

March 2024

Tobacco-related disparity indicators dashboard: Technical notes

First introduced in the [California Tobacco Facts and Figures 2021](#) report, the California Tobacco Prevention Program tracks 17 tobacco-related disparity indicators to highlight California's progress in accelerating the decline in tobacco-related disparities since the implementation of Proposition 56 in 2016. This dashboard is an extension of data found in the Facts and Figures report, providing updates to the single-year rates for each of the 17 indicators. The main data sources used for this dashboard includes the [California Health Interview Survey](#) (CHIS), the [California Youth Tobacco Survey](#) (CYTS), and the [Policy Evaluation Tracking System](#) (PETS).

Indicator definitions

This section details the definition used for each indicator from the three main data sources. When there are definitional changes, caution should be utilized in trending data (e.g., comparing multiple years of data). In addition, caution should be utilized when trending data for CHIS indicators due to a change in data collection methodology in 2019 and for CYTS indicators due to a change in survey methodology in 2022.

Indicator 1. Current tobacco use, adult (age 18–64)

Current tobacco product use was established from the following CHIS questions:

- **2016 to 2017:**

1. *Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all? or*
2. *During the past 30 days, how many days did you use electronic cigarettes?*

- **2018:**

1. *Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all? or*
2. *During the past 30 days, how many days did you use electronic cigarettes? or*

3. *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke big cigars? or*
4. *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use a hookah water pipe? or*
5. *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarillos, or little cigars? or*
6. *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus?*

- **2019 to the most recent data available:**

1. *Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all? or*
2. *In the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an e-cigarette or other electronic vaping product? or*
3. *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke big cigars? or*
4. *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use a hookah water pipe? or*
5. *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarillos, or little cigars? or*
6. *During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus?*

Indicator 2. Current cigarette smoking, adult (age 18+)

Current cigarette smoking was established from the following CHIS question: *Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?* Respondents reporting cigarette smoking every day or some days are classified as currently using cigarettes.

Indicator 3. Current vape use, adult (age 18–64)

Current vape use was established from the following CHIS questions:

- **2016 to 2018:** *During the past 30 days, how many days did you use electronic cigarettes?*
- **2019 to the most recent data available:** *In the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an e-cigarette or other electronic vaping product?*

Indicator 4. Current tobacco product use, youth (10th and 12th grade students)

Current tobacco product use was established from the following CYTS questions:

- **2016:** *Have you used any of the following products... In the last 30 days?* Respondents reporting past 30-day use of cigarettes, big cigars, e-cigarettes, hookah, kreteks (clove cigars), little cigars or cigarillos, or smokeless tobacco (chew, dip, snuff, or snus) are classified as currently using tobacco products.

- **2018:**

1. *Have you smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days? or*
2. *Have you smoked big cigars in the last 30 days? or*
3. *Have you used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days? or*
4. *Have you used hookah (water pipe) in the last 30 days? or*
5. *Have you smoked little cigars or cigarillos in the last 30 days? or*
6. *Have you used smokeless tobacco in the last 30 days?*

Respondents reporting past 30-day use of cigarettes, big cigars, e-cigarettes, hookah (water pipe), little cigars or cigarillos, or smokeless tobacco are classified as currently using tobacco products.

- **2020:**

1. *Have you smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days? or*
2. *Have you smoked big cigars in the last 30 days? or*
3. *Which of the following have you vaped in the last 30 days? or*
4. *In the last 30 days when you used a hookah pen, what was in it? or*
5. *Make your best guess. What do you think was in it? or*
6. *Have you used a heat-not-burn tobacco product in the last 30 days? or*
7. *Have you smoked hookah water pipe in the last 30 days? or*
8. *Have you smoked little cigars or cigarillos in the last 30 days? or*
9. *Have you used smokeless tobacco in the last 30 days?*

Respondents reporting past 30-day use of cigarettes, big cigars, vapes with nicotine (with or without flavor), vapes with just flavoring (without nicotine, marijuana, or another drug), hookah pen with nicotine (with or without flavor), hookah pens with just flavoring (without nicotine, marijuana, or another drug), heat-not-burn tobacco products, hookah water pipe, little cigars or cigarillos, or smokeless tobacco are classified as currently using tobacco products.

