

### Louisiana 2007 Tobacco-Related Disparities Key Facts

- Caucasians / Hispanics were more likely to start smoking at age 12-17 whereas African Americans were more likely to start smoking at age 18-24.<sup>1</sup>
- Smokers aged 18-24 were more likely to attempt to quit and the percentage of attempts decreases as the age category increases.<sup>1</sup>
- Low education, low income, unemployment & disabled, and persons aged 18-24 show a higher smoking prevalence than other groups.<sup>1</sup>
- Although there is no know data for Louisiana's LGBT population, this group is known to have one of the highest rates of smoking prevalence nationally.
- Nine out of ten current smokers begin before they were 18 years of age. The younger one begins to smoke, the more likely one is to remain a smoker as an adult.
- 25% of Louisiana rural citizens currently are smokers.<sup>1</sup>

Youth in Louisiana are more likely to smoke than their national counterparts, across gender and race/ethnicity.

- *Almost 30% (26.1%) of youth aged 18-24 currently smoke cigarettes*<sup>1</sup>

The degree to which high school students are smoking in Louisiana compared to their national counterparts is beginning to show a downward progress in prevalence.

- *The proportion of Louisiana high school students who smoke is 5% (18.8% LA, 23% National) lower than the national median!*<sup>2</sup>

Packs of cigarettes bought or smoked by youth in Louisiana each year:

- 14.8 million<sup>2</sup>

Youth exposed to second hand smoke at home

- 294,000<sup>2</sup>

Youth alive in state today who will ultimately die from smoking

- 109,000 (given current smoking levels)<sup>2</sup>

Adults who die each year in Louisiana from their own smoking

- 6,500<sup>2</sup>

Adult nonsmokers who die each year from exposure to secondhand smoke

- 780<sup>2</sup>

For more information visit: [www.latobaccocontrol.com](http://www.latobaccocontrol.com)

<sup>1</sup>Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2007

<sup>2</sup>Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/index.php>.