



National LGBT tobacco control network

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE ~ 7 HAVILAND ST. ~ BOSTON, MA 02115 ~ 617-927-6451
WWW.LGBTTOBACCO.ORG ~ LGBTTOBACCO@GMAIL.COM

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

American Cancer Society
American Lung Association
American Legacy Foundation
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
Chase-Brexton Health Services
CLASH
Fenway Community Health
Gay and Lesbian Medical Association
Howard Brown Health Center
LA Gay and Lesbian Center
Legacy Community Health Services
LGBT Community Center of New York
Mautner Project
National Association of LGBT Community Centers
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Youth Advocacy Coalition
North American Quitline Consortium
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Tobacco Control Network
Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium
Whitman Walker Clinic



The Fenway Institute
7 Haviland Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02115-2683

Telephone 617-927-6400
Facsimile 617-267-0764

www.thefenwayinstitute.org

LGBT People and Tobacco Fact Sheet

LGBT communities are among the populations most severely impacted by tobacco use.

- ☑ LGBT are almost 35 to almost 200% more likely to smoke than non-LGBT.¹⁻³
- ☑ In the largest and most scientific study to date, LGBT people smoke at rates almost 50% to 200% higher than the rest of the population.^{2a}
- ☑ This is one of the highest smoking rates even of all the disproportionately affected sub-populations.⁴
- ☑ LGBT adolescents are taking up smoking at an alarming rate, in a national study 45% of females and 35% of males reporting same-sex attraction or behavior smoked. In comparison, only 29% of the rest of the youth smoked.⁵
- ☑ American Cancer Society estimates that over 30,000 LGBT people die each year of tobacco-related diseases.⁶

Tobacco companies have targeted LGBT populations, compromising our communities' work against this major health threat.

- ☑ Tobacco companies offer an unknown amount of financial support to LGBT festivals, bars, media, and local organizations.¹ Sometimes this money comes with conditions, for example, some gay bars are prohibited from allowing any anti-tobacco promotion onsite.
- ☑ As early supporters of LGBT causes, the Tobacco companies garnered appreciative community response, since many other funders avoided LGBT issues.^{7, 8}
- ☑ An early Tobacco industry document described the plan for increasing sales among San Francisco's gay and homeless populations, it was labeled "Project SCUM".⁹
- ☑ Tobacco industry funding can compromise anti-tobacco activities by LGBT community organizations (for example, while major TV networks refused to air an ad exposing "Project SCUM", the LGBT media watchdog group was taking tobacco industry money in support of their annual gala).¹⁰



National L G B T tobacco control network

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE ~ 7 HAVILAND ST. ~ BOSTON, MA 02115 ~ 617-927-6451
WWW.LGBTTOBACCO.ORG ~ LGBTTOBACCO@GMAIL.COM

Negative health impacts of tobacco continue to be under-estimated.

- ☑ Up to ½ of people who smoke will die early as a result, losing an average of 10-20 years of their life.¹¹
- ☑ Tobacco is the number one cause of mortality in this country.¹²
- ☑ In the United States, tobacco kills more people each day than AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, firearms, and illegal drugs – combined.¹³

Secondhand smoke may have added impact in the LGBT communities.

- ☑ Emphasis on bars and restaurants as social opportunities for LGBT people create added exposure to secondhand smoke.¹
- ☑ There is evidence that these laws may help reduce smoking among youths by making tobacco use socially unacceptable, this is especially needed to counter the alarmingly high rates of LGBT youth smoking.^{14, 15}
- ☑ Also, it has been hypothesized that LGBT people disproportionately work in the restaurant and bar industries, creating added exposure to high smoke environments.

LGBT people want clean indoor air

- ☑ A national survey by Harris Interactive found that exactly one set of respondents were more willing to pay extra to go to a bar that was smokefree, LGBT people.¹⁶

For more information on any of the facts quoted in this factsheet, please contact Scout at lgbttobacco@gmail.com. This factsheet was originally prepared by Scout and Donald Hitchcock on 1/10/05, with assistance from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, www.smokefree.net, the American Cancer Society, and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. It was updated in 2008 by Scout for the National LGBT Tobacco Control Network. See more information at www.lgbttobacco.org.



National L G B T tobacco control network

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE ~ 7 HAVILAND ST. ~ BOSTON, MA 02115 ~ 617-927-6451
WWW.LGBTTOBACCO.ORG ~ LGBTTOBACCO@GMAIL.COM

Citations for LGBT People and Tobacco Factsheet

1. Ryan H, Wortley PM, Easton A, Pederson L, Greenwood G. Smoking among lesbians, gays, and bisexuals: a review of the literature. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. Aug 2001;21(2):142-149.
2. Center for Health Policy Research at the University of California Los Angeles. California Health Interview Survey. <http://www.lgbtpartnership.org/didyouknow.html>. Accessed May 23, 2005.
3. Heck JE, Jacobson JS. Asthma diagnosis among individuals in same-sex relationships. *J Asthma*. Oct 2006;43(8):579-584.
4. American Legacy Foundation. Research and Publications: factsheets. http://www.americanlegacy.org/americanlegacy/skins/alf/display.aspx?moduleID=8cde2e88-3052-448c-893d-d0b4b14b31c4&mode=User&action=display_page&ObjectID=7f514711-eb01-4d81-939d-9ad499256130. Accessed May 23, 2005.
5. Petrov A. Smoking By Young Gays At 'Alarming' Level. <http://www.365gay.com/newscon04/10/102504smoking.htm>. Accessed May 23, 2005.
6. American Cancer Society. Tobacco and the GLBT Community. <http://www.glbthealth.org/documents/GLBTTobacco.pdf>. Accessed May 23, 2005.
7. Offen N. Is tobacco a queer issue? Perceptions of LGBT community leaders. Paper presented at: National Conference on Tobacco or Health; May 4, 2005, 2005; Chicago.
8. Harris Interactive. Gay and lesbian brand loyalty linked to advertising. <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/allnewsbydate.asp?NewsID=478>. Accessed May 23, 2005.
9. RJ Reynolds. Project SCUM. <http://legacy.library.ucsf.edu/tid/mum76d00>. Accessed May 23, 2005.
10. Heaton C. Difficulties placing Truth Campaign Project SCUM ads. Personal communication to: Scout on November. 2003.
11. National Cancer Institute. Scientific Priorities for Cancer Research: NCI's Extraordinary Opportunities: Research on Tobacco and Tobacco-Related Cancers. <http://2001.cancer.gov/tobacco.htm>. Accessed May 23, 2005.
12. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Economic Costs-U.S., 1995-1999. *MMWR Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*. April 2002;51(14).
13. Mokdad AH, Marks JS, Stroup DF, Gerberding JL. Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000. *JAMA*. March 10, 2004 2004;291(10):1238-1245.
14. Ling PM, Glantz SA. Nicotine addiction, young adults, and smoke-free bars. *Drug & Alcohol Review*. Jun 2002;21(2):101-104.
15. Farkas AJ, Gilpin EA, White MM, Pierce JP. Association Between Household and Workplace Smoking Restrictions and Adolescent Smoking. *JAMA*. August 9, 2000 2000;284(6):717-722.
16. Harris Interactive. Six Out Of Ten Adults Surveyed Prefer Smoke-free Bars and Clubs. <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/news/allnewsbydate.asp?NewsID=566>. Accessed May 23, 2005.