



North Carolina 2007 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

# Middle School FACT SHEET



Western/Mountain Region (3)

[www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov)

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<sup>1</sup>, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007<sup>2</sup>. 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 2007 YTS school district response rate was 100%, the middle school student response rate in the Mountain Region was 85.2% and the overall response rate was 85.2%. A total of 1,283 middle school students from the Mountain Region participated in and completed the North Carolina YTS in 2007.

## Prevalence

30.1% of students had ever used any tobacco (White = 28.6%, Black = 44.1%, Hispanic = 26.0%)  
22.8% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 22.3%, Female = 23.4)  
9.8% currently use any tobacco product (White = 9.3%, Black = 9.4%, Hispanic = 4.0%)  
4.5% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 4.1%, Female = 5.0%)  
3.6% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 6.2%, Female = 1.0%)

## Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

44.2% live in homes where others smoke  
54.7% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week  
92.8% think smoke from others is harmful to them

## Cessation – Current Smokers

49.5% want to quit smoking  
65.6% attempted to stop smoking in the past year  
11.1% ever participated in a program to help quit using tobacco

## Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising

66.8% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month  
13.6% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

## School

49.9% were taught the dangers of tobacco  
1.1% smoked on school property in the past month  
4.5% said their school has a program to help students quit using tobacco

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

7.8% buy cigarettes in stores  
58.6% got their cigarettes via social sources (friends, family and others)

## Middle School Highlights

3 in 10 students have used tobacco;  
10% currently use some form of tobacco; 5% 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.

Half of current smokers want to quit smoking.

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

5 in 10 were NOT taught the dangers of tobacco in school in the past year.

An overwhelming majority of students (9 of every 10) say they have NOT smoked on school property.

1 in 20 said their school had a program to help students quit using tobacco.

\* 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, 2005 YTS results at <http://www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov/data/yts.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Detailed 2007 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.



For additional information, please contact:  
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[www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov)