- **2022 to the most recent data available:**

1. *Have you smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days? or*
2. *Have you smoked big cigars in the last 30 days? or*

3. *Have you vaped in the last 30 days?* or
4. *Have you smoked little cigars or cigarillos in the last 30 days?* or
5. Which of the following tobacco products have you used in the last 30 days?

Respondents reporting past 30-day use of cigarettes, vapes, little cigars or cigarillos, chewing tobacco, snus, snus, dip, or dissolvable tobacco, heated tobacco / heat-not-burn products, hookah, waterpipe, or shisha, or nicotine pouches are classified as currently using tobacco products.

Indicator 5. Current cigarette smoking, youth (10th and 12th grade students)

Current cigarette smoking was established from the following CYTS questions:

- **2016:** *Have you used any of the following products... In the last 30 days?* Respondents reporting past 30-day use of cigarettes are classified as currently using cigarettes.
- **2018 to the most recent data available:** *Have you smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days?*

Indicator 6. Current vape use, youth (10th and 12th grade students)

Current vape use was established from the following CYTS questions:

- **2016:** *Have you used any of the following products... In the last 30 days?* Respondents reporting past 30-day use of e-cigarettes are classified as currently using vapes.
- **2018:** *Have you used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days?*
- **2020:**
 1. *Which of the following have you vaped in the last 30 days?* or
 2. *In the last 30 days when you used a hookah pen, what was in it?* or
 3. *Make your best guess. What do you think was in it?*

Respondents reporting past 30-day use of vapes with nicotine (with or without flavor), vapes with just flavoring (without nicotine, marijuana, or another drug), hookah pens with nicotine (with or without flavor), or hookah pens with just flavoring (without nicotine, marijuana, or another drug) are classified as currently using vapes.

- **2022 to the most recent data available:** *Have you vaped in the last 30 days?*

Indicator 7. Secondhand tobacco smoke or vape exposure, adult (age 18+)

Secondhand smoke or vape exposure were established from the following CHIS questions:

- **2016 to 2020:** *In the last two weeks, have you ever been exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke or e-cigarette vapor in California?*

- **2021 to the most recent data available:** *During the past year, when has someone else smoked tobacco or vaped around you in California?* Respondents reporting someone else smoking tobacco or vaping around them in the past week or in the past two weeks are classified as being exposed to secondhand smoke or vape.

Indicator 8. Secondhand cigarette or little cigar/cigarillo smoke exposure, youth (10th and 12th grade students)

Secondhand smoke exposure was established from the following CYTS questions:

- **2020:**
 1. *In the last 2 weeks, were you in a car when someone was smoking a cigarette, little cigar, or cigarillo? or*
 2. *In the last 2 weeks, were you in a room when someone was smoking a cigarette, little cigar, or cigarillo?*

Respondents reporting being in a car or room when someone was using a cigarette, little cigar, or cigarillo are classified as being exposed to secondhand smoke.

- **2022 to the most recent data available:** *In the last 2 weeks, were you in a car or room when someone was smoking a cigarette, little cigar, or cigarillo?*

Indicator 9. Secondhand vape exposure, youth (10th and 12th grade students)

Secondhand vape exposure was established from the following CYTS questions:

- **2020:**
 1. *In the last 2 weeks, were you in a car when someone was using a vape? or*
 2. *In the last 2 weeks, were you in a room when someone was using a vape?*

Respondents reporting being in a car or room when someone was using a vape are classified as being exposed to secondhand vape.

- **2022 to the most recent data available:** *In the last 2 weeks, were you in a car or room when someone was using a vape?*

Indicator 10. Cigarette quit attempt, adult (age 18+)

Cigarette quit attempt was established from the following CHIS question: *During the past 12 months, have you stopped smoking for one day or longer because you were trying to quit smoking?* This question was asked of respondents who currently use cigarettes.

Indicator 11. Cigarette quit intent, adult (age 18+)

Cigarette quit intent was established from the following CHIS question: *Are you thinking about quitting smoking in the next six months?* This question was asked of respondents who currently use cigarettes.

