Use of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products: 
CY 2015 OMS Results

The recent proliferation of other tobacco products has resulted in the need to examine not only cigarette smoking, but other tobacco product use as well. In January 2015, a new item was introduced into the Outcomes Measurement System (OMS) regarding the use of other tobacco products including cigars, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and pipes. This Data Short examines the Calendar Year 2015 (CY 2015) results for the cigarette smoking and other tobacco use items for Adults and Children and Adolescents (C&A, ages 11 to 17). The analysis includes those in Mental Health (MH) Services, Substance Related Disorder (SRD) Services, and those with an OMS interview in BOTH service types.

The first graph shows the percentages of Adults and C&A who use various tobacco products for everyone in MH and SRD populations with an OMS interview in 2015. Cigarettes remain the most often used form of tobacco, with 44.7% of adults and 5.6% of C&A using them. For the Adult and C&A groups, electronic cigarettes are the second most often reported form of tobacco use, followed by cigars.

The second graph examines tobacco utilization in four categories—cigarettes only, cigarettes and other tobacco products, any other tobacco products only, or no tobacco use at all. This graph compares utilization across those in MH services, those in SRD services, and those in BOTH types of services in 2015. The analysis is also broken down for the Adult and C&A groups.

The largest percentage of adult respondents who report using any type of tobacco product (cigarettes only, cigarettes and others, or other products only) are those who receive BOTH service types (MH and SRD), followed closely by those receiving SRD services. While cigarettes remain by far the most frequently used tobacco product for these service groups, they also had the highest percentage of other tobacco product use. The percentage of all those who smoke cigarettes (either cigarettes only or cigarettes and other) is 70% for the group in BOTH types of services, 68% for those in SRD services, and only 42% of those in MH services. Similarly, the percentage of all those using other tobacco products (other only or cigarettes and other) is 19% for those in BOTH types of services, 20% for those in SRD services, and 11% for those in MH services.

For the C&A respondents, the patterns are very similar to the Adults, though the percentages of those using tobacco are much lower. Of those in BOTH types of services, 36% smoke cigarettes, compared with 33% in only SRD services and just 5% in only MH services. The use of other tobacco products for those in BOTH types of services (19%) and those in SRD services only (21%) is identical to the adult percentages in these groups. In contrast, only 3% of those in the MH group use other tobacco products.

The use of cigarettes and other forms of tobacco, a general public health concern, is higher among people in behavioral health treatment and is especially high in the SRD population. For behavioral health service providers, these results stress the importance of addressing all tobacco use, not just cigarette smoking, with those they are treating. Special attention may be needed by children and adolescents in SRD treatment.