

North Carolina  
2003 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)  
**HIGH SCHOOL FACT SHEET**



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<sup>1</sup>, 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 school response rate was 91.4%, the student response rate was 84.7% and the overall response rate was 77.4%. A total of 3261 high school students participated in the North Carolina YTS in 2003.

**Prevalence**

65.5% of students had ever used any tobacco product (Male = 69.1%, Female = 61.6%)<sup>2</sup>  
59.6% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (White = 57.8%, Black = 62.1%, Hispanic = 65.2% )  
33.7% of students currently use any tobacco product (Male = 39.2%, Female = 27.9%)  
27.3% currently smoke cigarettes (White = 30.8%, Black = 20.1%, Hispanic = 18.0%)  
9.5% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 17.3%, Female = 1.8%)

**Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)**

47.6% live in homes where others smoke  
72.0% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week  
91.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them

**Cessation – Current Smokers**

51.8% want to quit smoking  
63.1% attempted to quit smoking in the past year

**Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising**

88.7% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month  
24.4% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

**School**

28.6% were taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year  
12.3% smoked on school property in the past month

**Community**

10.4% participated in a community event to discourage tobacco use

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

17.5% buy cigarettes in stores  
62.2% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

**High School Highlights**

6 in 10 students have used tobacco;  
34% currently use some form of tobacco; 27% currently smoke cigarettes; 10% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, chew or dip)

ETS exposure – more than 7 in 10 students were in the same room with smokers during the week

More than 9 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them

More than half of current smokers want to quit smoking

Almost 9 in 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month

Nearly 3 in 10 were taught the dangers of tobacco in past year

1 in 10 smoked on school property

Nearly 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

<sup>1</sup> 1999 and 2001 YTS results at <http://www.communityhealth.dhhs.state.nc.us/tobacco.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Detailed 2003 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.