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 2003¹. 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%)²
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

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² Detailed 2003 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.