



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 1999¹, 2001, 2003 and 2005. 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 2005 YTS school district response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 83.3% and the overall response rate was 83.3%. A total of 1134 high school students participated and completed the North Carolina YTS in 2005.

Prevalence

58.8% of students had ever used any tobacco product (Male = 64.0%, Female = 53.5%)
51.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (White = 51.0%, Black = 58.6%, Hispanic = 50.5%)
32.0% of students currently use any tobacco product (Male = 38.8%, Female = 24.9%)
22.2% currently smoke cigarettes (White = 23.6%, Black = 12.3%, Hispanic = 14.6%)
11.6% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 20.5%, Female = 2.4%)

Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

44.0% live in homes where others smoke
70.6% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week
91.9% think smoke from others is harmful to them

Cessation – Current Smokers

40.4% want to quit smoking
53.8% attempted to quit smoking in the past year

Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising

75.4% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month
25.1% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

School

34.3% were taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year
7.4% smoked on school property in the past month

Community

4.7% attended a tobacco use prevention training

Access and Availability- Current Smokers < 18 years old

14.3% buy cigarettes in stores
56.3% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

High School Highlights

Nearly 6 in 10 students have used tobacco; 32% currently use some form of tobacco; 22% currently smoke cigarettes; 12% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, chew or dip)

SHS exposure is very high – 7 in 10 students were in the same room with smokers during the week

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

4 in 10 current smokers want to quit smoking

More than 7 in 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month

More than 3 in 10 were taught the dangers of tobacco in past year

1 in 12 smoked on school property

Nearly 1 in 20 attended a tobacco use prevention training in the past year

7 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.

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

² Detailed 2005 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.

