

Dental Visits as Opportunities for Smoking Cessation Messages

**Lynne Kotranski, PhD and Diana Levengood, BA
Philadelphia Health Management Corporation**

**Presentation to the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting.
Washington, D.C. November, 2004.**



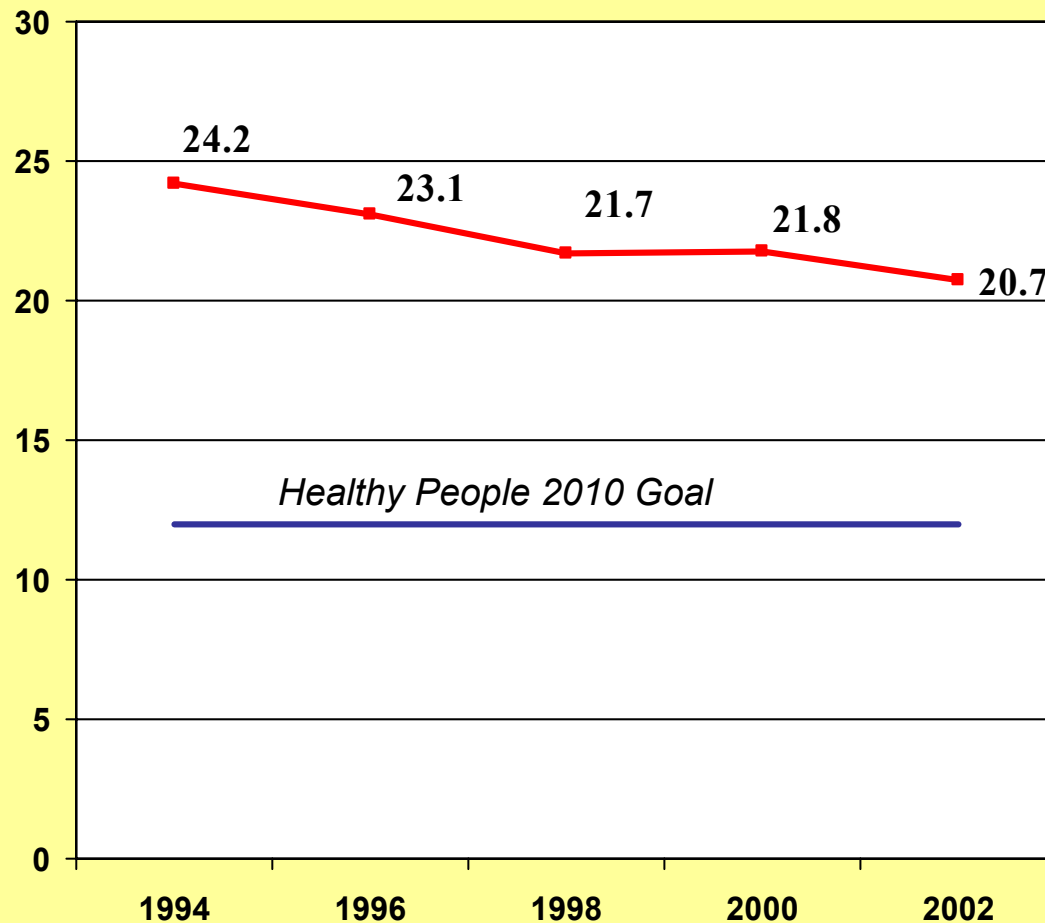
Household Health Survey Methodology

- ◆ Includes more than 10,000 households in Southeastern Pennsylvania (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties)
- ◆ Interviews are conducted by telephone using Random Digit Dial
- ◆ Adult & child respondents selected using last birthday method
- ◆ Interviews about selected child conducted with child proxy
- ◆ Oversample of persons 60+ and 75+
- ◆ Oversample of Asian population
- ◆ Interviews conducted in English & Spanish



Smoking Prevalence in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Figure 1: Smoking Status of Adults in SEPA, 1994-2002.



- Since 1994, the percent of smokers in the region has decreased.

