



People With HIV Have High Rates of Smoking, Low Rates of Quitting

March 11, 2015

HIV-positive Americans are more likely to smoke and less likely to quit smoking than the general population, Medscape reports. Publishing their findings in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, researchers analyzed data from cross-sectional surveys to examine smoking use among people with HIV and the population at large.

The analysis included 4,217 HIV-positive adults from the Medical Monitoring Project and 27,731 HIV-negative adults from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey.

The researchers estimated that out of the 420,000 HIV-positive Americans receiving care for the virus, 42.4 percent smoke, 20.3 percent used to smoke, and 37.3 percent never smoked. This is compared with a 20.6 percent rate of smoking in the general population. HIV-positive adults are twice as likely to smoke, but less likely to quit smoking than the general population. While just 32.4 percent of HIV-positive smokers have quit, 51.7 percent of smokers in the general population have done so.

Factors that were independently associated with a greater likelihood of smoking among the HIV-positive population were older age, white or black (as opposed to Latino) race, less education, poverty, homelessness, incarceration, substance use, heavy drinking, depression and having a detectable viral load.

To read the Medscape story, [click here](#).

To read the study abstract, [click here](#).

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