

Los Angeles Times | HEALTH

LOCAL NATION WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIVING TRAVEL OPINION MORE

Search GO

HEALTH HOME FOOD IMAGE TRAVEL AUTOS BOOKS HOT LIST BRAND X MAGAZINE YOUR SCENE



iRobot Scooba®
FLOOR WASHING ROBOT

The smarter way to get it done.
FREE SHIPPING +
30-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL

Booster Shots

ODDITIES, MUSINGS AND NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF HEALTH

« Previous Post | [Booster Shots Home](#) | Next Post »

Gays and lesbians more likely to smoke (by quite a bit), study shows

July 24, 2009 | 9:59 am



Among homosexuals: 37% of women smoke; 33% of men smoke.

Among heterosexuals: 18% of women smoke; 24% of men smoke

These figures come from researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Published in the August issue of Tobacco Control, they're based on a review of 42 studies about tobacco use among sexual minorities. (The heterosexual numbers are from the

National Health Interview Survey.)

It's not that the finding that gays and lesbians are more likely to smoke is new. According to the [summary](#) of an earlier report from the CDC, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in 2001:

Estimated smoking rates for lesbians, gays, and bisexuals ranged from 38% to 59% among youth and from 11% to 50% among adults. National smoking rates during comparable periods ranged from 28% to 35% for adolescents and were approximately 28% for adults.

But the new research helps call additional attention to, and further quantify, a serious, and well-known, health risk within the gay and lesbian community.

Said lead author Joseph Lee, a social research specialist, in the [news release](#): "Likely explanations include the success of tobacco industry's targeted marketing to gays and lesbians, as well as time spent in smoky social venues and stress from discrimination."

So what to do?

Lee says: "Many gay and lesbian organizations are starting to reject addictive funding from the tobacco industry, and the community is organizing itself to address this health inequality through the National LGBT Tobacco Control Network."

And the earlier study concluded: "Attempts should be made to target prevention and cessation interventions to lesbians, gays, and bisexuals."

No doubt. But before anyone goes suggesting an anti-smoking campaign targeting gays and lesbians specifically, take a read of this [column in Slate](#) by [Steven E. Landsburg](#), which begins:

I've just learned from NPR's All Things Considered that in California, gay men and lesbians are 70 percent more likely to smoke than the general population. In a sterling example of why I try

Stay connected:

RSS twitter facebook

advertisement



About the Bloggers

Tami Dennis
Melissa Healy
Karen Kaplan
Thomas H. Maugh II
Rosie Mestel
Shari Roan
Jeannine Stein

Recent Posts

August 20, 2009 at 6:01 am | The new data on U.S. life expectancy -- and what can be made of it »

August 19, 2009 at 5:43 pm | Sensitivity to social rejection and physical pain linked by a common gene »

August 19, 2009 at 4:53 pm | What's on the menu? A dispute about menu labeling »

August 19, 2009 at 4:37 pm | A roundup of health news from other L.A. Times blogs »

August 19, 2009 at 2:00 pm | Let them take heroin, study says »

Recent Comments

RE: Let them take heroin, study says | comment by JS

RE: Let them take heroin, study says | comment

not to listen to too much NPR, reporter Sarah Varney immediately segued into the perceived need for more anti-smoking ads targeted specifically at gays. In other words, Varney implicitly assumes that gays are either too stupid to have gotten the message that smoking is bad for you or too irrational to have modified their behavior accordingly.


The new research isn't fully available yet, but Tobacco Control does offer a look at the bold new world of cigarette marketing on the Web, courtesy of a new study from Australian researchers.

The conclusions of that study: "Open source marketing has the potential to exploit advertising ban loopholes and stretch legal definitions in order to generate positive word of mouth about tobacco products. There are also lessons in the open source marketing movement for more effective tobacco control measures including interactive social marketing campaigns and requiring plain packaging of tobacco products."

-- Tami Dennis

Photo: European Pressphoto Agency

More in: [smoking](#)

-  [Permalink](#)
-  [Comments \(4\)](#)
-  [Share This](#)

Verify your Comment

Previewing your Comment

Posted by: |

This is only a preview. Your comment has not yet been posted.

Your comment could not be posted. Error type:
Your comment has been saved. Comments are moderated and will not appear until approved by the author. Post another comment

The letters and numbers you entered did not match the image. Please try again.

As a final step before posting your comment, enter the letters and numbers you see in the image below. This prevents automated programs from posting comments.

Having trouble reading this image? View an alternate.

Post a comment

If you are under 13 years of age you may read this message board, but you may not participate. Here are the full legal terms you agree to by using this comment form.

Comments are moderated, and will not appear until they've been approved.

If you have a TypeKey or TypePad account, please Sign In

Name:

E-mail Address:

URL:

Remember personal info?

