Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the United States and Nebraska. Approximately 16 million Americans live with a disease caused by tobacco use. Tobacco-related disease will take the lives of 480,000 Americans (and 2,500 Nebraskans) this year. Of the many varieties of tobacco products, cigarettes remain the most commonly used form of tobacco nationally and in Nebraska.\(^1\) Despite declines in recent decades, the adult smoking rate in Nebraska (2016) is 17.0% according to the Nebraska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).\(^2\) Based on current population estimates, 243,800 adults in Nebraska regularly smoke cigarettes.

The map above shows the smoking prevalence for each of Nebraska’s Health Districts. Cigarette smoking rates vary regionally from a low of 12.4% in the Central District to a high of 24.1% in the Southeast District.

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2—Nebraska BRFSS, 2016