The North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) includes data on the prevalence of the use of cigarette and other tobacco products, as well as information on secondhand smoke (SHS), cessation, pro-health media, tobacco advertising, school tobacco prevention education, community participation, and access and availability of tobacco products. These are all critical areas of focus for a comprehensive tobacco control program in North Carolina.

The North Carolina YTS was a public school-based survey of students in grades 6-12, conducted in 1999\(^1\), 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007\(^2\). 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 2007 YTS school district response rate was 100\%, the high school student response rate for the Mountain Region was 88.8\% and the overall response rate was 88.8\%. A total of 1,271 high school students from the Mountain Region participated in and completed the North Carolina YTS in 2007.

### Prevalence

- 60.2\% of students had ever used any tobacco product (Male = 66.4\%, Female = 54.1\%)
- 51.1\% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (White = 50.6\%, Black = 55.0\%, Hispanic = 52.5\%)
- 33.2\% of students currently use any tobacco product (Male = 43.6\%, Female = 22.4\%)
- 22.6\% currently smoke cigarettes (White = 23.3\%, Black = 17.2\%, Hispanic = 19.1\%)
- 15.3\% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 25.6\%, Female = 4.7\%)

### Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 45.4\% live in homes where others smoke
- 64.5\% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week
- 90.7\% think smoke from others is harmful to them

### Cessation – Current Smokers

- 43.9\% want to quit smoking
- 57.7\% attempted to quit smoking in the past year
- 9.1\% ever participated in a program to help quit using tobacco

### Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising

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

### School

- 30.5\% were taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year
- 7.6\% smoked on school property in the past month
- 13.6\% said their school has a program to help student quit using tobacco

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

- 19.5\% buy cigarettes in stores
- 59.5\% got their cigarettes via social sources (friends, family and others)

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\(^1\) 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.


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For additional information, please contact:

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