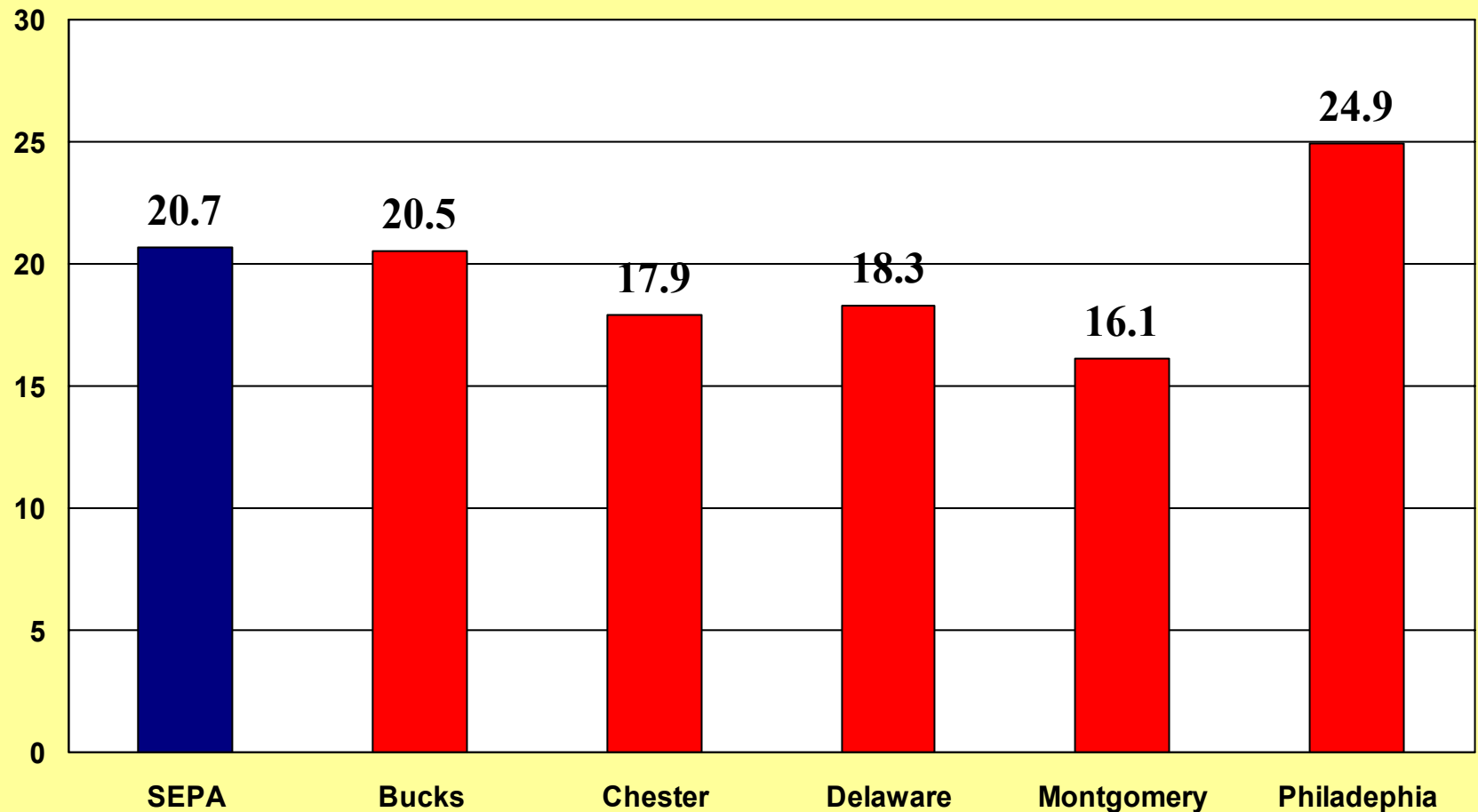
- However, 20.7% of adults still smoke cigarettes.

- In SEPA, 28.5% of homes contain a smoker and 34.4% of children are exposed to smoke in the household.

- The Healthy People 2010 goal is to lower the percent of smokers in the nation to 12%.

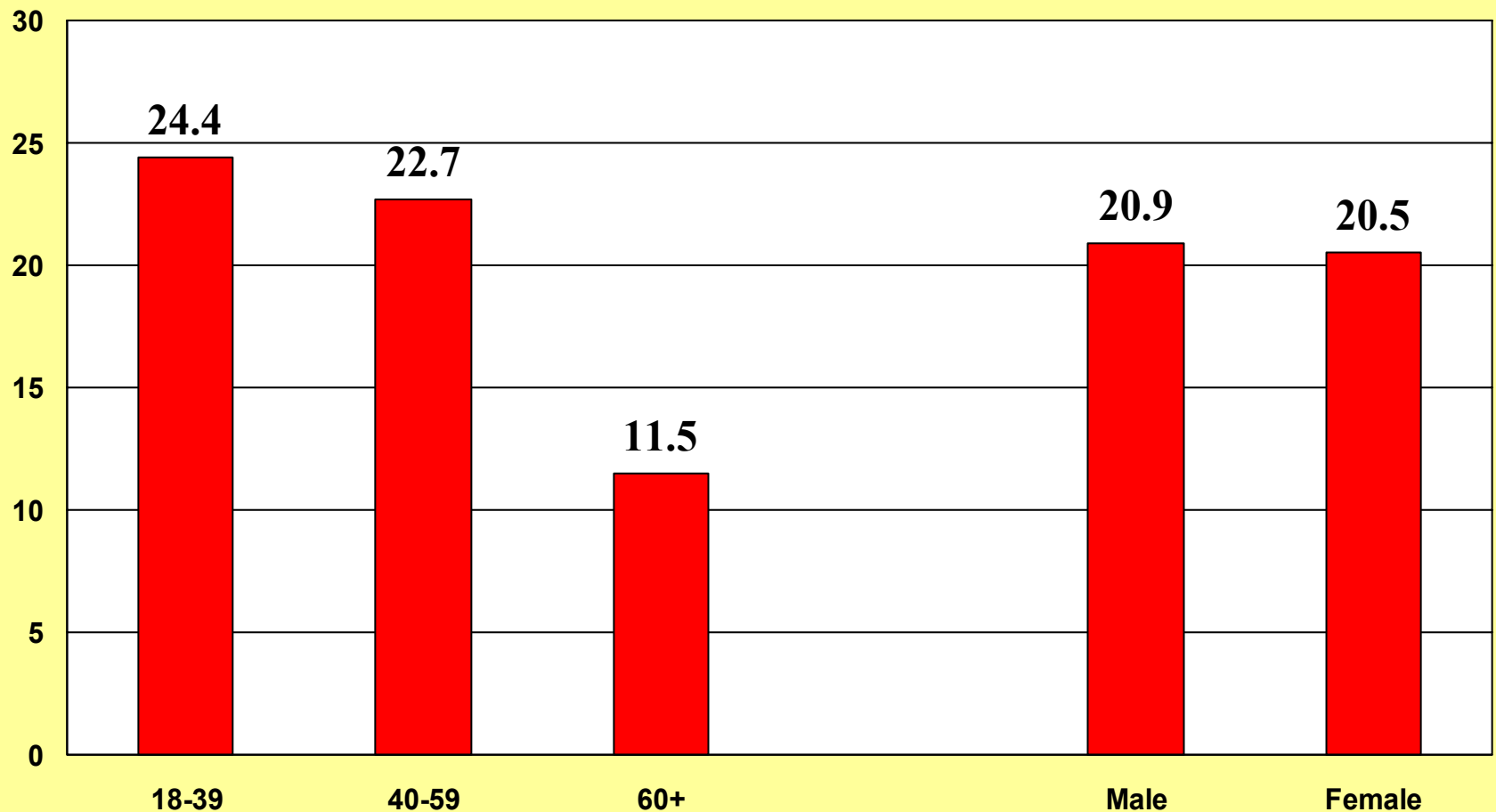
Smoking Prevalence in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Figure 2: Percent of Adults in SEPA Who Smoke Cigarettes by County, 2002.



