

## Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Prevalence of Smoking



**African American youth have lower smoking rates** compared with Hispanic and non-Hispanic white youth and initiate smoking at older ages compared with non-Hispanic whites. However, the overall smoking rate among African American and non-Hispanic white adults is similar, although African Americans smoke fewer cigarettes per day.



The smoking rate is **higher among African American men** (19.1 percent) than non-Hispanic white men (16.9 percent) but **lower among African American women** (11.8 percent) than non-Hispanic white women (14.8 percent).



**The smoking rate is lower among Hispanics** (9.8 percent) compared with whites (15 percent) and African Americans (14.6 percent).



Among adult current tobacco users, there are differences in the tobacco products used by race and ethnicity. African Americans (5.8 percent) are **more likely to smoke cigars** compared with non-Hispanic whites (4.2 percent).



African American current smokers are **significantly more likely to smoke mentholated cigarettes** compared with non-Hispanic whites.



African American adults and children are **more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke** than adults and children from any other racial or ethnic group, with **50.3 percent of African American** adults and children exposed to secondhand smoke compared with **21.4 percent of non-Hispanic** white adults and children.