



Healthy Living Initiatives Trends in Tobacco Use

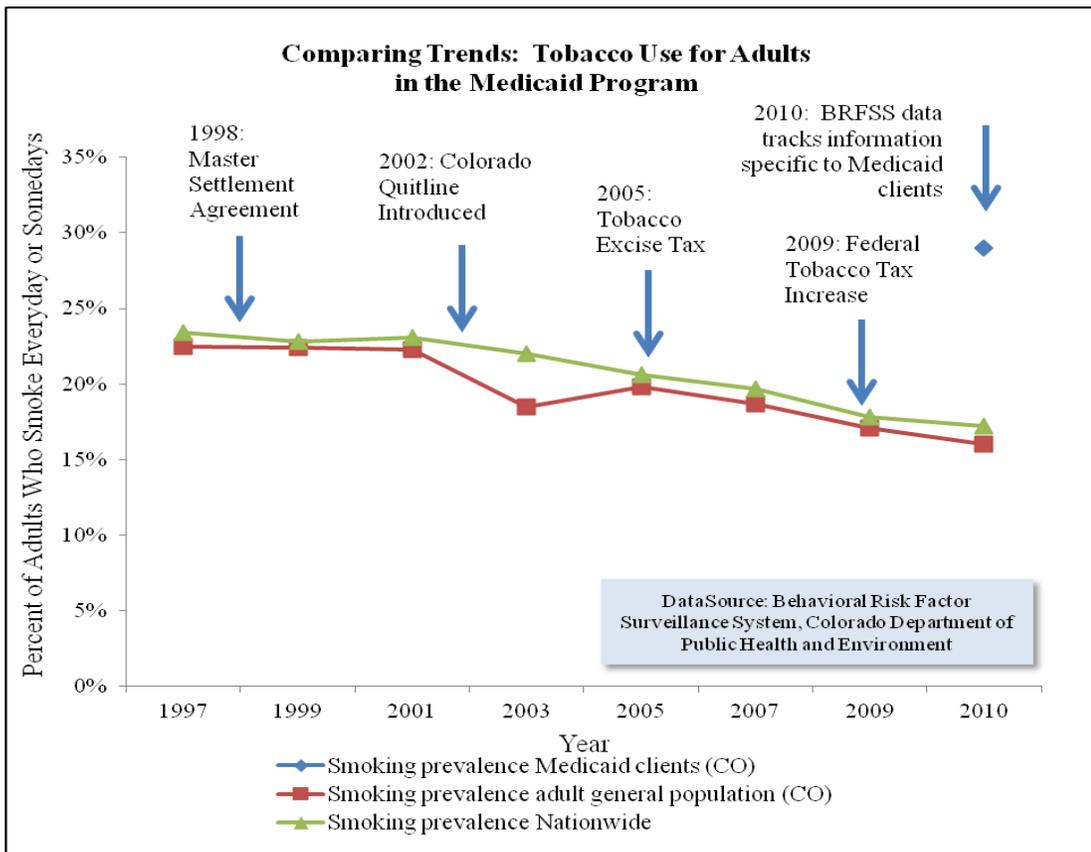
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The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is committed to improving the health of our clients and communities. This focus on healthy living extends from healthy development during infancy and childhood through the life span to healthy aging.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to compare trends in tobacco use in the Medicaid population to Colorado's general population and national averages. The graph below shows one of the **health disparities** that exists for low-income clients in the Medicaid program in Colorado. This data is from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS); as of 2010 BRFSS can identify people who report they are on Medicaid. As of this date, a baseline was established for the Medicaid population, which is why only a single data point is shown so far.

The graph below shows that Colorado's general population has a prevalence of tobacco use that is lower than the national average, and is continuing to decrease. For the Colorado Medicaid population, we now have data (from 2010) that shows the prevalence for tobacco use at far higher than the national average. As we collect and track this data over time, we will work with our clients, partners and stakeholders to decrease this trend.

The Medicaid program offers a comprehensive tobacco cessation benefit, including coverage of all FDA approved tobacco cessation products and medications for two quit attempts per year, as well as referrals to the Colorado QuitLine for coaching and support. Pregnant women are eligible for face-to-face tobacco cessation counseling throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period.



Visit the Healthy Living Web page at: colorado.gov/hcpf

- ⇒ Wellness messages for Medicaid clients
- ⇒ Tool kits for providers with information on billing and reimbursement
- ⇒ Metrics for tracking population health

Tobacco in Colorado:

- 28% of adults on Medicaid in Colorado report using tobacco every day or some days
- 16% of adults in Colorado report using tobacco every day or some days
- 17% of adults nationwide report using tobacco every day or some days

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Health Disparities: "A particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater social and/or economic obstacles to health and/or a clean environment based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion." Office of Minority Health, HHS



The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

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