



Health, United States, 2018

About NCHS

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data to identify and address health issues. NCHS compiles statistical information to help guide public health and health policy decisions.

Collaborating with other public and private health partners, NCHS uses a variety of data collection mechanisms to obtain accurate information from multiple sources. This process provides a broad perspective on the population's health, influences on health, and health outcomes.

Health, United States

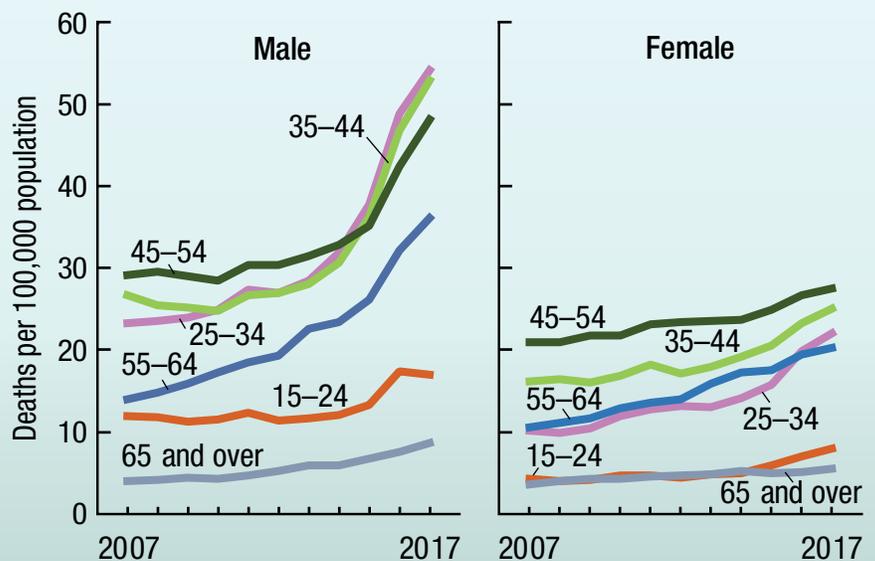
Health, United States, 2018 is the 42nd annual report on the health status of the nation, produced by NCHS and submitted by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the President and the Congress of the United States. The report includes data from a variety of federal government and private-sector sources, organized around four major subject areas: health status and determinants (i.e., life expectancy, infant mortality, leading causes of death, overdose deaths, teen births, preterm births, use of tobacco products, obesity, asthma, diabetes prevalence, hypertension, and functional limitations); health care utilization (i.e., childhood vaccination coverage, use of prescription drugs, and unmet medical needs); health care resources (i.e., availability of dentists and use of long-term care facilities); and health care expenditures and payers.

Selected Findings

Mortality and natality

- In 2017, the average life expectancy at birth, a summary measure of population health, was 78.6 years, down from 78.9 in 2014.
- The birth rate among teenagers aged 15–19 years fell to 18.8 live births per 1,000 teens in 2017—a record low for the United States.
- From 2007 to 2017, the age-adjusted death rate for drug overdose deaths increased 82%, from 11.9 to 21.7 deaths per 100,000.
- The age-adjusted drug overdose death rate for females was 64% higher in 2017 than in 2007 (14.4 compared with 8.8 deaths per 100,000).

Drug overdose death rates among persons aged 15 years and over, by sex and age: United States, 2007–2017

