suburban residents.

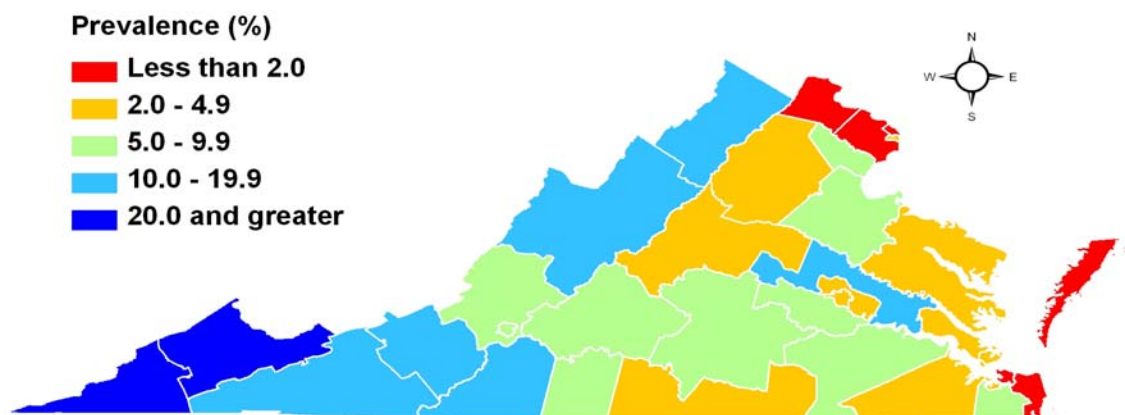
With the exception of the highest income group, all other income groups had high rates of tobacco use (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Current Adult Smokeless Tobacco Use by Demographic Group, Virginia, 2004-2005



Certain areas—for example, southwest Virginia-- have much higher rates of smokeless tobacco use among men (Figure 3).² The rates are lowest in Virginia Beach (0.9%) and Norfolk (1.1%), and highest in Cumberland Plateau (31.7%) and Lenowisco (27.5%) Health Districts.

Figure 3. Current Smokeless Tobacco Use by Health District, Men 18 and Older, Virginia, 2004-2005



Other Tobacco Products

According to findings from a 2001 health behavior survey:³

- 47.3 percent of adult Virginians had tried cigarette smoking,
- 44.8 percent tried cigars,
- 23.7 percent tried pipes,
- 17.3 percent tried smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff), and
- 6.8 percent tried bidis (“flavored cigarettes from India”).

With the exception of cigarettes, current use of other tobacco products was low in 2001 (Table 1).

Table 1. Lifetime and Current Adult Tobacco Use Prevalence, By Tobacco Product, Virginia, 2001

Tobacco Product	Lifetime Prevalence (%)	Current Prevalence (%)
Cigarette smoking	47.3	22.5
Cigars	44.8	5.3
Pipes	23.7	1.2
Smokeless tobacco	17.3	3.0
Bidis	6.8	0.3

Lifetime and current use varies by sex, race/ethnicity, and age:

- Men are more likely than women to have tried tobacco of all types, particularly cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco. Experimental, or lifetime, use of pipes, bidis and smokeless tobacco is relatively low for women. Current bidi use is low for both men and women (Figure 4)
- Lifetime pipe use is low among adults 18-24 years, compared to adults in older age groups. Lifetime use of bidis is higher among young adults than older adults, which may reflect a

Smokeless Tobacco Use in Virginia

rather recent trend in the introduction of bidis to college-age adults. However, current bidi use among young adults is low (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Lifetime and Current Adult Tobacco Use by Product Type, By Gender, Virginia, 2001

