



# PCS Data Brief

## Smoking Rates among Adults with Serious Mental Illness

### Background

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) conducts the Patient Characteristics Survey (PCS) every two years in all programs funded, licensed or operated by the agency. In the most recent PCS, OMH providers reported demographic, diagnostic, health insurance, and other social characteristics for all persons served during the last week of October 2013. The full survey and its results are publically available in the [PCS portal](#) on the OMH web site.

While approximately 18% of all adults in the United States smoked cigarettes in 2012, smoking is more prevalent among adults with any mental illness.<sup>1</sup> Among adults with any mental illness, 36% in the United States and 33% in New York State were identified as smokers during 2009-2011 by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).<sup>2</sup> Smoking cessation is of particular importance among people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) because they have a higher mortality rate than the general population. Smoking is one of several modifiable risk factors contributing to this high mortality rate.<sup>3</sup> This report presents demographic characteristics of tobacco users among adults with serious mental illness in NY State.

### Characteristics of Adults in the PCS

During the 2013 PCS survey week, 111,775 people were identified as adults with serious mental illness and 23,305 people were identified as not having serious mental illness (Table 1). Among adults, 41.4% of individuals with serious mental illness and 28.4% of individuals without serious mental illness were identified as having used tobacco in the past 30 days. The remainder of this brief focuses exclusively on adults with serious mental illness.

Among the adults with serious mental illness, approximately half were male (N=55,078) and half were female (N=56,649). A majority of those individuals identified as White Non-Hispanic (N=51,296), 29,059 identified as Black Non-Hispanic, 4,498 identified as some other race and 2,609 identified as Multi-Racial.

Approximately one fifth of adults with serious mental illness (N=23,938) identified as Hispanic. Half of adults with serious mental illness were aged 45-64 (N=56,043).

**Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of 2013 PCS Participants**

Population	Number Surveyed	Percentage of Tobacco Users
<b>Adults with Serious Mental Illness</b>	111,775	41.4%
<b>Adults without Serious Mental Illness</b>	23,305	28.4%

Characteristic	Adults with Serious Mental Illness	Percentage of Tobacco Users
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	55,078	48.2%
Female	56,649	34.8%
(Chi-Square P-value <.0001, 1 DF)		
<b>Race</b>		
<b>Hispanic</b>	23,938	35.5%
<b>All Non-Hispanic</b>	87,462	43.0%
White	51,296	41.7%
Black	29,059	48.4%
Other	4,498	25.2%
Multi-Racial	2,609	41.7%
(Chi-Square P-value <.0001, 4 DF)		
<b>Age Group</b>		
18 - 24	8,712	33.1%
25 - 34	16,808	45.2%
35 - 44	19,196	44.9%
45 - 64	56,043	43.7%
65 - 74	8,716	27.4%
75 and older	2,300	13.3%
(Chi-Square P-value <.0001, 5 DF)		

Individuals who reported unknown in the characteristic groups were excluded from the analysis

The age groups with the fewest members were 18-24 year olds (N=8,712) and those aged 75 and older (N=2,300).

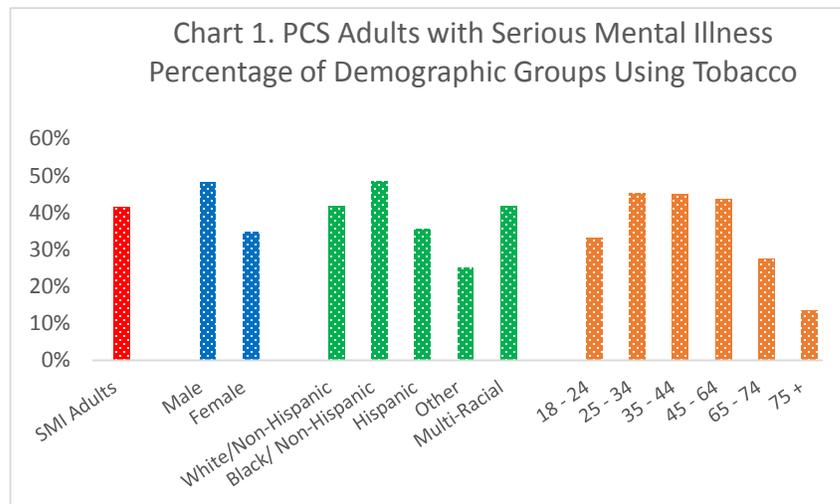
## Key Findings

Rates of tobacco use in adults with serious mental illness varied by gender, race/ethnic group and age [Table 1 and Chart 1].

- Males had a higher rate of tobacco use (48.2%) compared to females (34.8%).
- Compared to other racial groups, a larger percentage of Black Non-Hispanics used tobacco (48.4%) while those identifying as some other race had the lowest rate of tobacco use (25.2%).
- There was a lower rate of tobacco use among Hispanics (35.5%) compared to non-Hispanics (43.0%).
- In comparison, rates of tobacco use were similar among those aged from 25-64 (ranging from 43.7% to 45.2% by age group). The lowest rates of tobacco use were among those 75 and older (13.3%) followed by those 65-74 (27.4%) and 18-24 years of age (33.1%).

## Summary

The PCS is a one week survey of all programs funded, licensed or operated by OMH. Approximately 18% of all adults in the United States smoked cigarettes in 2012, however tobacco use rates for adults with serious mental illness were higher for nearly all gender, race/ethnicity or age groups surveyed in the PCS. The one exception being adults in the PCS age 75 and older.



## References

1. Agaku IT, King BA, Dube SR: Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults — United States, 2005–2012. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 63(02);29-34, 2014. Available at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6302a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6302a2\\_w#tab](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6302a2.htm?s_cid=mm6302a2_w#tab). Accessed October 2, 2014
2. Gfroerer J, Dube SR, King BA, et al: Vital signs: current cigarette smoking among adults aged 18 years with mental illness—United States, 2009–2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 62:81-87, 2013. Available at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6205a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6205a2\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6205a2.htm?s_cid=mm6205a2_w). Accessed September 30, 2014
3. Parks J, Svendsen D, Singer P, et al: *Morbidity and Mortality in People with Serious Mental Illness*. 13th Technical Report. Alexandria, VA, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, 2006. Available at <http://www.nasmhpd.org/docs/publications/MDCdocs/Mortality%20and%20Morbidity%20Final%20Report%208.18.08.pdf>. Accessed October 1, 2014