**Facts on Smoking among People with Disabilities in Massachusetts**



*In Massachusetts, almost* ***twice*** *as many people with disabilities report having smoked in the past four weeks as*

*people without disabilities.*



**Figure 35: MA adults who were current**

**smokers, by disability status and**

**age group**

**20**

**29**

**14**

**32**

**28**

**47**

**24**

**34**

**7**

**9**

**9**

**9**

**13**

**22**

**13**

**19**

**0**

**10**

**20**

**30**

**40**

**50**

**No**

**disability**

**All**

**disability**

**Disability,**

**no help**

**Disability,**

**needs help**

**Percent of adults**

**All ages**

**Ages 18-44**

**Ages 45-64**



**Ages 65+**

Data Source: BRFSS 2008-10

***Adults Attempting to Quit Smoking****:*

Adults ages 18-44 years old with a disability are **twice** as likely to have smoked as people of the same age range without a disability.

Similarly, adults ages 18-44 who report needing help with routine or personal care are more than **three times** as likely to have smoked in the past four weeks as are people without disabilities in the same age group.

Adults ages 45-64 with disabilities are about ***10%*** more likely to smoke than people without disabilities.

***68%*** of smokers with disabilities who report needing help with routine and personal care and ***59%*** of smokers with disabilities who do not need help have made at least one quit attempt in the past year.

# Figure 36: MA adults who made quit attempts in

*Tobacco use is the leading* **the past year, by disability status and age group** *preventable cause of death in the US. Smoking cigarettes is a habit often acquired during the teenage years.*



**59**

**68**

**65**

**64**

**62**

**67**

**71**

**50**

**52**

**50**

**56**

**61**

**62**

**56**

**57**

**63**

**0**

**20**

**40**

**60**

**80**

**100**

**No**

**disability**

**All disability**

**Disability,**

**no help**

**Disability,**

**needs help**

**Percent current smokers**

**All ages**

**18-44**

**45-64**



**65+**

# Middle School Students

**Figure 33: Smoking among MA middle**

**school students by disability status**

**20**

**8**

**8**

**2**

**0**

**20**

**40**

**60**

**80**

**100**

**Current smoker**

**Ever smoked or**

**puffed a cigarette**

**Percent of students**

**Disability**

**No disability**

***8%*** of middle school students with disabilities were current smokers compared to ***2%*** of their non-disabled counterparts in 2011.

Data Source: MA YHS 2011

# High School Students

Among high school students, ***20%*** of those with disabilities are current smokers compared to ***10%*** of those without disabilities, and ***43%*** of those with disabilities have smoked at least once in their lifetime compared to ***32%*** of those without

disabilities.

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*High school students are more likely to report current and lifetime smoking than middle school students, irrespective of disability status.*

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