

Joseph G. L. Lee, MPH, CPH;¹ Leah M. Ranney, PhD;¹ Adam O. Goldstein, MD, MPH;¹ Jeff Crist, BS²

1. Tobacco Prevention and Evaluation Program, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA; 2. Covenant House, Charleston, West Virginia, USA

Introduction

West Virginia (WV) is home to approximately 37,600 lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) men and women.¹ Nationally, research shows higher risk of smoking among LGB individuals.^{2,3} Without local data in WV, we wanted to assess LGB tobacco use.

Methods

- Used community/venue-based sampling: LGB bars and WV Pride Parade/Festival.
- Selected bars in three cities for diversity and clientele (n=6).
- Collected surveys 10 p.m. - 1 a.m., before performances.
- Used handheld electronic survey devices (Figure 1, 2).
- Paper surveys used at community events, including volleyball tournament, movie night, and Pride Parade.
- 16 item survey.

Survey Implementation

- Trained community surveyors (n=10) on approach and avoidance of sampling bias.
- Recorded declines in electronic surveys.
- Participant incentives (rainbow lollipop or organic teabag).

Analysis

- Randomly checked 20% of paper surveys for data errors.
- Non LGB participants removed because not representative of heterosexuals in population.

88% response rate in bars (not collected with paper) (Table 1).

- Sixty-nine percent of survey participants male.
- Respondents young: 62% under age 40, 2% 60+.

Fig. 1: Bar survey teams (Charleston, Morgantown, Huntington)



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Results

Table 1: Survey participation

Survey Locations	n
Electronic surveys (including refusals)	
Bar, Charleston	57
Bars, Huntington (x3)	86
Bars, Morgantown (x2)	77
Paper Surveys (WV Pride Events)	384
Total collected	604
Refusals (documented for electronic mode only)	-26
Ineligible or missing data	-54
Self-reported straight	-138
Total usable surveys	386

Table 2: Smoking status by survey location

	LGB, bar sample (n=103)	LGB, festival sample (n=283)	LGB, overall (n=386)	WV General Population ⁴
Current tobacco user	57%	40%	45%	35% (2008 BRFSS)
Current smoker	51%	38%	41%	27% (2008 BRFSS)
Smokeless tobacco user	8%	2%	4%	6% (2006-2007 TUS-CPS)
Current cigar smoker	21%	7%	11%	3% (2006-2007 TUS-CPS)
Quit attempts in last year (current smokers)	46%	43%	44%	54% (2008 BRFSS)

Table 3: Smoking status by sexual identity

	Sexual Orientation				WV General Population ⁴	
	Lesbian (n=89)	Gay (n=245)	Bi. Woman (n=28)	Bi. Man (n=24)	Women	Men
Cigarettes	46%	38%	48%	46%	27% (2008 BRFSS)	26% (2008 BRFSS)
Cigar	12%	9%	27%	13%	0.5% (2006-2007 TUS-CPS)	5.0 (2006-2007 TUS-CPS)
Smokeless	3%	3%	4%	17%	0.3% (2006-2007 TUS-CPS)	12% (2006-2007 TUS-CPS)
Quit attempts in last year	33%	52%	42%	27%	55% (2008 BRFSS)	54% (2008 BRFSS)

Table 4: Dual use

	% using cigarettes	% using cigars	% using smokeless
Cigarette smokers	-	22%	6%
Cigar smokers	80%	-	16%
Smokeless users	60%	47%	-

Discussion/Recommendations

- LGB bar respondents have higher prevalence than Pride Festival.
- Smoking prevalence in bars >50%
- Risk for use high across each group. No comparison between groups because of sampling design.
- LGB cigar smokers and smokeless users report cigarette use.
 - Between 60% and 80% reporting dual use.
 - 47% of smokeless tobacco users also smoking cigars.

Take Home Findings

- National disparities in smoking for LGB populations likely in WV.
- Better population-based data needed.
- WV should consider sexual orientation question on BRFSS.
- Interventions at bars, clubs, and Pride Parade events would reach a population with a high prevalence of smoking.
- Further research needed on:
 - Dual use
 - Possible protective effect of gay identity on smokeless tobacco.

