

2003 N.C. Youth Tobacco Survey Results

Tobacco Use on School Property among High School Students, School Officials and Adults—North Carolina, 2003

Background

Each day in the United States, approximately 4,400 youths aged 12-17 try their first cigarette.¹ An estimated one third of these young smokers is expected to die from a smoking-related disease.² The North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), conducted by the N.C. Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch and Department of Public Instruction, provides information on the tobacco use on school property by students, school officials, and adults.

Methodology

The sampling frame for the drawn sample consisted of all public and charter schools in North Carolina. A total of 91 primary sampling units (PSUs) based on Local Education Areas (LEAs) [i.e., school districts] were selected in the first stage of sampling in three distinct geographic regions of the state (west, central and east), and 216 schools were selected from these PSUs in the second stage of sampling. Of these 216 eligible schools, 200 participated (school response rate 92.6%) in the 2003 NC YTS. Classes were then randomly selected proportional to overall school enrollment for each school. Participation was voluntary and anonymous, and school parental permission procedures were followed; students recorded their responses on computer-scannable answer sheets.

Results

Among the students attending the 200 participating schools, 3,073 middle school students and 3,261 high school students (83.5% student response rate) completed the survey, resulting in an overall response rate of 77.3%. Data were weighted to be representative statewide and by region. CDC and RTI International processed the data and generated basic summary data tables. Students were asked if they had used tobacco products on school property on any of the 30 days prior to taking the survey. This report focuses on cigarette and smokeless tobacco use. Students were also asked if they had seen a school official using tobacco on school property during the past 30 days and if they had seen students or adults smoking at a home football games.

In 2003, 12.3% of high school students reported smoking cigarettes on school property within the past 30 days, and 7.2% reported using smokeless tobacco (Table 1). Males had a higher percentage than females, and higher grade levels had higher percentages than lower grade levels (Table 1). Although not statistically significant, cigarette use on school property is slightly lower when compared to 2001 data (Table 1).

In 2003, 41% of high school students have seen a school official use tobacco on school property within the past 30 days (Table 2). 46.6% of males and 35.4% of females reported seeing a school official use tobacco on school property (Table 2). The percentages also increased as grade level increased from 32.6% in 9th grade to 47.0% in 12th grade (Table 2). Although these results are not statistically significant, there are sizable differences based on gender and grade level.

In 2003, nearly 75% of high school students have reported seeing someone smoking at home football games. 75.1% have seen adults smoking and 74.7% have seen students smoking (Table 3). Only 17.7% of students have not seen anyone smoking at a home football game (Table 3). There appears to be no real difference among reports based on gender or grade level.

References:

1. SAMHSA. National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 2001. US DHHS, publication no. (SMA) 02-3759.
2. CDC. Projected smoking related deaths among youth. MMWR 1996;45(44):971-4.

2003 N.C. Youth Tobacco Survey Results

Table 1. Percentage of students in high school who have used tobacco on school property in the past 30 days, by sex, grade level, and race/ethnicity - Youth Tobacco Survey, North Carolina, 2003, 2001 and 1999

Characteristic	Cigarettes		Smokeless Tobacco	
	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
High School, 2003				
Sex				
Male	14.8	(±2.9)	12.7	(±3.1)
Female	9.7	(±2.4)	1.5	(±0.5)
Grade Level				
9th	9.5	(±3.5)	6.8	(±2.8)
10th	11.8	(±2.8)	7.9	(±3.1)
11th	14.0	(±5.1)	6.2	(±2.2)
12th	15.0	(±7.9)	7.9	(±2.3)
Race/Ethnicity				
White	14.1	(±3.1)	9.0	(±2.3)
Black	8.2	(±2.0)	3.6	(±2.6)
Hispanic	5.9	(±4.2)	3.2	(±3.0)
Other	23.4	(±10.2)	8.8	(±6.7)
Total	12.3	(±2.4)	7.2	(±1.8)
High School, 2001				
Sex				
Male	16.4	(±3.6)	11.3	(±1.7)
Female	9.4	(±1.6)	1.7	(±0.7)
Grade Level				
9th	13.1	(±3.4)	6.3	(±2.1)
10th	11.2	(±2.4)	5.6	(±1.4)
11th	12.9	(±2.6)	7.0	(±1.6)
12th	14.4	(±5.1)	7.3	(±2.2)
Race/Ethnicity				
White	12.9	(±2.2)	6.7	(±1.1)
Black	8.5	(±3.2)	4.1	(±1.7)
Hispanic	18.0	(±5.9)	12.2	(±3.7)
Other	28.9	(±8.1)	11.8	(±4.6)
Total	13.0	(±2.3)	6.6	(±0.9)
High School, 1999				
Sex				
Male	15.3	(±2.0)	N/A	N/A
Female	10.4	(±1.5)	N/A	N/A
Grade Level				
9th	13.2	(±1.9)	N/A	N/A
10th	9.9	(±1.7)	N/A	N/A
11th	13.8	(±2.4)	N/A	N/A
12th	15.4	(±2.8)	N/A	N/A
Race/Ethnicity				
White	14.7	(±2.1)	N/A	N/A
Black	8.1	(±2.0)	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	11.2	(±4.9)	N/A	N/A
Other	16.9	(±7.1)	N/A	N/A
Total	12.9	(±1.5)	N/A	N/A

2003 N.C. Youth Tobacco Survey Results

Table 2. Percentage of students in high school who have seen a school official using tobacco during the last 30 days, by sex, grade level and age - Youth Tobacco Survey, North Carolina, 2003.