Indicator 12. Vape quit attempt, youth (10th and 12th grade students)

Vape quit attempt was established from the following CYTS questions:

- **2018:** *In the last 12 months, did you try to quit using e-cigarettes?*
- **2020:** *In the last 12 months, did you try to...?* Respondents reporting trying to quit using vapes with nicotine (with or without flavor) or quit using vapes with just flavoring in the past 12 months are classified as attempting to quit vaping.
- **2022 to the most recent data available:** *Which products have you tried to completely stop using in the past 12 months?* Respondents reporting trying to stop using vapes in the past 12 months are classified as attempting to quit vaping.

These questions were asked of respondents who currently use vapes.

Indicator 13. Vape quit intent, youth (10th and 12th grade students)

Vape quit intent was established from the following CYTS questions:

- **2018:** *Do you plan to quit using e-cigarettes?* Respondents reporting planning to quit using e-cigarettes in the next month or who have already quit are classified as intending to quit vaping.
- **2020:**
 1. *Do you plan to quit using vapes with nicotine (with or without flavor)?* or
 2. *Do you plan to quit using vapes with just flavoring (without nicotine, marijuana, or another drug)?*

Respondents reporting planning to quit using vapes with nicotine (with or without flavor) or vapes with just flavoring (without nicotine, marijuana, or another drug) in the next month or who have already quit are classified as intending to quit vaping.

- **2022 to latest data available:** *Do you plan to quit using any of the following products in the next 30 days?* Respondents reporting planning to quit using vapes in the next 30 days are classified as intending to quit vaping.

These questions were asked of respondents who currently use vapes.

Indicator 14. Local multi-unit housing policy population coverage

Includes California jurisdictions with smokefree multi-unit housing policies. Population coverage is based on the policy's key enactment date. The key enactment date is typically the enactment date of the law regulating smoking in multi-unit housing units. Jurisdictions with only lower-level multi-unit housing policies, such as policies covering common areas only, show the earliest year for the key enactment date.

Indicator 15. Local secondhand smoke policy population coverage

Includes California jurisdictions with smokefree or clean air policies. These policies may or may not include smokefree multi-unit housing policies. Population coverage is based on the policy's most recent enactment date.

Indicator 16. Local flavored tobacco sales restriction policy population coverage

Includes California jurisdictions with policies related to the sale of flavored tobacco products. Population coverage is based on the policy's most recent enactment date.

Indicator 17. Local tobacco retail sales policy population coverage

Includes California jurisdictions with tobacco sales or tobacco distribution policies. These policies may or may not include flavored tobacco sales restrictions. Population coverage is based on the policy's most recent enactment date.

California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) demographic definitions

This section details the definition used for demographic analysis for indicators using data from CHIS. When there are definitional changes, caution should be utilized in trending data (e.g., comparing multiple years of data). In addition, caution should be utilized when trending data for CHIS indicators due to a change in data collection methodology in 2019.

Age

Age was recoded from a CHIS-created variable based on the respondent's self-reported age or date of birth.

Education

Education was recoded from a CHIS-created variable based on the respondent's self-reported highest education completed.

Gender

Gender was established from a CHIS-created variable based on the respondent's self-reported gender.

LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ was established from the following question: *Do you think of yourself as straight or heterosexual, as gay {, lesbian,} or homosexual, or bisexual?* Gender identity was not included as part of the LGBTQ+ definition as CHIS require users to combine multiple years for gender identity due to small sample sizes. For the Tobacco-Related Disparity Dashboard project, only single-year data was used.

Medi-Cal coverage

Medi-Cal coverage was established from a CHIS-created variable based on the respondent's self-reported health insurance coverage. In addition to respondents who reported being covered by Medi-Cal, respondents who self-reported receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), California Work Opportunities and Responsibilities to Kids (CalWORKs), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are classified as covered by Medi-Cal.

Mental and emotional health

Mental and emotional health was established from a CHIS-created variable evaluating whether the respondent was likely to have serious psychological distress in the past month. This variable was based on respondent's answer from the Kessler 6-Item Psychological Distress Scale (K6) questionnaire. A K6 score of 13 or more is classified as likely to have serious psychological distress in the past month.

