

DISPARITIES IN THE BURDEN OF AVOIDABLE CANCER RISK FACTORS

There are considerable disparities in the prevalence of avoidable cancer risk factors among certain segments of the U.S. population, such as:

4
TIMES LESS LIKELY

College-educated individuals are nearly **4 times less likely** to smoke than those with a high-school education or less (47).

MORE THAN
TWICE

The smoking rate among individuals who have serious psychological distress is **more than twice** that of those who do not (18).

40%
HIGHER

Prevalence of adult tobacco use in Southern states, such as West Virginia, Kentucky, and Arkansas, is **more than twice** that in California; incidence of invasive lung, bronchial, and tracheal cancers is **40 percent higher** in the South than in the West (48).

55% VERSUS 38%

Prevalence of obesity is higher among black women (55%) compared with white women (38%) (47).

21% VERSUS 39%

Obesity prevalence among adults living in nonmetropolitan counties was 21% in Colorado compared to 39% in Louisiana (49).

28% VERSUS 15%

American Indians/Alaska Natives have a higher prevalence (28%) of binge drinking compared with whites (24%) or Asian Americans (15%) (50).

6% VERSUS 45%

Only 6% of non-Hispanic black and 24% of Hispanic fifth-graders reported using sunscreens compared with 45% of non-Hispanic whites (51).

56% VERSUS 41%

Adolescents living in metropolitan areas are more likely to be up to date with human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination (56%) compared with those in nonmetropolitan areas (41%) (52).