



ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE
PUERTO RICO

Departamento de Salud

TOBACCO USE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION, PUERTO RICO 2013



**Tobacco Control and Oral Health Division
Secretariat for Health Promotion**



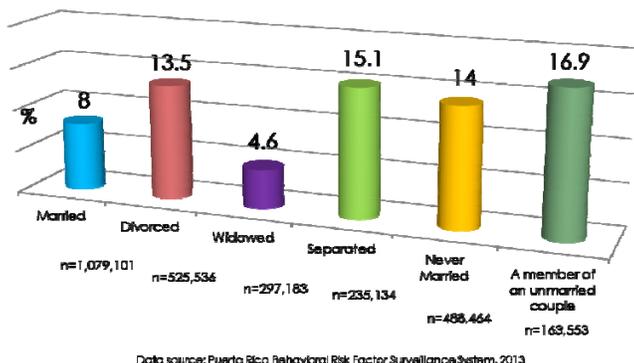
Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico
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Tobacco use in the general population in Puerto Rico

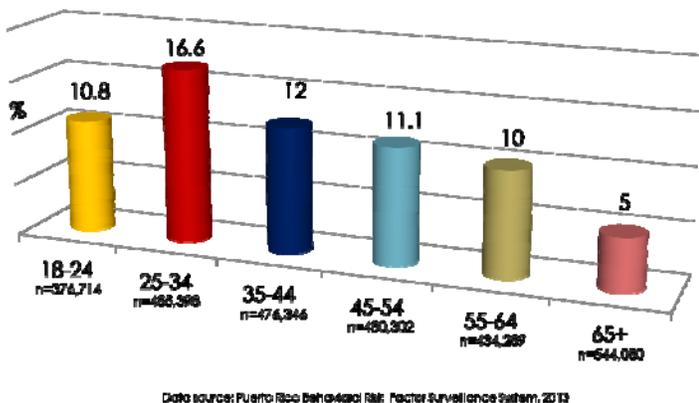
According with the Puerto Rico Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System in 2013:

- ◆ The tobacco use prevalence decreased from 12.6% in 2012 to 10.5% in 2013.
- ◆ In terms of sex, 15.5% of men and 6.7% of females reported being smokers.
- ◆ In the category of marital status, the three groups with higher prevalence were: members of an unmarried couples (16.9%), separated (15.1%), and people who have never married (14.0%) (See graphic 1).

Graphic 1. Tobacco use prevalence by marital status in the general population of 18 years and over, Puerto Rico 2013

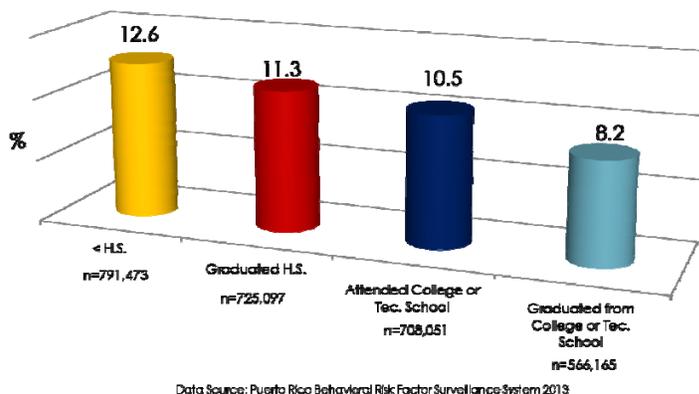


Graphic 2. Tobacco use prevalence by age group in the general population of 18 years and over, Puerto Rico 2013



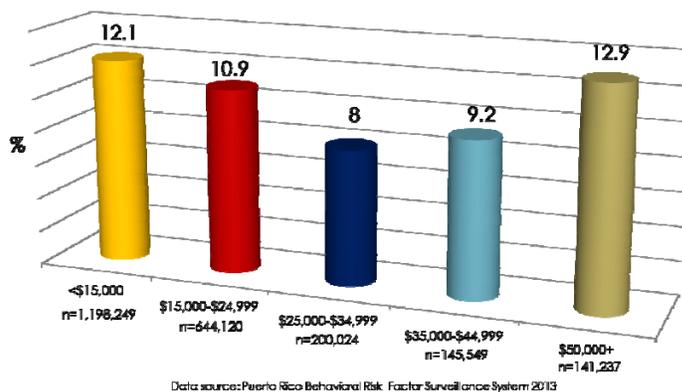
- ◆ The three age groups with highest tobacco use prevalence were: 25-34 years (16.6%), 35-34 years (12.0%), and 45-54 years (11.1%) (See graphic 2).

Graphic 3. Tobacco use prevalence by educational level in the general population of 18 years and over, Puerto Rico 2013



- ◆ People who have not completed High School reported a higher tobacco use prevalence (12.6%) (See graphic 3).
- ◆ The population with an annual income greater than or equal to \$50,000 reported higher tobacco use prevalence (15.1%) (See graphic 4).

Graphic 4. Tobacco use prevalence by annual income in the general population of 18 years and over, Puerto Rico 2013



Puerto Rico Success Story

As part of the public policy component, the Puerto Rico Tobacco Control Program provided guidance and technical assistance to 13 municipalities with high prevalence of tobacco use in young people with the purpose of promoting more restrictive municipal ordinances related of tobacco use.

The municipalities were Aibonito, Barranquitas, Coamo, Guánica, Isabela, Las Piedras, Caguas, Orocovis, Yauco, Comerío, Guayama, Santa Isabel, and San Germán. To develop this initiative we took as an example the strategy developed by the Bureau of Tobacco Control of the State of New York which worked with the tobacco health warning signs at the points of sale.

The first step was to present the initiative to the mayors and the municipal legislators. The second step of the initiative, was a survey on a representative sample (25%) of businesses that have licenses to sell cigarettes in these municipalities. This survey collected information about type of business, cigarette brands sold, product prices, product offers, accessibility to young people, promotional advertisements of tobacco, among other aspects. The result of the survey was discussed with the respective municipal legislators, which began working municipal ordinances considering these results.

The 13 municipalities approved ordinances which make mandatory to have a sign with an image and information of the harm caused by smoking, and the telephone

of the Puerto Rico Quitline in all cigarette points of sale.

In addition, some municipalities included in the ordinances the prohibition of smoking within 20 feet of distance of entries in municipal entities, schools, day cares, elderly care centers, among others.

At this moment (April 2015)with this initiative more than 600 cigarette points of sales were oriented and a kit containing a copy of the ordinance, the mandatory sign, a non smoking in these facilities sing, and a sticker to identify the business as smoke free area, was given.



Sign posted at the cigarettes points of sales