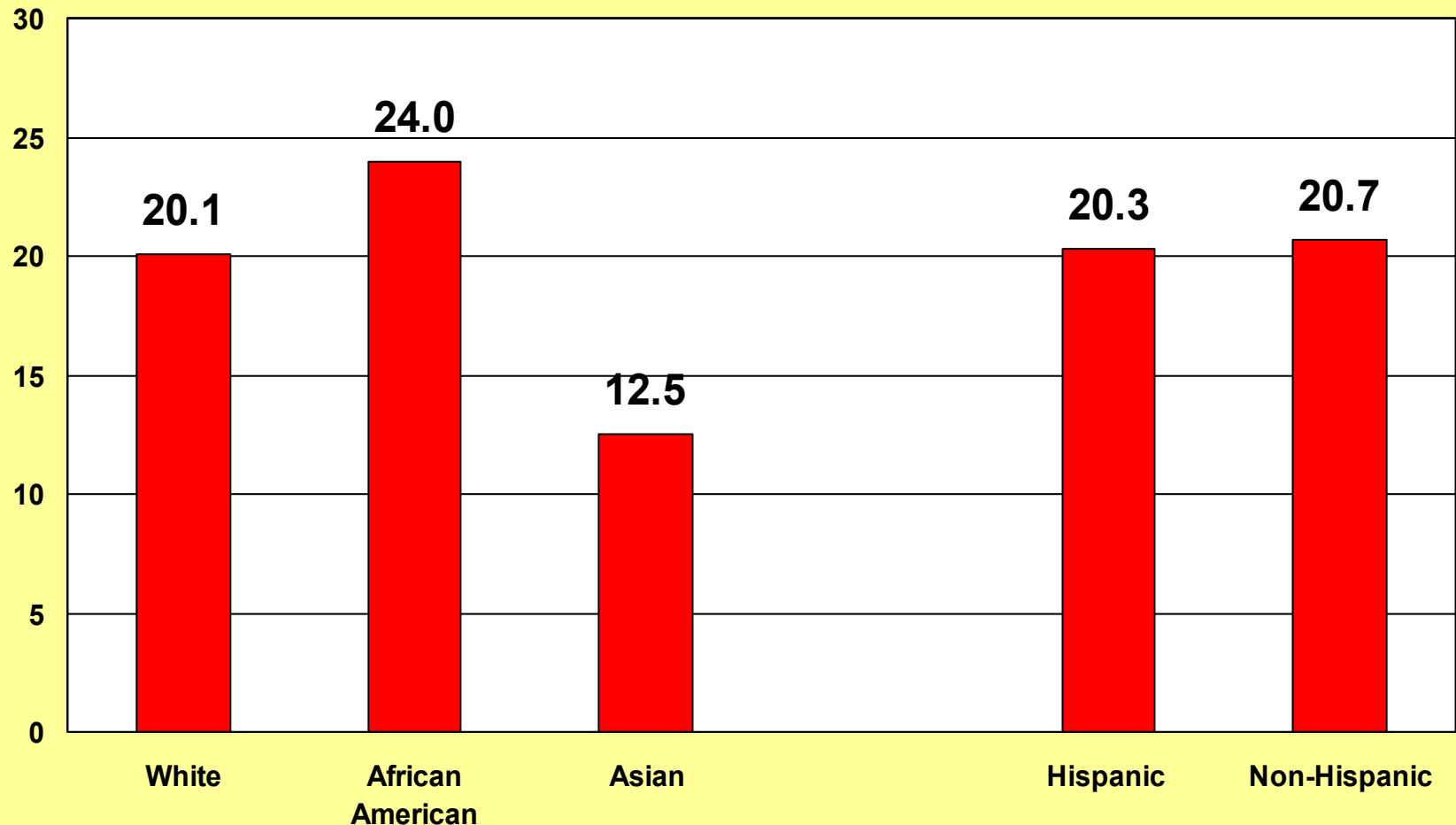
Smoking Prevalence in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Figure 3: Percent of Adults in SEPA Who Smoke Cigarettes by Age and Gender, 2002.



