



ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE
PUERTO RICO

Departamento de Salud

TOBACCO USE IN THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER , AND TRANSEXUAL POPULATION , PUERTO RICO 2013



Promoting Smoke Free Environments

Tobacco Control and Oral Health Division
Secretariat for Health Promotion



Tobacco use in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Transsexual (LGBT) Population in Puerto Rico

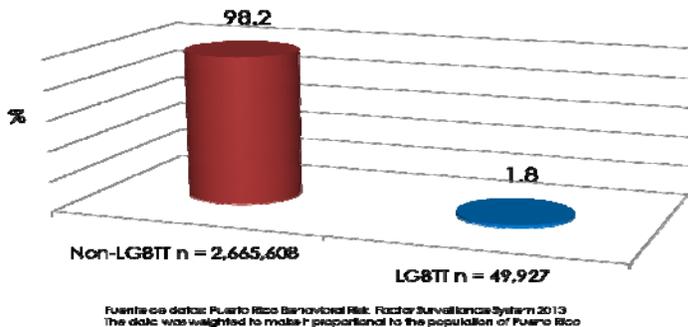
Currently, the scientific literature shows that the LGBT population has a higher tobacco use prevalence in comparison with the general population. The mortality caused by the harmful effects of tobacco use has made this issue one of the most pressing problem in public health within the LGBT population in the United States and its territories.

Considering the information above, the Puerto Rico Tobacco Control Program, included two questions of sexual identity within the tobacco use module in the Puerto Rico Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System for 2011 (PRBRFSS). This fact sheet presents data related to the tobacco use in the LGBT population of 18 years and over in Puerto Rico for 2013. It's important to mention that these data were weighted to make it proportional to the Puerto Rico population.

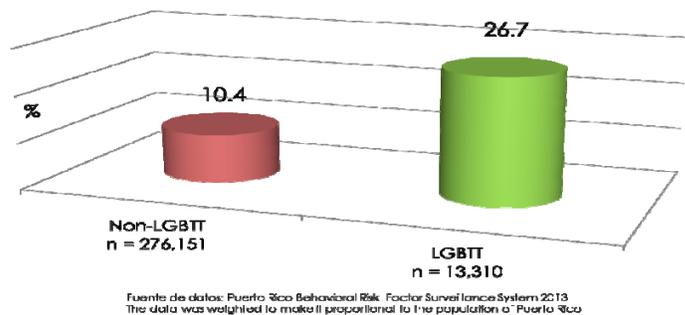


According with the PRBRFSS data for 2013, 1.8% (49,927) of the population of 18 years and over in Puerto Rico reported being part of the LGBT community (See graphic 1). In this group, 26.7% reported being smokers. This prevalence being higher than the non-LGBT population (See graphic 2).

Graphic 1. Population of 18 years and over who identify as part of the LGBT population, Puerto Rico 2013

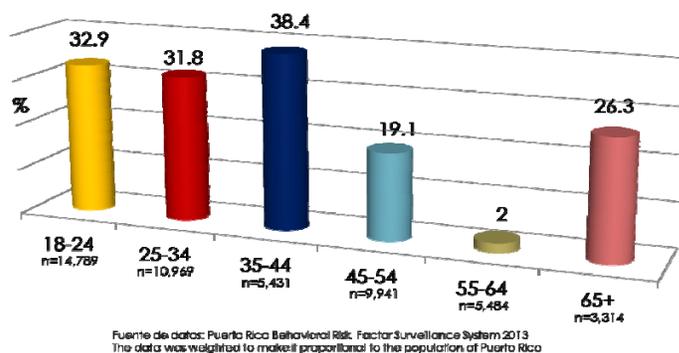


Graphic 2. Tobacco use prevalence in the LGBT population of 18 years and over, Puerto Rico 2013



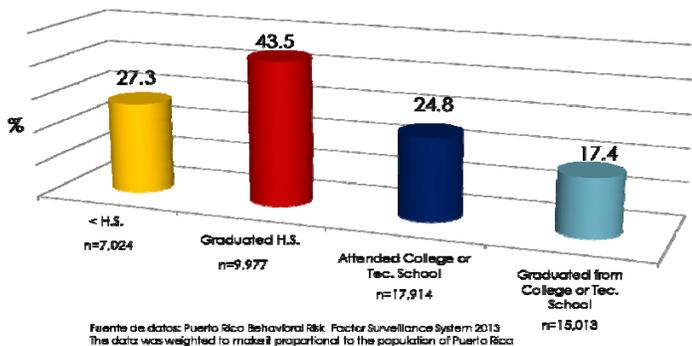
In terms of age in the Puerto Rico LGBT population, the group with the highest prevalence of tobacco use was the group of 35-44 years (38.4%), followed by the group of 18-24 years (32.9%) and the group of 25-34 years (31.8%) (See graphic 6).

Graphic 3. Tobacco use prevalence by age group in the LGBT population of 18 years and over, Puerto Rico 2013



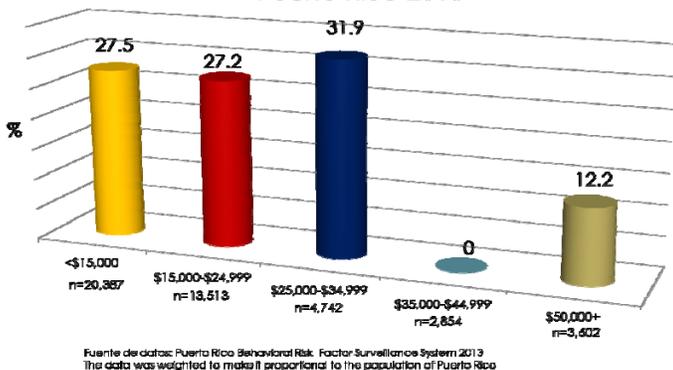
When analyzing the data by educational level, the group with the highest prevalence was people who graduated from high school (43.5%), followed by people who did not completed high school (27.3%), and the group with some years in college or technical school (24.8%) (See graphic 4).

Graphic 4. Tobacco use prevalence by educational level in LGBTT population of 18 years and over, Puerto Rico 2013



LGBTT population with an annual income between \$25,000 to \$34,999 reported higher prevalence of tobacco use (31.9%), followed by those who earned less than \$15,000 (27.5%), and those who earned \$15,000 to 24,999 (27.2%) (Graphic 5).

Graphic 5. Tobacco use prevalence by annual income in the LGBTT 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. 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.