



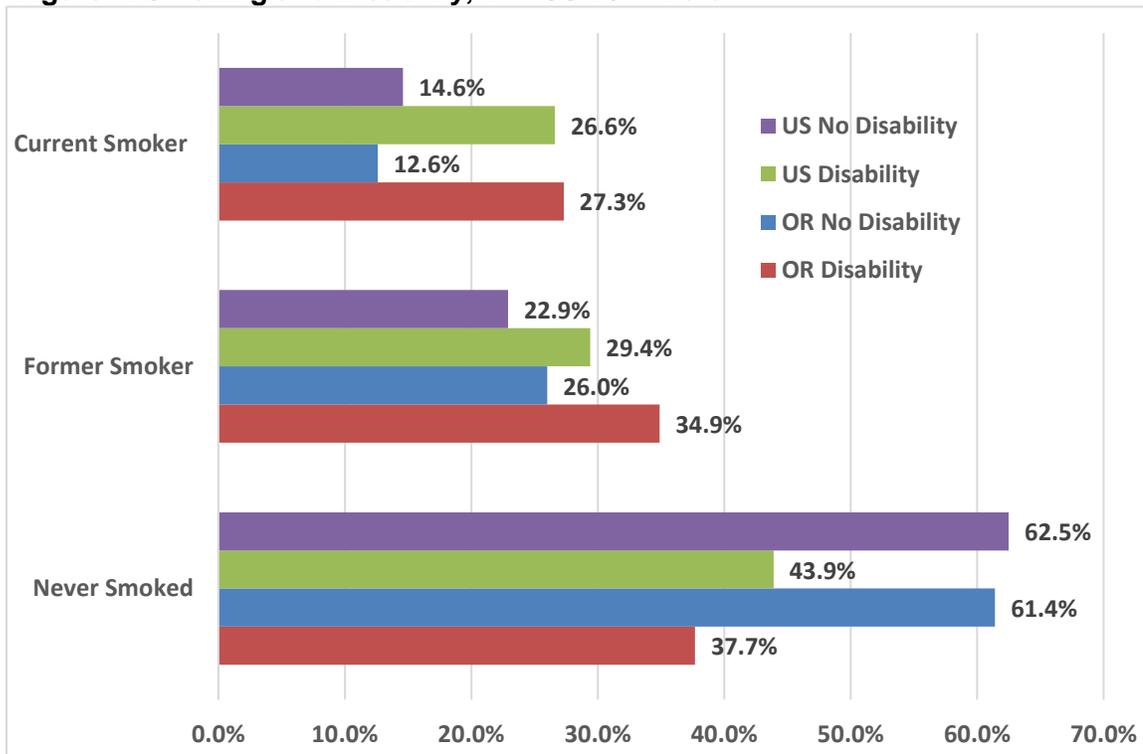
# Tobacco Use among Oregonians with Disabilities

## Oregon Office on Disability and Health

Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of death and disease in the United States<sup>1</sup>. Every year smoking kills almost one in five adults. In 2010 approximately 17% of deaths were attributable to smoking<sup>1</sup>.

Data from the 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)<sup>2</sup> show smoking habits among Oregonians with and without disabilities. The BRFSS is a telephone based survey that is conducted annually in all 50 states in the US and collects information related to health behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services.

**Figure 1. Smoking and Disability, BRFSS 2014 Data**



These data show that people with disabilities are much more likely to smoke currently, or to have smoked in the past. Nationally, 26.6% of people with disabilities are current smokers compared to 14.6% people without disabilities. In Oregon,

- 27.3% of adults with disability are current smokers compared to 12.6% of adults without a disability.
- 34.9% of adults with disability are former smokers compared to 26% of adults without a disability.
- 37.7% of adults with disability have never smoked, compared to 61.4% of adults without a disability.

### How does Smoking affect health<sup>3</sup>?

- Tobacco smoking has been associated with multiple forms of cancer such as, lung, throat, esophagus, and mouth cancer.
- Smoking damages the immune system and compromises the body's ability to fight infections and diseases.
- Smoking has been associated with increased risk for vascular disease which includes: coronary heart disease, heart attack, hypertension, and stroke.