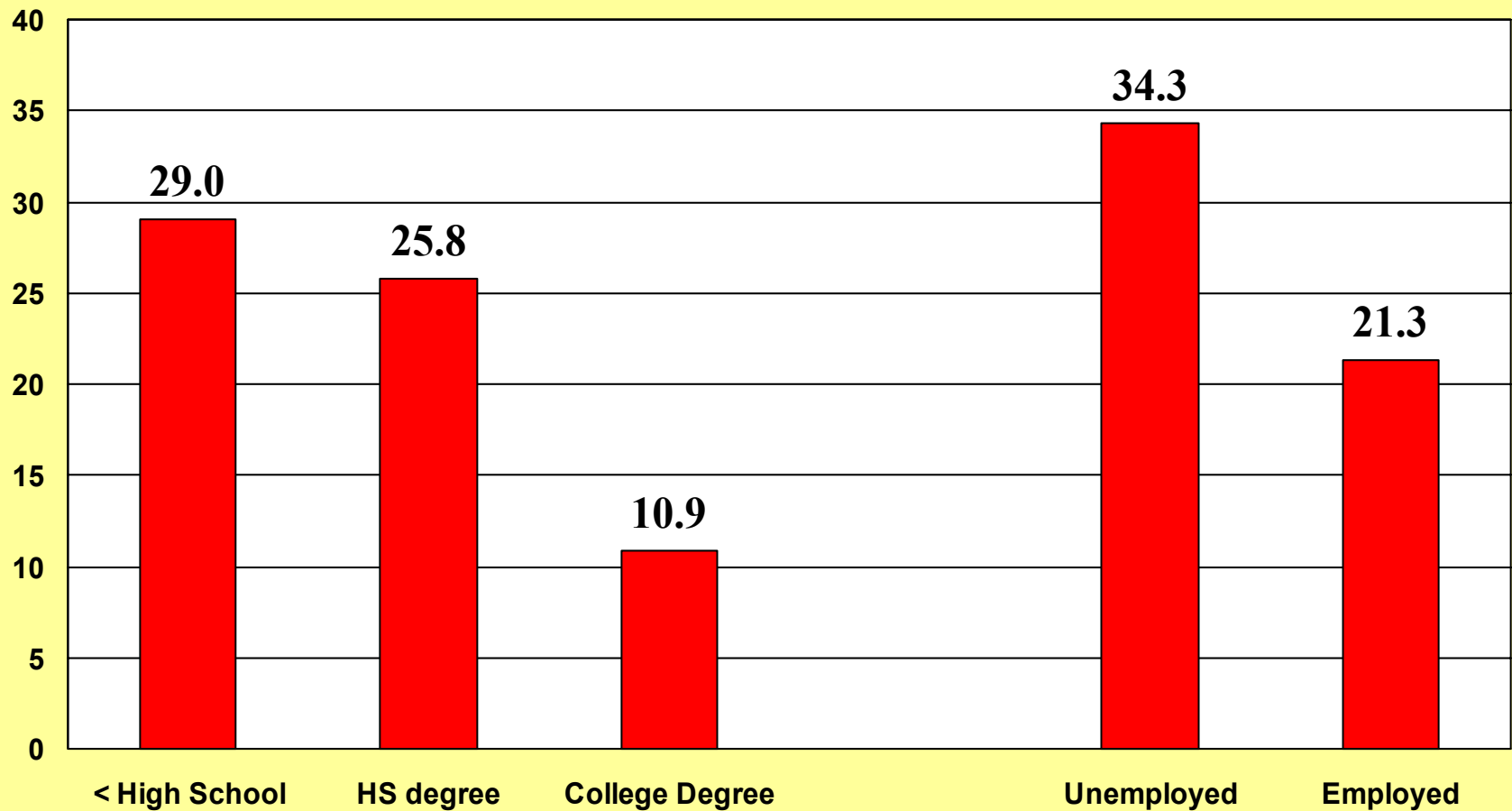
Smoking Prevalence in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Figure 4: Percent of Adults in SEPA Who Smoke Cigarettes by Race and Ethnicity, 2002.