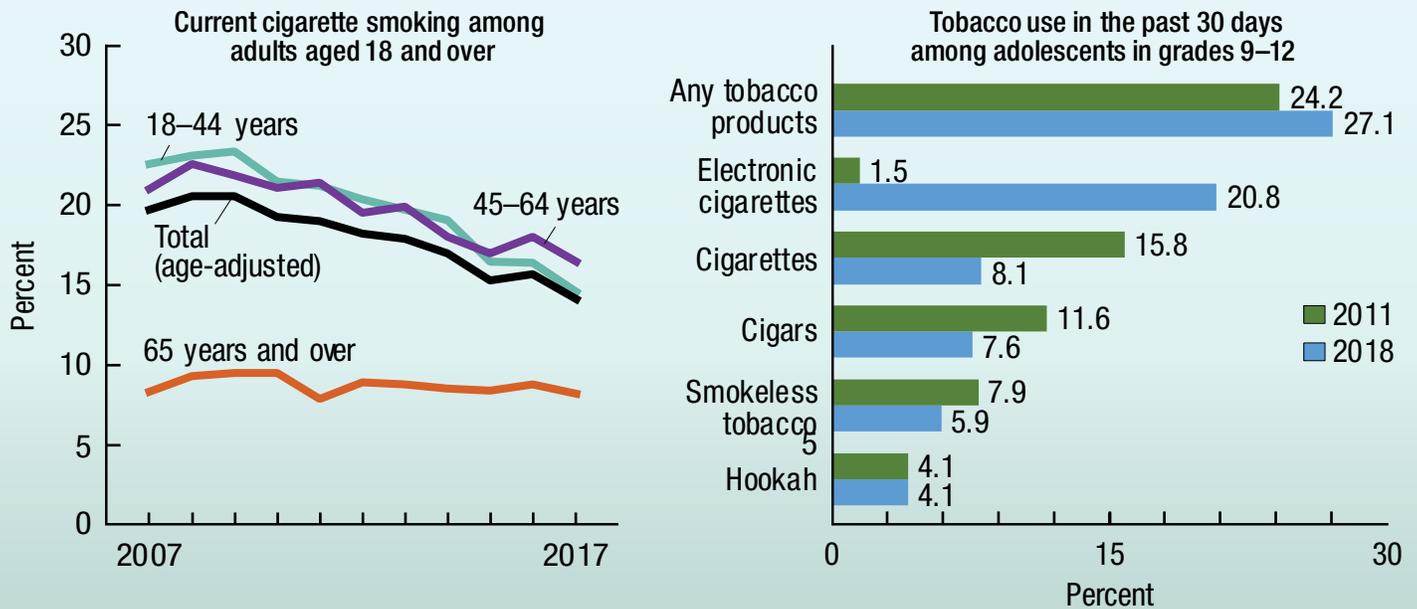


NOTES: Drug overdose deaths are identified using *International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision* (ICD-10) underlying cause of death codes X40–X44 (unintentional drug poisoning), X60–X64 (suicide by drug poisoning), X85 (homicide by drug poisoning) and Y10–Y14 (drug poisoning of undetermined intent). SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2007–2017.

Current cigarette smoking

- Cigarette smoking, a key health behavior, continues to decline. The age-adjusted percentage of adults aged 18 and over who smoked cigarettes decreased from 19.7% in 2007 to 14.1% in 2017.
- Among students in grades 9–12, use of any tobacco products in the past 30 days increased from 24.2% in 2011 to 27.1% in 2018. Electronic cigarettes were the most commonly used tobacco product in 2018; 20.8% of students had used electronic cigarettes in the past 30 days.

Cigarette smoking among adults aged 18 and over, by age, and tobacco use among adolescents in grades 9–12, by type of product: United States, 2007–2018

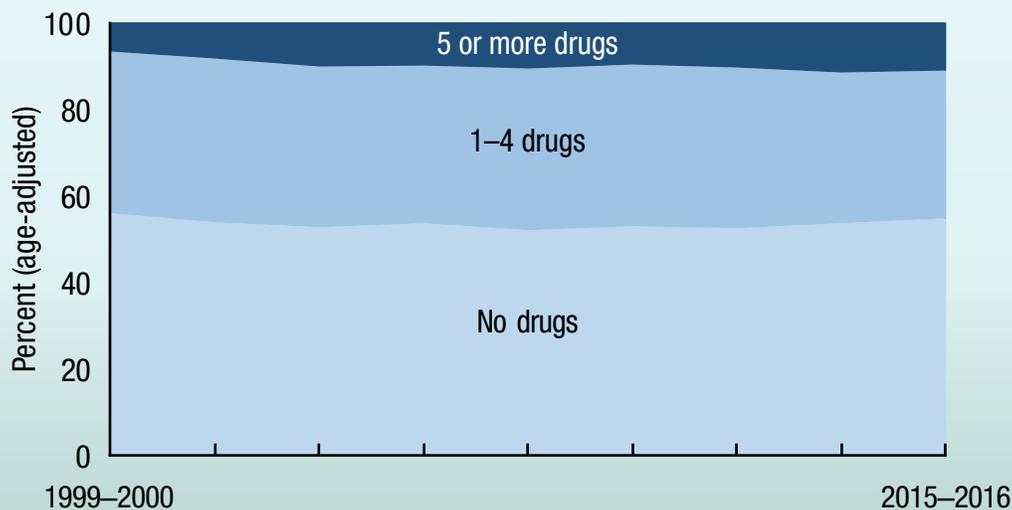


NOTES: Current cigarette smoking by adults is defined as smoking either every day or some days. Use of tobacco products by high school students in grades 9–12 is defined as having used the product on one or more days during the past 30 days.
 SOURCES: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey and CDC, National Youth Tobacco Survey.

Health care utilization

- The age-adjusted percentage of Americans taking 5 or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days increased from 6.5% in 1999–2000 to 10.0% in 2003–2004, and then remained stable through 2015–2016 (11.0%).
- The percentage of Americans taking 5 or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days increased with age. In 2015–2016, fewer than 1% of children under age 18 years took five or more prescription drugs, compared with 3.9% of adults aged 18–44, 19.1% of adults aged 45–64, and 39.8% of adults aged 65 and over.
- In 2017, 16.2% of adults living below 100% of the poverty level delayed or did not receive needed medical care due to cost compared with 5.1% of those living at or above 400% of the poverty level.

Prescription drug use in the past 30 days, by number of drugs taken and age: United States, 1999–2000 through 2015–2016



NOTE: Respondent-reported use of prescription drugs in the past 30 days.
 SOURCE: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999–2000 through 2015–2016.

Health care resources and expenditures

- In 2017, personal health care expenditures in the United States totaled almost \$3.0 trillion—a 3.8% increase from 2016.
- The percentage of uninsured adults aged 18–64 decreased from 19.6% in 2007 to 13.3% in 2018 (preliminary estimates).

