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July 24, 2009

## Gays Disproportionately Light Up

By Amita Parashar

Nearly 40% of gay women smoke, compared to 18% of their heterosexual counterparts, according to new figures from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The findings, published in the August issue of the journal *Tobacco Control*, reviewed 42 studies of tobacco use among LGBT people conducted between 1987 and 2007. The study also found that 33% of gay men smoke compared to 24% of straight men.

Lead author Joseph Lee attributed the difference to the success of the tobacco industry's LGBT-targeted marketing as well as "time spent in smoky social venues and stress from discrimination."

The paper calls for further study into LGBT health and interventions addressing smoking among sexual minorities, such as the National LGBT Tobacco Control Network, which works to counter tobacco marketing and addiction.



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**Name:** Sam

Date posted: 2009-07-27 12:38 PM

Hometown: Denver, CO

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Man, I hope this trend turns around. I hate kissing guys who smoke. They taste like ashtrays. Blech. You'd think with the emphasis on health in the gay community, fewer of us would smoke than straights. At the very least, given our obsession with good looks, we'd want to keep our teeth white and our breath smelling fresh. Oh well.

**Name:** spikewebbe

Date posted: 2009-07-27 12:38 PM

Hometown: boston, ma

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PJR is a useless loud mouth troll hiding behind his computer like a loser. He'll get bored soon