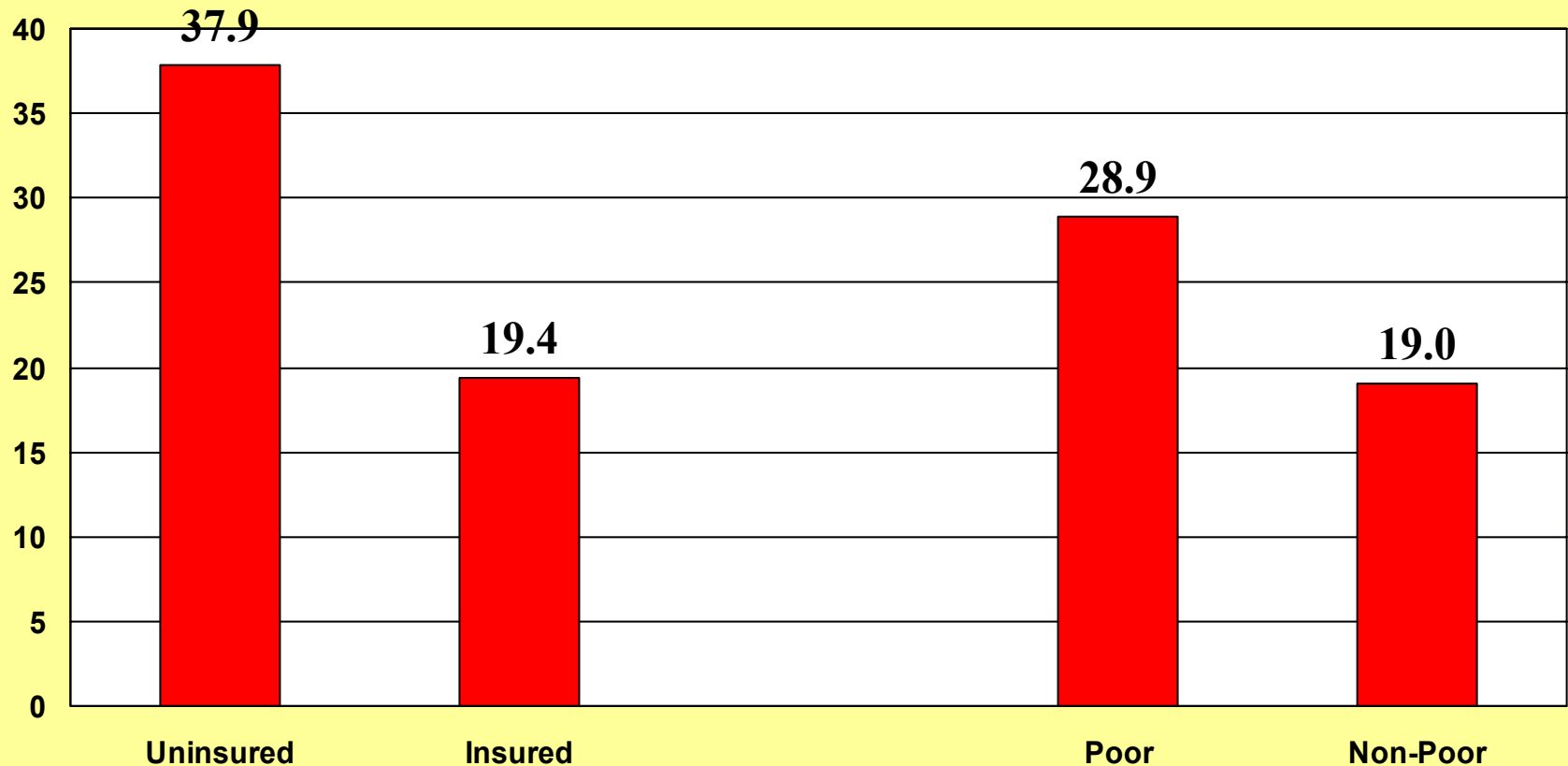
Smoking Prevalence in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Figure 5: Percent of Adults in SEPA Who Smoke Cigarettes by Education and Employment, 2002.



Smoking Prevalence in Southeastern Pennsylvania

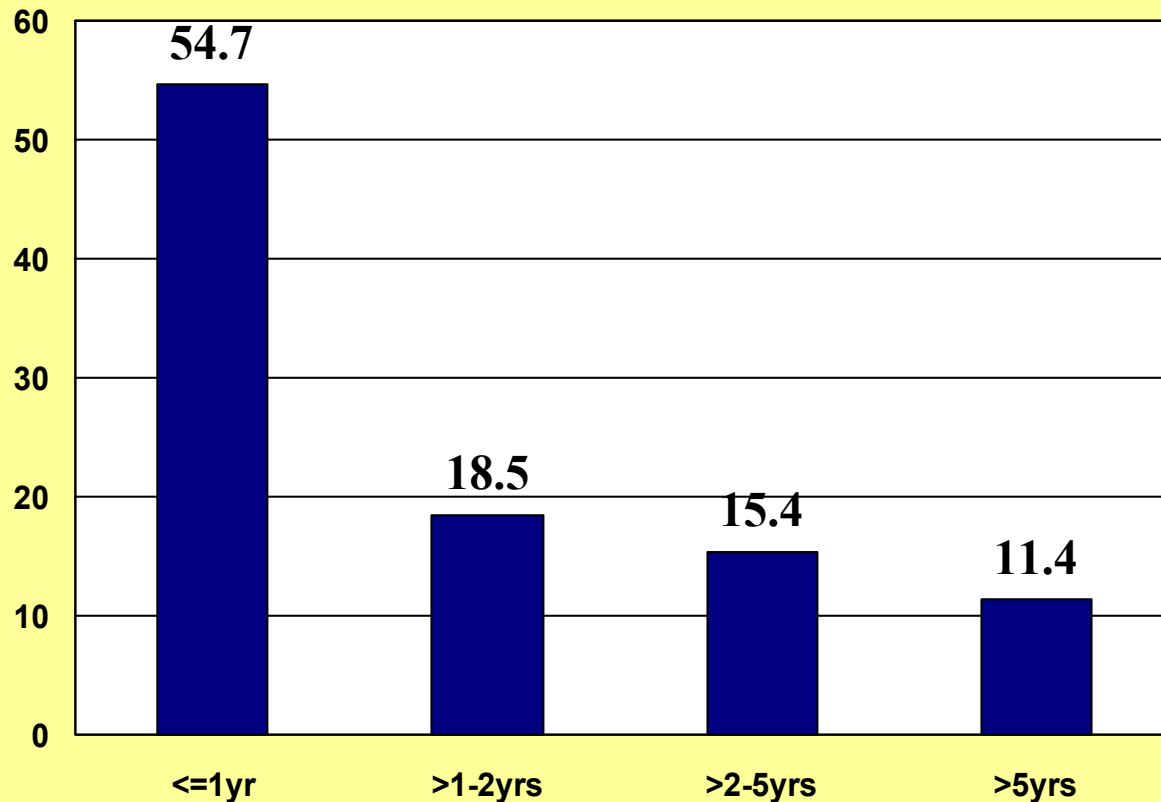
Figure 6: Percent of Adults in SEPA Who Smoke Cigarettes by Insurance Status and Poverty*, 2002.



