

1991-2015 Trends of Adolescent Smoked First Whole Cigarette before Age 13 in the U.S



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Background

Tobacco smoking is the most preventable cause of mortality and morbidity. Early initiation of cigarette smoking leads to a larger amount of tobacco use and an extended duration of addiction. Existing literature had little about initiation of cigarette smoking before age 13. This study took a more holistic view and identified the adolescent's first whole cigarette smoking before the age 13 (FCS13) disparity by sex-grade-race/ethnicity specific prevalence trends.

Methods

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) was established by the CDC to monitor tobacco use trends among adolescents. Data from the nationally representative participants during 1991 and 2015 were analyzed. The 24-year trends were plotted using the sex-grade-race/ethnicity-specific prevalence rates.

Results

These results show the racial/ethnic differences in high school student's FCS13 by each grade progression. Across 24 years, the FCS13 prevalence declined with a peak around 1995-1999. There was not a clear distinction among male and female White 9th-12th graders, Hispanics grades 10th and 11th, and African American 10th, 11th and 12th. Males of Hispanic in grades 9th and 12th and African Americans in the 9th grade had higher prevalence of FCS13.

Figure 1. Grade-race/ethnicity-specific trend comparison across genders^{1,2}

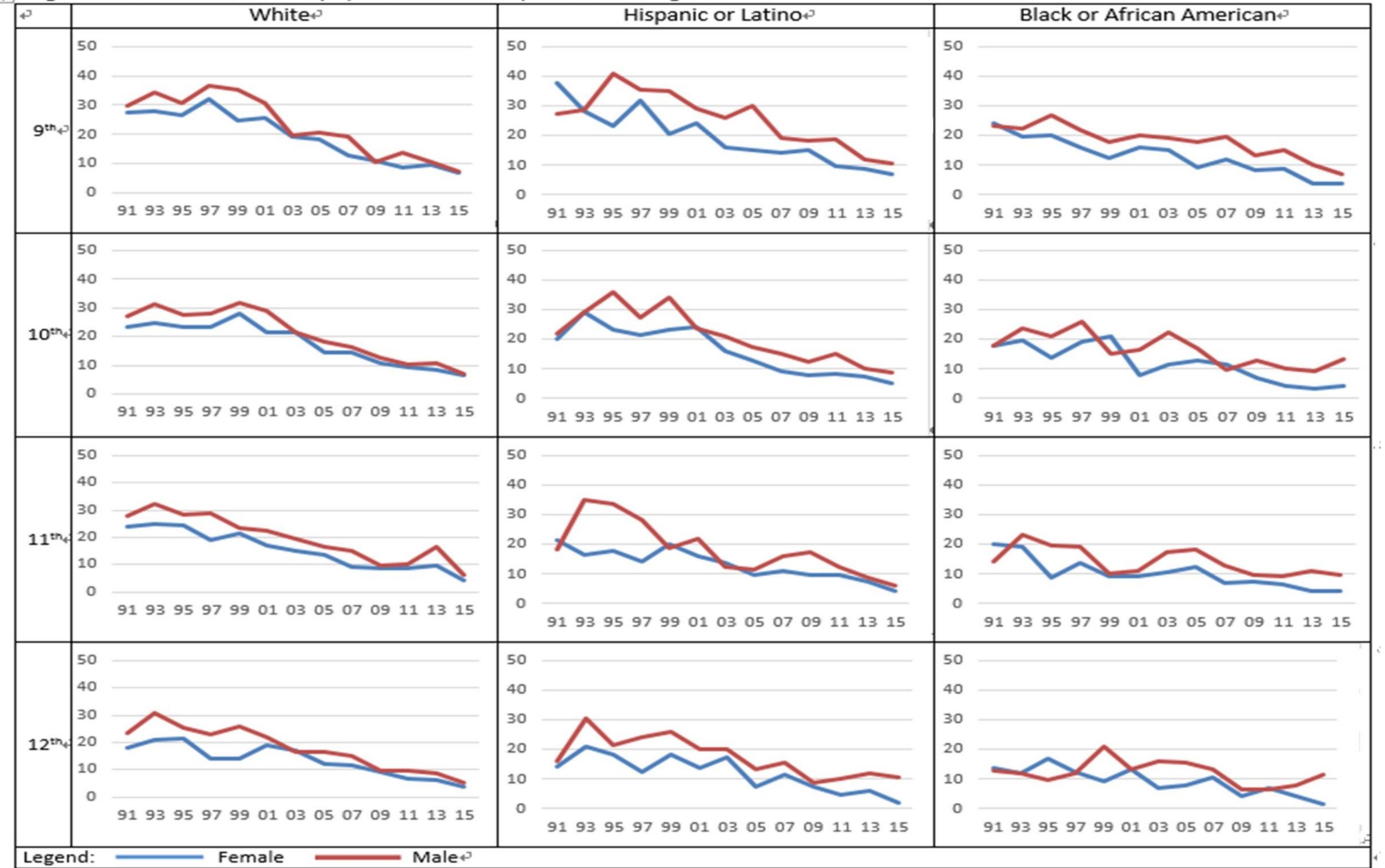
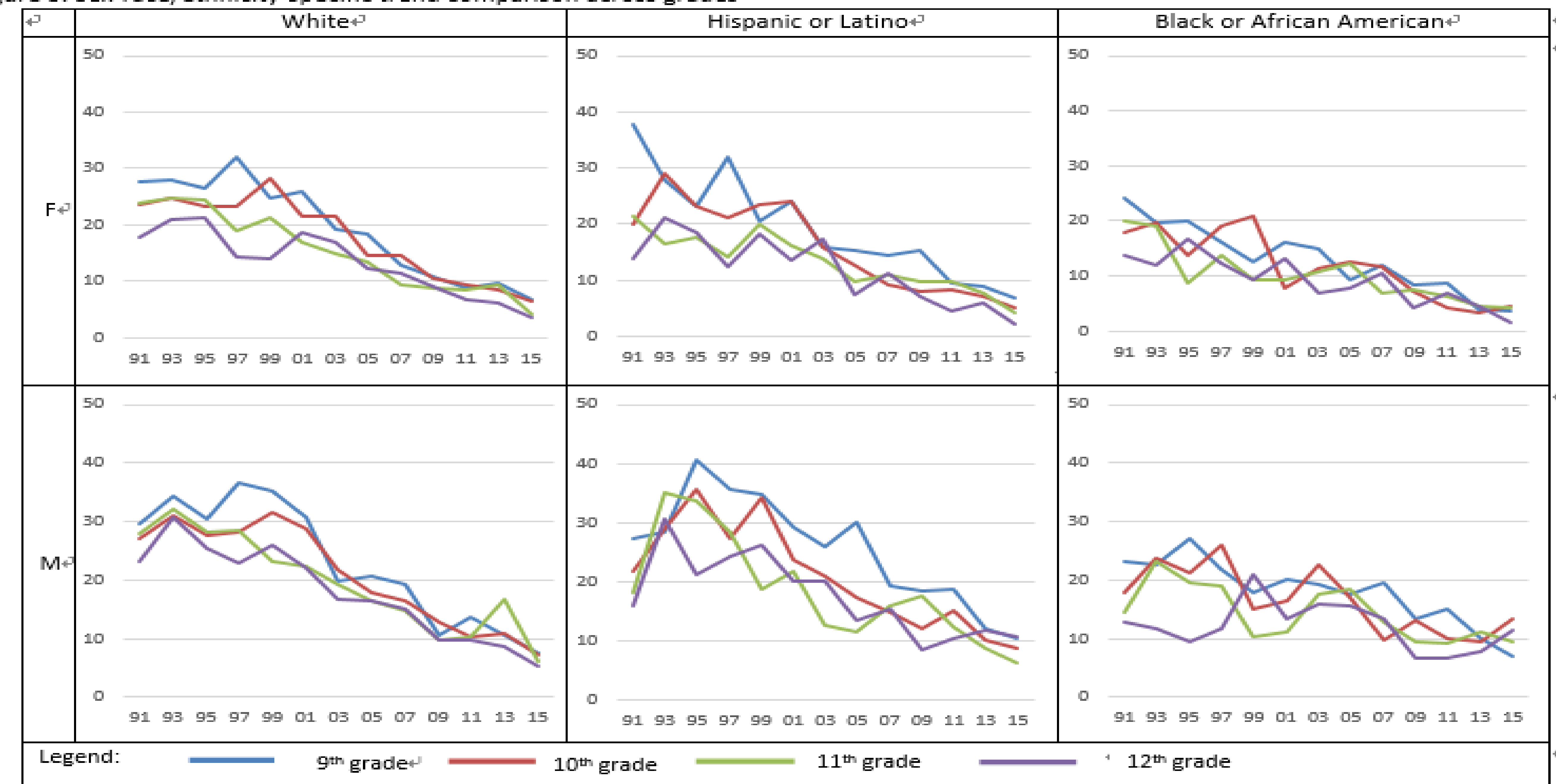


Figure 2. Sex-grade-specific trend comparison across races/ethnicities^{1,2}



Figure 3. Sex-race/ethnicity-specific trend comparison across grades^{1,2}



Conclusions

Smoke history is associated with nursing care intervention and clinical diagnosis. Upon identification of high risk populations, advance practice nurses can intervene by setting up smoking cessation clinics or a smoking cessation groups. In addition, advance practice nurses can screen high-risk populations during routine checkups and provide consultation.

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