Tobacco Use and Cancer

In 2019, **lung cancer** had the **highest rate of death** compared to the other top 10 cancers in the **United States** (33.4 per 100,000 people) and **Georgia** (36.0 per 100,000 people).[4]

SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

9 out of 10 lung cancer cases are due to smoking.[5, 6]

TOBACCO USE, GEORGIA, 2020

In 2020, **the White population** in Georgia had a **higher percentage of current smokers** (18%) compared to the **national average** (15%).[4]

Current smokers by race/ethnicity

In Georgia, **men** (18%) had a **higher rate of current smokers** compared to **women** (14%).[4]

Current smokers by gender and race/ethnicity

Ever Smoker, GA, 2020

More than a third (1/3) of Georgia's population has reported ever smoking cigarettes*.[4]

*Reported ever smoking 100 cigarettes

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SMOKING & TOBACCO USE[1, 2, 3, 5, 6]

- Increased risk of developing cancer
- Decreased immune system function
- Increased risk of lung disease, stroke, heart attack, & heart disease
- Increased risk of blindness, cataracts, & age-related macular degeneration
- Increased inflammation (may cause scar tissue in the lungs)
- Increased risk of rheumatoid arthritis
- Higher risk of ectopic pregnancy, preterm delivery, low birth weight, & SIDS

BENEFITS OF QUITTING[2, 6]

- Prevents premature death due to smoking-related illness
- Protects others from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke
- Saves money (medical costs and lost of productivity)
- Improves lung function
- Lowered risk of cancer, heart disease, stroke, & other chronic diseases
- Improves blood circulation

Smoke-Free Laws, GA, 2021[7]

Percent of state population with **100% smoke-free bar** laws

Percent of state population with **100% smoke-free restaurant** laws

Percent of state population with **100% smoke-free workplace** laws

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