



## Get the Facts about Tobacco Use in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Communities:

- The GLBT community is approximately 40-70% more likely to smoke than non-GLBT individuals.<sup>1</sup>
- Lesbians smoke approximately three times more than straight women.<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 38 - 50% of GLBT youth smoke compared to 28 - 35% of non-GLBT youth.<sup>2</sup>
- Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death in the United States causing heart disease, cancers, and strokes.<sup>3</sup>
- A 2006 study conducted among nine Designated AIDS Treatment Centers (DACs) and five adult day healthcare centers found that 59.4% of patients living with HIV/AIDS also smoked. That's almost THREE TIMES the rate of the general population!<sup>4</sup>
- More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined.<sup>5</sup>
- A recent study at the University of Minnesota showed that over 50 percent of the patients in a transgender health clinic who received hormone therapy were current or past smokers, and the rate of current smokers was almost double the rate in the general population.<sup>6</sup>
- Estrogen use in women who smoke has demonstrated a relationship to conditions such as pulmonary embolism, heart disease, stroke and adverse liver effects. It is likely that these effects are also present in transgender women.<sup>7</sup>
- In the mid-1990s, tobacco control professionals discovered documents that revealed the tobacco industries marketing campaign, Project SCUM (Sub Culture Urban Marketing). This campaign was an aggressive attempt to increase smoking and brand loyalty of homeless people and lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults in San Francisco's Castro district.<sup>8</sup>

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### References:

1. California Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Tobacco Use Study, 2004.
2. National Youth Advocacy Coalition (2005). FREE: Friends, for Real, Educating and Empowering.
3. American Legacy Foundation.
4. New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute. Light Up Your Life: A Leadership Forum on HIV and Smoking (2006).
5. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Tobacco Related Mortality Factsheet. [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/factsheets/Tobacco\\_Related\\_Mortality\\_factsheet.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/factsheets/Tobacco_Related_Mortality_factsheet.htm).
6. The National LGBT Communities Tobacco Action Plan: Research, Prevention, and Cessation, 2004.
7. Moore, E; Wisniewski, A. (2003). Endocrine Treatment of Transsexual People: A Review of Treatment Regimens, Outcomes and Adverse Effects. *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*. 88, 3467-3473.
8. Project SCUM, [www.projectscum.org](http://www.projectscum.org).