The North Carolina YTS includes data on the prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco products as well as information on tobacco use, environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), cessation, pro-health media, tobacco advertising, school tobacco prevention education, community participation, and access and availability of tobacco products. These areas are critical components that North Carolina should include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The North Carolina YTS was a public school-based survey of students in grades 6-12, conducted in 1999, 2001 and 2003. A multi-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for middle and high school students for all of North Carolina. Schools were selected with the probability proportional to enrollment size. Classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The 2003 YTS eastern region school response rate was 97.1%, the student response rate was 82.7% and the overall response rate was 80.3%. A total of 1115 eastern region high school students participated in the North Carolina YTS in 2003.

**Prevalence**

- 68.6% of students had ever used any tobacco product (Male = 68.5%, Female = 68.5%)\(^2\)
- 63.6% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (White = 62.1%, Black = 64.4%, Hispanic = 73.2%)
- 34.0% of students currently use any tobacco product (Male = 37.6%, Female = 30.5%)
- 28.0% currently smoke cigarettes (White = 31.6%, Black = 22.5%, Hispanic = 36.5%)
- 5.2% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 9.1%, Female = 1.4%)

**Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)**

- 46.32% live in homes where others smoke
- 28.37% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week
- 69.16% think smoke from others is harmful to them

**Cessation – Current Smokers**

- 48.7% want to quit smoking
- 58.7% attempted to quit smoking in the past year

**Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising**

- 89.3% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month
- 23.12% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

**School**

- 25.45% were taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year
- 12.0% smoked on school property in the past month

**Community**

- 12.2% participated in a community event to discourage tobacco use

**Access and Availability- Current Smokers < 18 years old**

- 11.8% buy cigarettes in stores
- 59.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

---

**High School Highlights**

- Nearly 7 in 10 students have used tobacco; 34% currently use some form of tobacco; 28% currently smoke cigarettes; 5% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, chew or dip)
- ETS exposure – nearly 3 in 10 students were in the same room with smokers during the week
- Nearly 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them
- Almost half of current smokers want to quit smoking
- Almost 9 in 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month
- More than 2 in 10 were taught the dangers of tobacco in past year
- 1 in 10 smoked on school property
- 1 in 10 participated in a community event to discourage tobacco use in the past year
- 6 in 10 currently smoking students were not refused the purchase of cigarettes due to their age

---


\(^1\) 1999, 2001 and 2003 YTS results at [http://www.communityhealth.dhhs.state.nc.us/tobacco/Survey/survey.htm](http://www.communityhealth.dhhs.state.nc.us/tobacco/Survey/survey.htm)

\(^2\) Detailed 2003 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.