* Poor is defined as below 150% of the federal poverty level

Dental Care Utilization Among Smokers in SEPA

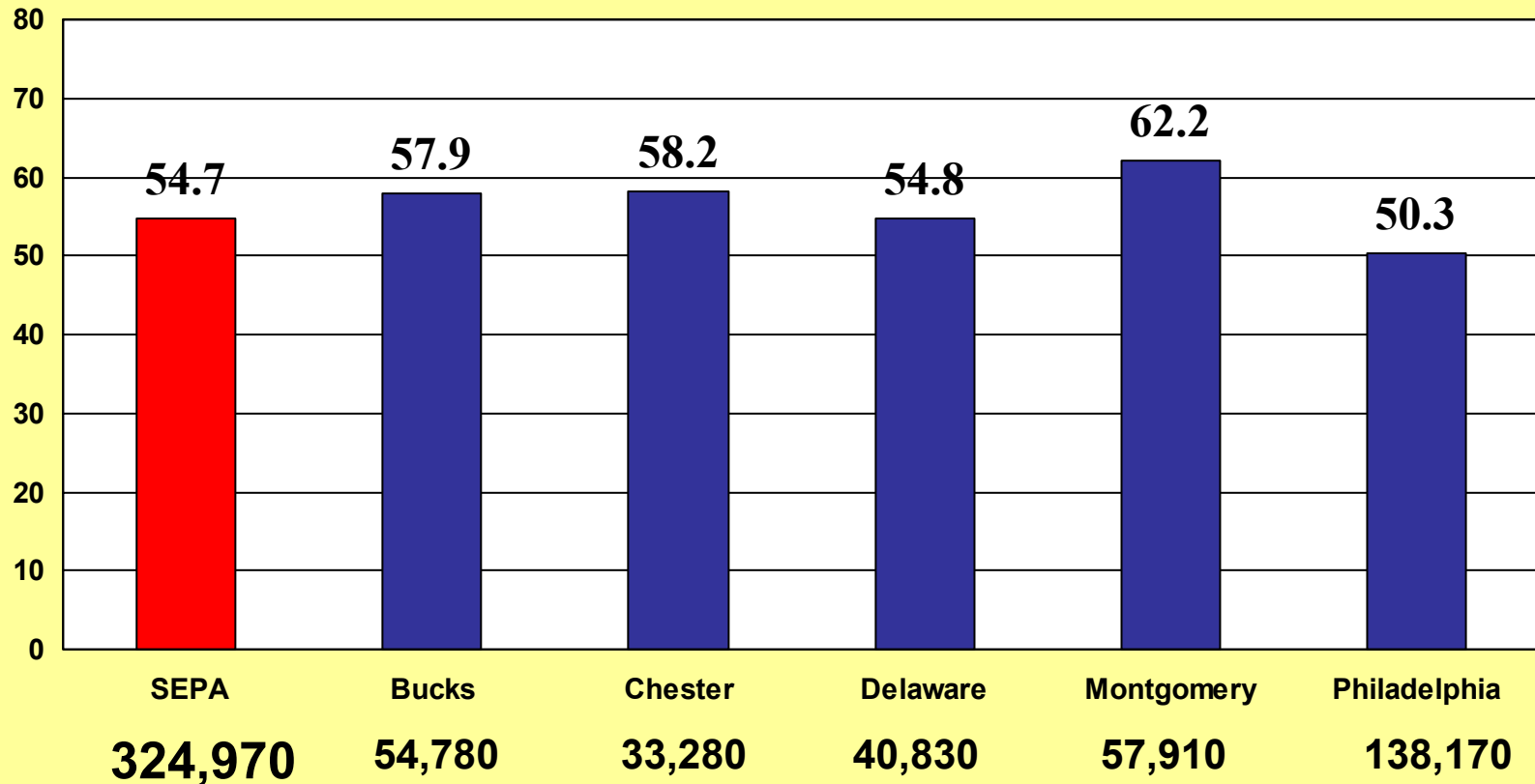
Figure 7: Time Since Last Dental Visit Among Smokers in SEPA, 2002.



- Nearly 55% smokers in the region have been to the dentist in the past year.
- Three out of four smokers have been to the dentist within the past 2 years (73.2%)
- This represents nearly 325,000 adults who could have been reached by smoking cessation messages during dental visits within the past year alone.