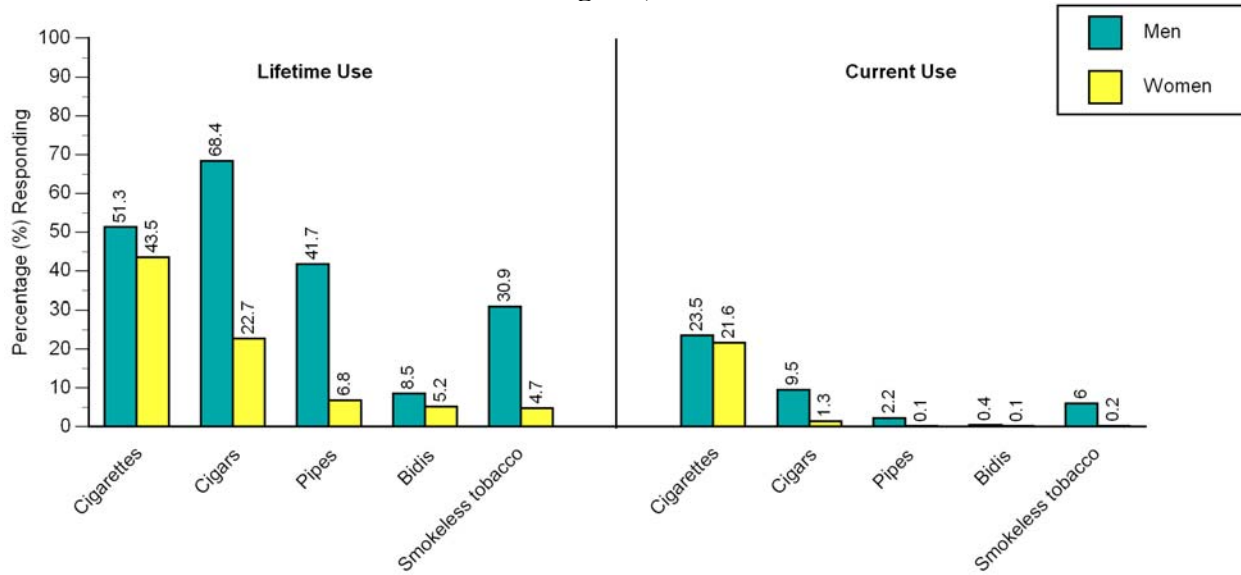
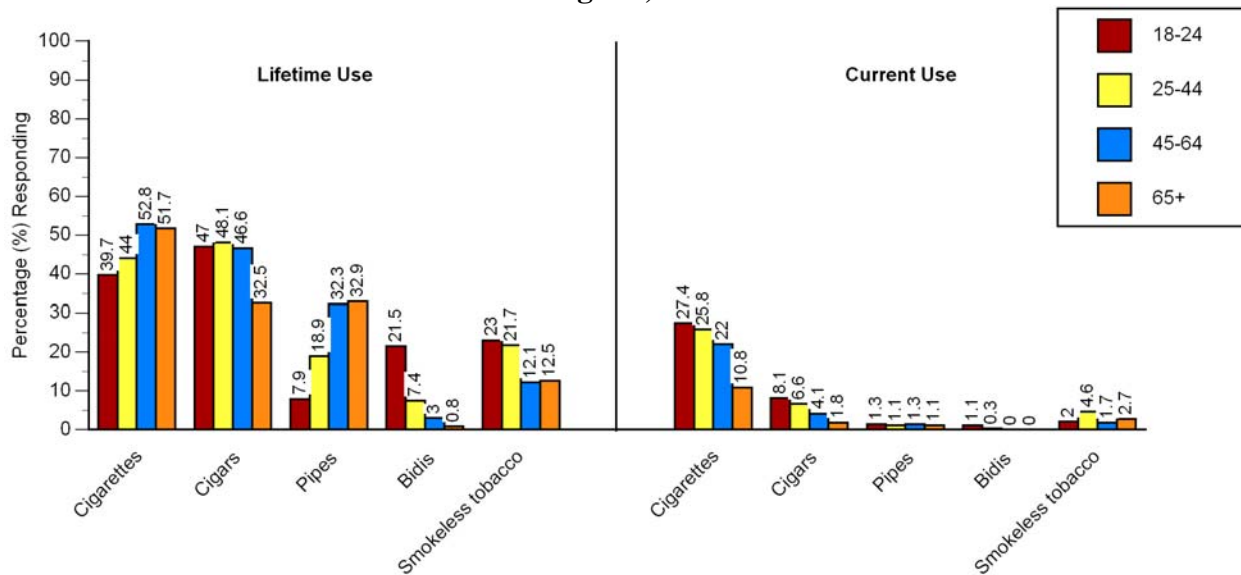


