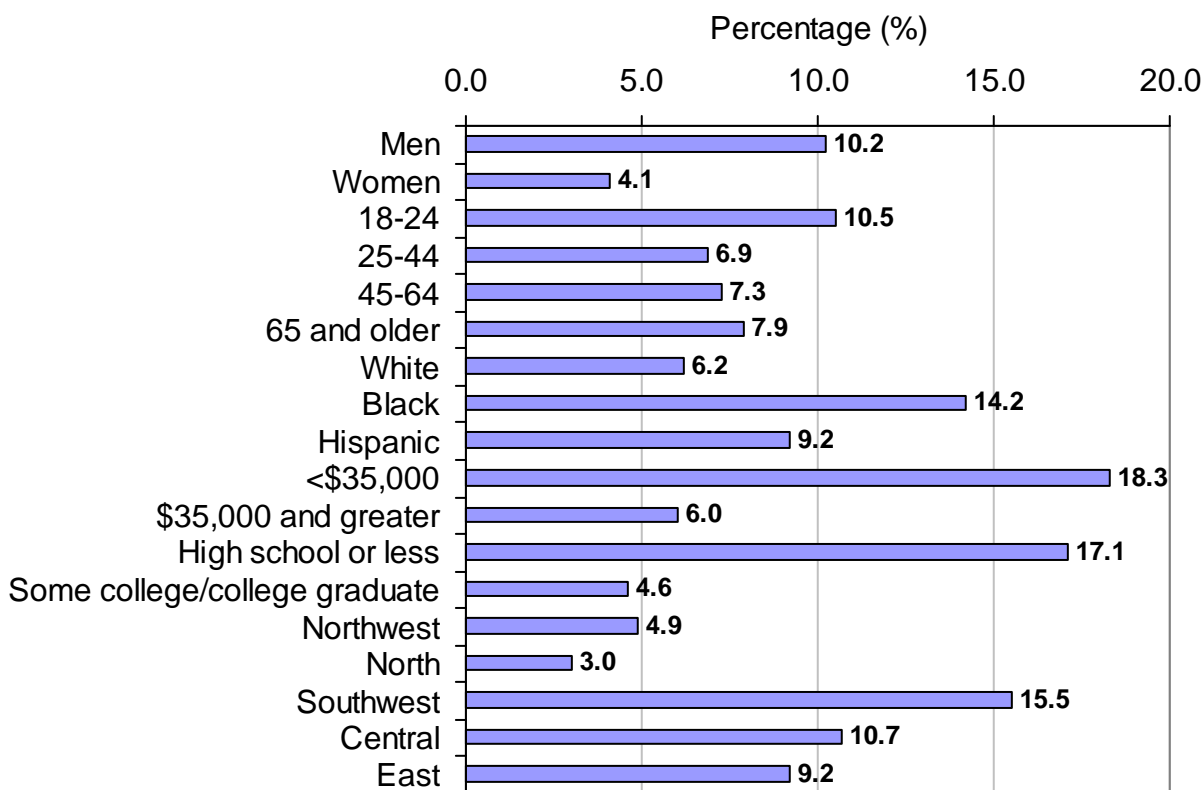


## Secondhand Smoke in the Workplace in Virginia

Virginia adults, including non-smokers, are exposed to secondhand smoke at work.

- Nearly eleven percent (10.5%) of workers in Virginia reported cigarette smoking by other people recently occurring in their work area while they were present.<sup>1</sup>
- Eight percent (7.5%) of non-smoking employees, or about 235,000 adults, reported recent smoking activity at work.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Non-smokers who are black, have a high school degree or less, or make less than \$35,000 per year were more likely to report recent smoking activity at work (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup>
- Workers living in southwest Virginia were more likely to report recent smoking activity at work compared to workers from other areas of the state.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1 - Percentage of Non-Smoking Adult Employees Who Report Recent Smoking Activity at Work, Virginia, 2008



Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2008. Percentages are weighted. "Recent smoking activity" is defined as the respondent reporting smoking by other people in their work area while present on one or more days during the past seven days.

- Even youth are exposed to secondhand smoke where they work: 14% of high school students reported they were recently exposed to SHS at work.<sup>3</sup>

## *Secondhand Smoke in the Workplace in Virginia*

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<sup>1</sup> Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2008. Percentages are weighted. Respondents were asked "on how many of the past 7 days, did someone smoke in your indoor workplace while you were there?". "Recent smoking activity" is defined as respondents reporting smoking by others occurred on one or more days.

<sup>2</sup> CDC, "[State-specific secondhand smoke exposure and current cigarette smoking among adults - United States, 2008](#)", *MMWR* 58(44): 1232-1235. Respondents who said that someone smoked in their indoor workplace on >1 day in the past seven days while they were there.

<sup>3</sup> Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey, 2008. Percentages are population-weighted. Respondents were asked "on how many of the past 7 days did you breathe the smoke of someone who was smoking in the place where you work?".