Fig. 2: Electronic survey instrument

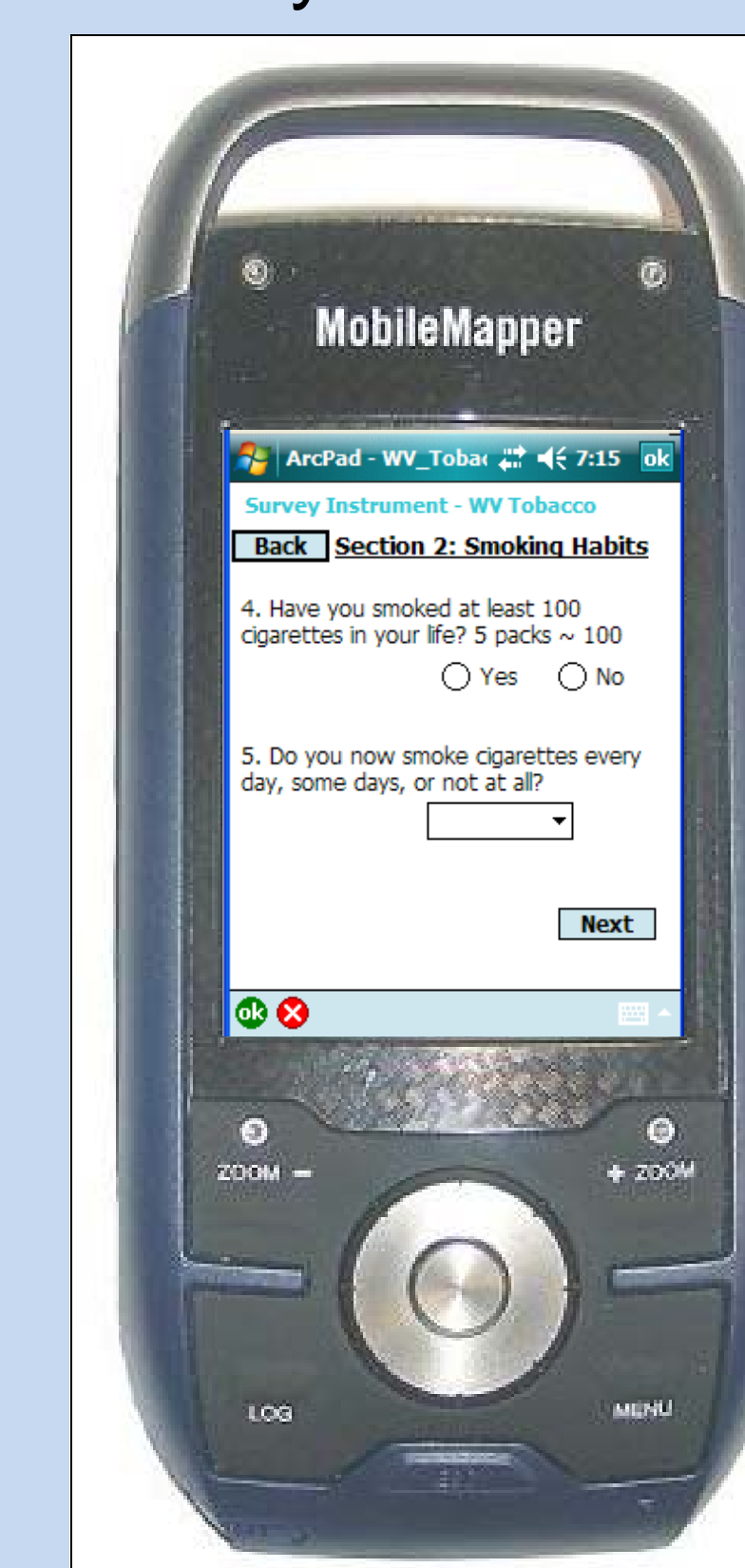


Fig. 3-4: Surveys collected along parade route



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