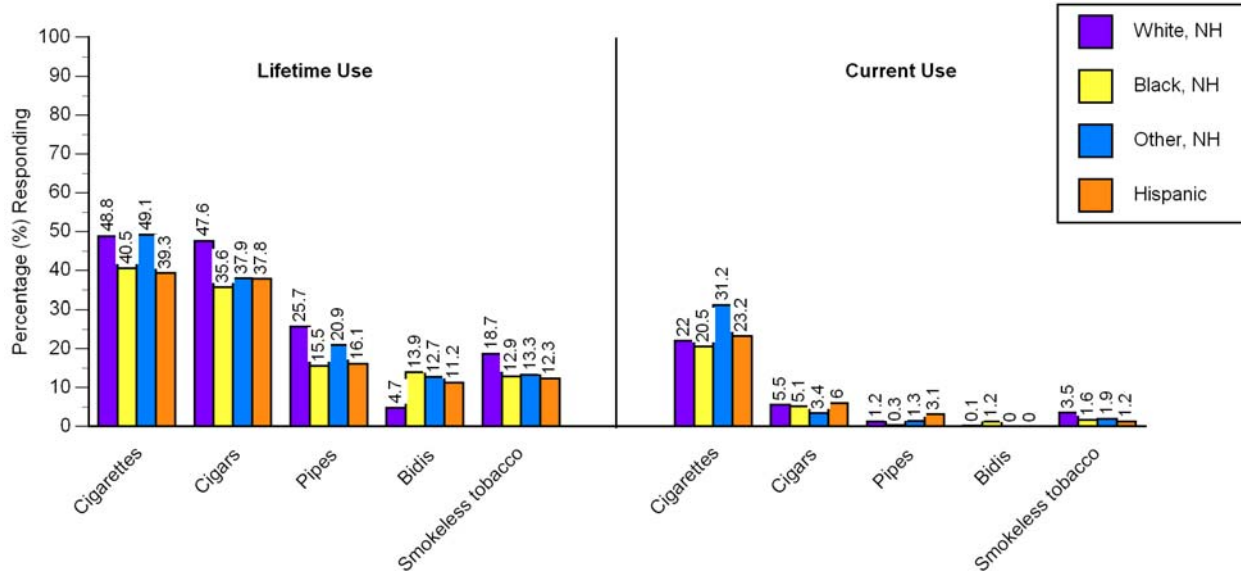
Figure 5. Lifetime and Current Adult Tobacco Use, By Product Type, by Age, Virginia, 2001



Smokeless Tobacco Use in Virginia

- White adults are more likely to try cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco, compared to other groups. Whites are less likely to try bidis, compared to other groups. High current cigarette smoking use among adults who are of another race may reflect high prevalence rates specifically among American Indians.⁴ See Figure 6 for rates by race.

Figure 6. Lifetime and Current Adult Tobacco Use, by Product Type, by Race, Virginia, 2001



¹ Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Percentages are weighted. The survey respondent was asked if he or she had ever used or tried smokeless tobacco products (such as chewing tobacco or snuff) in their lifetime and if he or she currently used [smokeless tobacco] every day, some days, or not all. “Current tobacco users” are defined as adults who used it every day or some days.

² Source: Virginia BRFSS. Data for 2004 and 2005 are combined for more accurate rate estimates. 95% confidence intervals are reported.

³ Source: Virginia BRFSS, 2001.

⁴ The number of American Indians in the survey sample is too low to compute and report a reliable rate.