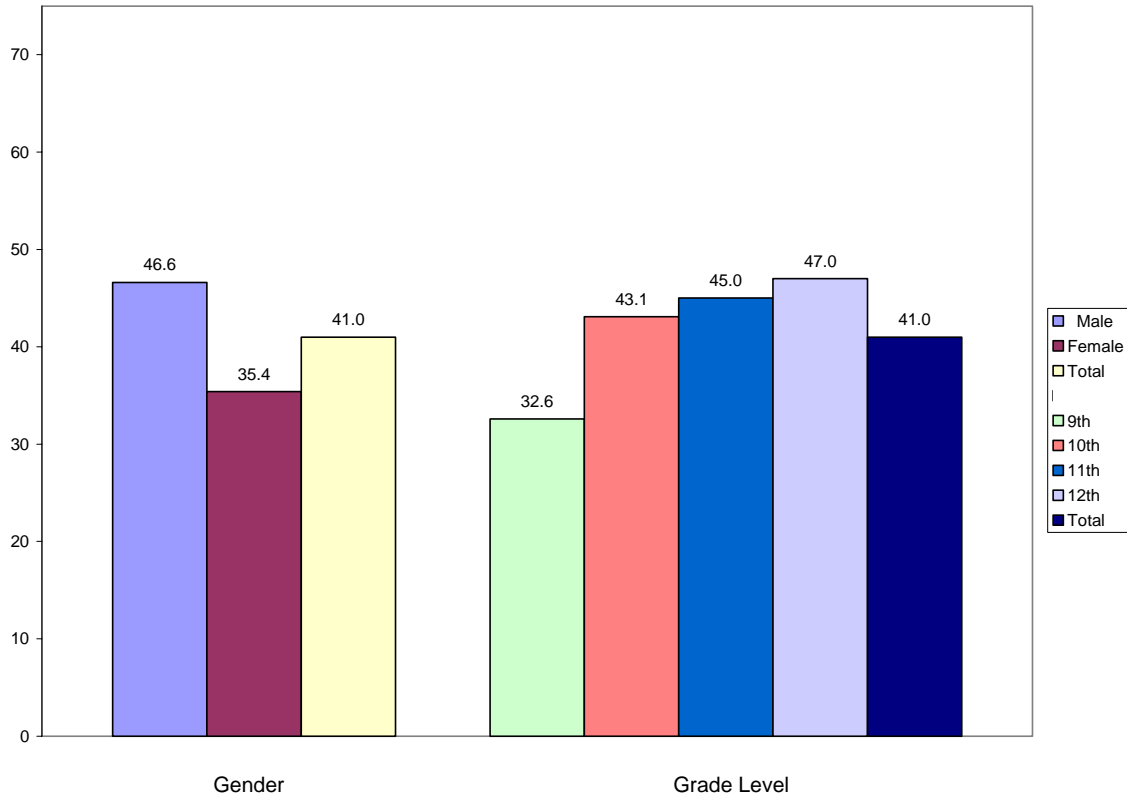
Characteristic	%	(95% CI)
High School, 2003		
Sex		
Male	46.6	(±5.0)
Female	35.4	(±6.6)
Grade Level		
9th	32.6	(±7.2)
10th	43.1	(±6.3)
11th	45.0	(±7.9)
12th	47.0	(±8.8)
Total	41.0	(±5.2)

Table 3. Percentage of students in high school who have seen people smoking at home football games during the past 30 days, by sex, grade and age - Youth Tobacco Survey, North Carolina, 2003.

Characteristic	Seen ADULTS smoking		Seen STUDENTS smoking		Have NOT seen anyone smoking	
	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
High School, 2003						
Sex						
Male	74.9	(±3.1)	73.4	(±5.0)	18.2	(±3.3)
Female	75.3	(±4.7)	75.9	(±5.9)	17.2	(±4.6)
Grade Level						
9th	71.4	(±5.8)	69.3	(±6.7)	19.6	(±4.7)
10th	75.3	(±6.2)	76.6	(±4.9)	16.5	(±5.0)
11th	79.8	(±5.9)	77.3	(±6.1)	16.0	(±5.7)
12th	75.4	(±7.2)	77.6	(±9.2)	18.1	(±8.8)
Total	75.1	(±3.4)	74.7	(±4.8)	17.7	(±3.6)

2003 N.C. Youth Tobacco Survey Results

Percentage of HS students who have seen a school official use tobacco within the past 30 days



Percentage of HS students who have seen adults or students smoking at home football games