Poverty level

Poverty level was recoded from a CHIS-created variable based on the respondent's self-reported household income and household size.

Race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity were established from a CHIS-created variable based on the respondent's self-reported Hispanic or Latino ethnicity and race. Respondents who reported any Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are classified as Hispanic or Latino. Respondents who reported not being Hispanic or Latino and reported multiple races are classified as Two or more races, non-Hispanic. All other race categories are single-race non-Hispanic or Latino unless stated otherwise.

Race/ethnicity: American Indian or Alaska Native

American Indian or Alaska Native race were established from a CHIS-created variable based on the respondent's self-reported American Indian or Alaska Native race.

Urban/rural

Urban/rural was established from a CHIS-created variable based on the respondent's zip code population density.

California Youth Tobacco Survey (CYTS) demographic definitions

This section details the definition used for demographic analysis for indicators using data from CYTS. When there are definitional changes, caution should be utilized in trending data (e.g., comparing multiple years of data).

Education

Education level was established from the following question: *What grade are you in?*

Gender

Gender was established from the following questions:

- **2016 and 2018:** *What is your gender?*
- **2020 and 2022:** *How do you describe yourself?*

LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ was established from the following questions:

- **2018:**
 1. *What is your gender? or*
 2. *Do you identify yourself as LGBTQ?*

Respondents reporting their gender as another way or identified themselves as LGBTQ are classified as LGBTQ+.

- **2020:**

1. *How do you describe yourself?* or
2. *Do you consider yourself to be...?*

Respondents reporting their gender as transgender, genderqueer, or other gender identity or reporting their sexual orientation as lesbian, gay, or homosexual, bisexual, or something else are classified as LGBTQ+.

- **2022:**

1. *How do you describe yourself?* or
2. *Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?*

Respondents reporting their gender as transgender or something else or reporting their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian, bisexual, or something else are classified as LGBTQ+.

Mental and Emotional Health

Mental and emotional health was established from the following question: *In general, how would you rate your mental health?*

Race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity were established based on the respondent's self-reported Hispanic or Latino ethnicity and race. Respondents who reported any Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are classified as Hispanic or Latino. Respondents who reported not being Hispanic or Latino and reported multiple races are classified as *non-Hispanic--Multiple races*. All other race categories are single-race non-Hispanic or Latino unless stated otherwise.

Race/ethnicity: American Indian or Alaska Native

American Indian or Alaska Native race was established based on the respondent's self-reported American Indian or Alaska Native race.

Urban/rural

Urban/rural was established from a CYTS-created variable based on the respondent's school location.

Policy Evaluation Tracking System (PETS) demographic definitions

This section details the definition used for demographic analysis for indicators using data from Policy Evaluation Tracking System (PETS). Jurisdictional data from PETS were linked to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2016-2020.

Age

Age was established from a U.S. Census Bureau summary table (Table B01001: Sex by Age) based on the respondent's self-reported age.

Education

Education was established from a U.S. Census Bureau summary table (Table B15002: Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over) based on the respondent's self-reported highest education attained.

Poverty level

Poverty level was established from a U.S. Census Bureau summary table (Table C17002: Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months) based on the respondent's self-reported household income and household size.

Race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity were established from a U.S. Census Bureau summary table (Table B03002: Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race) based on the respondent's self-reported Hispanic or Latino ethnicity and race. Respondents who reported any Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are classified as Hispanic or Latino. Respondents who reported not being Hispanic or Latino and reported multiple races are classified as *Not Hispanic or Latino--Two or more races*. All other race categories are single-race non-Hispanic or Latino unless stated otherwise.

Race/ethnicity: American Indian or Alaska Native

American Indian or Alaska Native race was established from a U.S. Census Bureau summary table (Table B02010: American Indian and Alaska Native Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races) based on the respondent's self-reported American Indian or Alaska Native race.

Sex

Sex was established from a U.S. Census Bureau summary table (Table B01001: Sex by Age) based on the respondent's self-reported sex.