

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 & 2005. A multi-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data of 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 96.6%, the student response rate was 88.83% and the overall response rate was 85.87%. A total of 1288 middle school students participated and completed the North Carolina YTS in 2005.

Prevalence

31.1% of students had ever used any tobacco product (White = 30.2%, Black = 37.0%, Hispanic = 30.4%)²
 23.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 22.3%, Female = 25.6)
 10.8% currently use any tobacco product (White = 10.2%, Black = 14.8%, Hispanic = 10.4%)
 6.4% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 5.1%, Female = 7.4%)
 3.9% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 5.4%, Female = 2.0%)

Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

44.4% live in homes where others smoke
 54.4% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week
 92.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them

Cessation – Current Smokers

56.6% want to quit smoking
 64.9% attempted to stop smoking in the past year

Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising

67.6% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month
 17.9% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

School

53.4% were taught the dangers of tobacco
 1.6% smoked on school property in the past month

Community

8.1% attended a tobacco use prevention training

Access and Availability- Current Smokers < 18 years old

4.8% buy cigarettes in stores
 60.8% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Middle School Highlights

More than 3 in 10 students have used tobacco; 11% currently use some form of tobacco; 6% currently smoke cigarettes; 4% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, chew or dip)

SHS exposure is high – 5 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

More than half of current smokers want to quit smoking

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

More than 5 in 10 were taught the dangers of tobacco in past year

2 in 100 smoked on school property

1 in 12 attended a tobacco prevention training 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.

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.