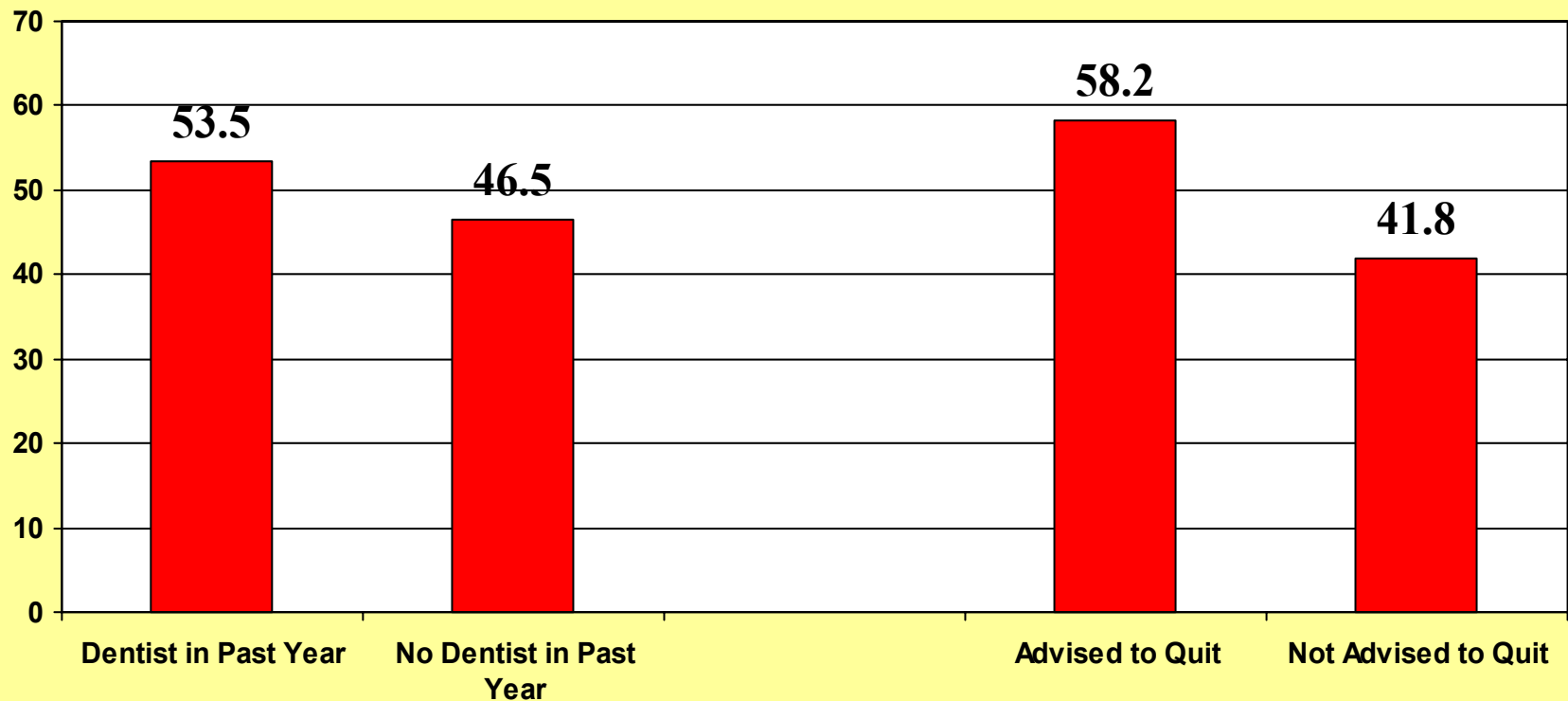
Dental Care Utilization Among Smokers in SEPA

Figure 8: Number and Percent of Smokers in SEPA Who Have Been to the Dentist in the Past Year by County, 2002.



Opportunities for Smoking Cessation Messages

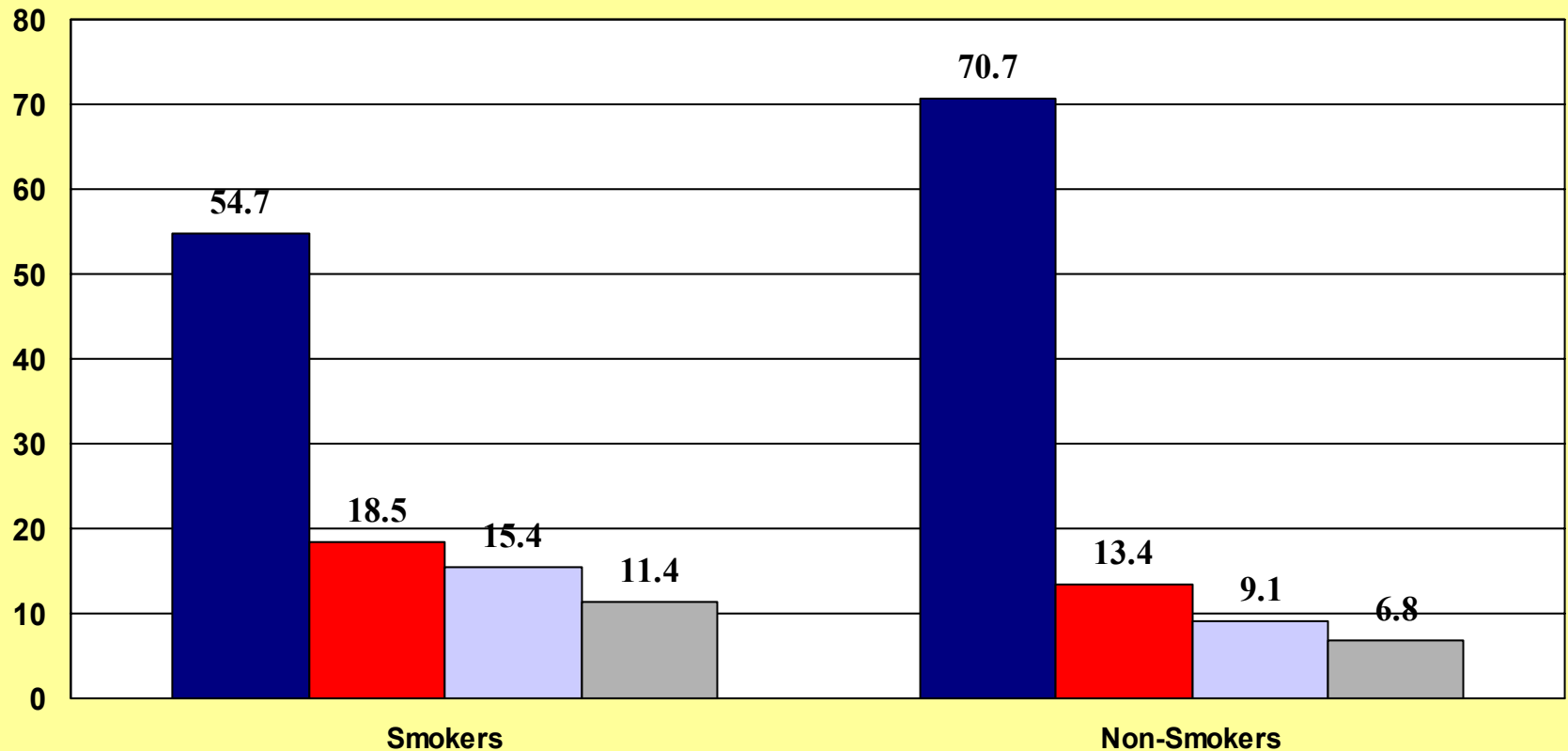
Figure 9: Percent of Smokers Who Have Tried to Quit* in the Past Year by Dental Visits and Advice to Quit Smoking, 2002.



