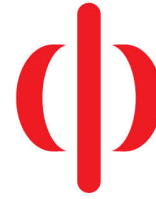


CHICAGO TOBACCO PREVENTION PROJECT



**RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
ASSOCIATION®**
of Metropolitan Chicago

Media Advisory

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Contact: Jamila Johnson
(312) 628-0225

CDC *Vital Signs* Report: National smoking rates won't reach 2020 health goal

**** Local leaders respond to share how Chicago's smoking rates measure up ****

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

WHAT: According CDC's *Vital Signs* report released today, nearly 1 in 5 (45.3 million) American adults smoke. The report indicates that from 2005 – 2010, the proportion of smokers declined from 20.9% to 19.3%, representing approximately 3 million fewer smokers.

If current trends continue, smoking prevalence is projected to fall to approximately 17% by 2020, and the national *Healthy People* objective to reduce smoking prevalence to less than 12% will not be met.

Of the estimated 19.3% of adults who are current cigarette smokers, 78.2% of them smoked every day, and 21.8% smoked some days.

Compared with other regions, smoking prevalence was highest in the Midwest, at 21.8%. Current smoking rates were higher among men (21.5%) than women (17.3%), and higher among adults living below the poverty level (28.9%) than among those at or above the poverty level (18.3%).

Local data indicates that tobacco use among adults in Chicago has declined from 23.9% in 1998 to 19.4% in 2009, a near 19% reduction.

COMMENT: "In *Healthy Chicago*, our new citywide public health agenda, we've outlined a comprehensive approach that targets vulnerable community groups known to smoke at higher-than-average rates. With this approach we are confident that we can reduce our city's adult smoking rate to 12% by 2020, making our city among the healthiest in the nation," says **Dr. Bechara Choucair, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health**.

"The strategies of the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project are based on effective interventions shown to drive down smoking rates and save lives," said **Joel Africk, president and CEO of Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago**. "A combination of smoke-free policies, cigarette tax increases, hard-hitting media and increased access and awareness of local resources available to help people quit smoking will help Chicagoans live healthier, smoke-free lives."

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About the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project: In partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago leads the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project. Funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control, the comprehensive program includes hard-hitting media, outreach to vulnerable population groups and policy efforts that reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. To learn more visit: www.lungchicago.org/ctpp.