Comments:

by 123xyz

RE: Let them take heroin, study says | comment by bjd02001

RE: Is HPV vaccine worth it? Researchers weigh in; you may have to decide | comment by SSA

RE: Is HPV vaccine worth it? Researchers weigh in; you may have to decide | comment by anti-vax

RE: Let them take heroin, study says | comment by Z

Categories

addiction adhd adoption aging aids alcohol allergies alzheimer's disease antibiotics arthritis asthma autism beauty **behavior** bicycling blood disorders body image books breastfeeding

cancer children cognition colonoscopy complementary and alternative medicine contraception cosmetic surgery cpr dance dental care depression diabetes dieting disaster preparedness disease drowning drug use eating disorders editor's picks elderly emergency care end-of-life fertility film

fitness flu food and drink food safety fruit genetics hair loss headaches health insurance **healthcare** hearing heart disease history hormones hospitals hygiene illness infections infertility injuries kidney disease l.a. stories latino health learning live chat lupus malaria medicare **medicine** men's health menopause mental

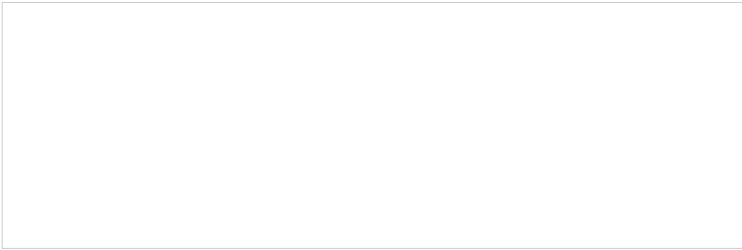
health mental illness music **nutrition**

obesity odor organ donation osteoporosis pain paralysis parenting plastic surgery policy politics & health pollution pregnancy prematurity prescriptions prostate cancer **psychology** ptsd relationships religion research rodent safety schizophrenia science septicemia sex sick leave sickle cell disease sids skin cancer sleep **smoking** sports stds stem cells steroids stress stroke sunscreen supplements surgery swine flu television travel vaccination violence vision web/tech **weight loss** workplace yoga

Archives

All L.A. Times Blogs

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| All The Rage | American Idol Tracker |
| Angels Unplugged | Babylon & Beyond |
| Big Picture | Booster Shots |
| California Consumer | Comments Blog |
| Company Town | Culture Monster |
| Daily Dish | Daily Mirror |
| Daily Travel & Deal Blog | Dish Rag |
| Dodger Thoughts | Fabulous Forum |
| Gold Derby | Greenspace |
| Hero Complex | Homicide Report |
| Jacket Copy | L.A. at Home |
| L.A. Land | L.A. Now |
| L.A. Unleashed | La Plaza |



- Lakers
- Movable Buffet
- Outposts
- Readers' Representative Journal
- Ticket to Vancouver
- Up to Speed
- Money & Co.
- Opinion L.A.
- Pop & Hiss
- Show Tracker
- Technology
- Top of the Ticket
- Varsity Times Insider

Preview Post

Comments

Wow it's amazing what you discover on the internet, quite a lot of my lesbian friends smoke :)

Posted by: Glasgow Lesbian | July 25, 2009 at 07:45 AM

The article is now available on Tobacco Control's web site, and, as the "editor's choice" for the month, it is available free to the public -- no university account required.

See: <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/>

We don't need more ads, though ads help; instead we need states to collect data on sexual orientation in their routine health surveys so we can track progress (or lack thereof) in addressing disparities like these. Thanks for your coverage. Joseph Lee

Posted by: Joseph Lee | July 25, 2009 at 09:36 AM

hmmm....
obama smokes.
hmmm....

Posted by: alex | July 25, 2009 at 11:32 AM

How about the Tabacco companies help move sexual orientation non-discrimination and relationship recognition legislation through some of the tobacco states? NC? VA? KY?

Posted by: Chris | July 28, 2009 at 11:22 PM



News

- Local
- Nation
- World
- Business
- Technology
- Sports
- Opinion
- Columnists

Entertainment

- Television
- Movies
- Music
- Arts & Culture
- Celebrity
- The Envelope
- Calendar
- Company Town
- TV Listings
- Movie listings

Living

- Travel
- Health
- Food
- Home
- Image
- Magazine
- Books
- Autos
- Hot List
- Horoscopes

Multimedia

- Video
- Photos
- Data Desk
- Your Scene
- Times on Twitter
- RSS
- Newsletters
- Kindle
- E-edition

Top Blogs

- L. A. Now
- Dish Rag
- Hero Complex
- Top of the Ticket
- Lakers Blog
- Pop and Hiss
- Show Tracker
- Travel & Deals
- Gold Derby
- Booster Shots

About

- Corrections
- Readers' Rep
- Print Edition
- Contact Us
- About Us
- Place an Ad
- Subscribe
- Site Map

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

[Baltimore Sun](#) | [Chicago Tribune](#) | [Daily Press](#) | [Hartford Courant](#) | [LA Times](#) | [Orlando Sentinel](#) | [Sun Sentinel](#) | [The Morning Call](#) | [The Virginia Gazette](#)

Los Angeles Times, 202 West 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012

A Tribune Web site