*Note: This does not include the number of adults who actually quit smoking, only the number who have tried, but still currently smoke.

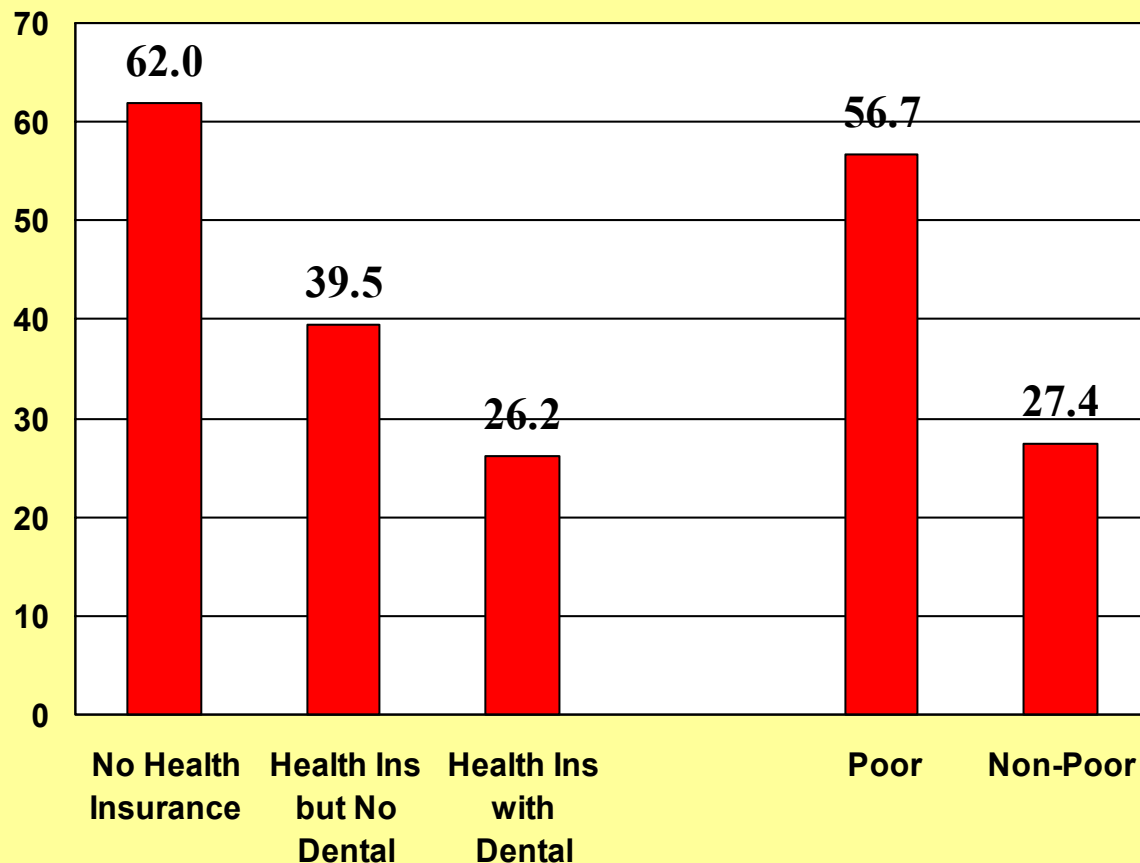
Barriers to Dental Care Among Smokers in SEPA

Figure 8: Time Since Last Dental Visit Among Smokers and Non-Smokers in SEPA, 2002.



Barriers to Dental Care Among Smokers in SEPA

Figure 10: Percent of Smokers in SEPA Who Have Not Been to the Dentist in the Past Year by Poverty and Insurance Status, 2002.



- The uninsured and the poor are more likely to smoke cigarettes (figure 6). Unfortunately, they are also less likely to utilize dental care.
- As a result, a large and at-risk population of smokers can not be reached for smoking cessation messages during dental visits.

Summary and Conclusions

- In SEPA, 55% of smokers visited their dentist in the past year – this represents 325,000 smokers in the region.
- Within the past two years, three out of four smokers in the region have visited a dentist and could have received smoking cessation messages.
- Smokers who have been advised by a doctor to quit smoking in the past year are more likely to have tried to quit.
- However, 43.9% of smokers who visited the dentist in the past year report that they were **NOT ADVISED TO QUIT SMOKING** by any dentist or doctor in the past year. This projects to 142,230 smokers in the region who could have been advised by their doctor or their dentist to quit smoking, but were not.
- Although not all smokers visit the dentist regularly, providing smoking cessation messages through dental care providers is an important step in raising awareness and helping smokers quit.

*Note: This does not include the number of adults who actually quit smoking, only the number who have tried, but still currently smoke.

For More Information Please Contact:

**Philadelphia Health Management Corporation
Community Health Data Base**