

# Western Region\*-- 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, 2001 and 2003<sup>1</sup>. 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 western region high school response rate was 94.3%, the student response rate was 90.6% and the overall response rate was 85.5%. A total of 1248 western region high school students participated in the North Carolina YTS in 2003.

### Prevalence

65.2% of students had ever used any tobacco product (Male = 66.9%, Female = 63.5%)<sup>2</sup>  
58.8% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (White = 57.1%, Black = 72.6%, Hispanic = 70.3% )  
36.9% of students currently use any tobacco product (Male = 43.0%, Female = 30.1%)  
28.9% currently smoke cigarettes (White = 28.6%, Black = 26.0%, Hispanic = 37.0%)  
14.0% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 25.8%, Female = 1.5%)

### Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)

48.63% live in homes where others smoke  
26.29% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week  
69.42% think smoke from others is harmful to them

### Cessation – Current Smokers

51.1% want to quit smoking  
62.3% attempted to quit smoking in the past year

### Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising

86.4% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month  
24.95% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

### School

31.29% were taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year  
11.9% smoked on school property in the past month

### Community

13.0% participated in a community event to discourage tobacco use

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

15.5% buy cigarettes in stores  
64.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

### High School Highlights

More than 6 in 10 students have used tobacco; 37% currently use some form of tobacco; 29% currently smoke cigarettes; 14% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, chew or dip)

ETS exposure – more than 2 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

More than half of current smokers want to quit smoking

More than 8 in 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month

3 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

\* Includes: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey Counties.

<sup>1</sup> 1999, 2001 & 2003 YTS results at <http://www.communityhealth.dhhs.state.nc.us/tobacco/Survey/survey.htm>

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