

SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

North Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch -- March 2010



2009 N.C. Youth Tobacco Survey: Hispanic Youth

North Carolina has approximately 152,605 Hispanic students in public schools, which represents 10.7% of the total student population. It is also about 45% higher than the total percentage of Hispanics in the state (7.4%). The percentages of Hispanic students throughout North Carolina's 115 districts vary widely from over 32% in Asheboro City school district to 1% in Weldon City Schools. The number of Hispanic in North Carolina Schools continues to increase each year.¹

Tobacco Use Among Hispanic Youth

Current use of any tobacco products among Hispanic high school students is 18.5%, according to the 2009 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), a survey conducted every two years by the Division of Public Health (Figure 1). The YTS also found that 11.8% of Hispanic high school students and 4.9% of Hispanic middle school students were current cigarette smokers.

Figure 1. Current Tobacco Use Among Hispanic High School Students, YTS 2007

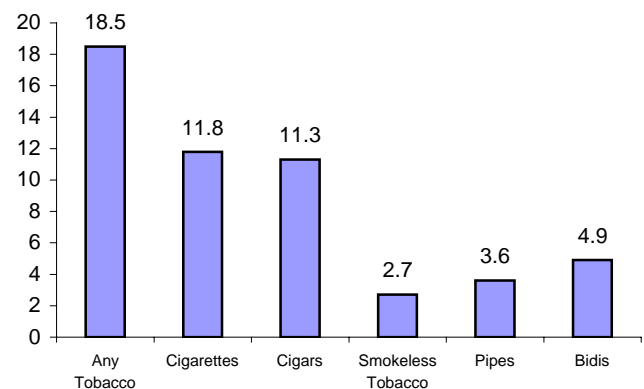
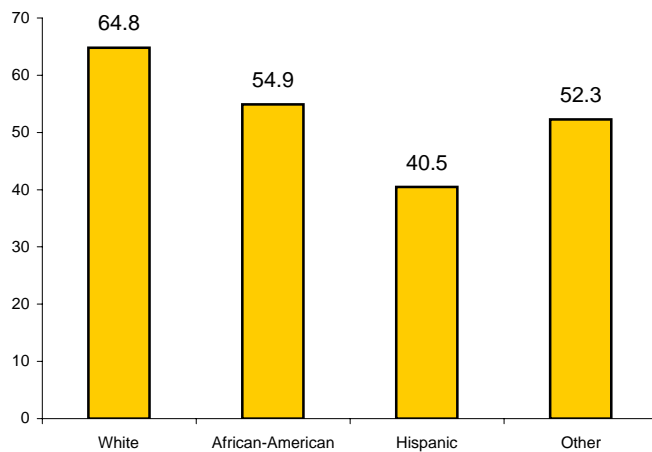


Figure 2. Percentage of High School Students Exposed* to Secondhand Smoke in the Past 7 Days, YTS 2007



* Rode in car or were in same room with someone who was smoking

Secondhand Smoke – Are Hispanic Youth Protected?

According to the 2009 YTS, 40.5% of high school Hispanic youth were exposed to secondhand smoke in the past seven days (Figure 2). Much more needs to be done to protect Hispanic youth from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, which is the smoke coming from the burning end of a cigarette or exhaled from the lungs of a smoker. Secondhand smoke has been linked to life-threatening heart or asthma attacks and to long-term serious health conditions such as cancer, heart disease and lung disease.

In North Carolina the Health and Wellness Trust Fund is supporting efforts to educate and protect Hispanic youth from further harm. To learn more about these efforts go to www.healthwellnc.com.

For more information on the NC Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) contact NC Tobacco Prevention and Control: 919-707-5400

1. NC Department of Public Instruction- www.ncpublicschools.org



N.C. Division of Public Health / Surveillance and Evaluation Team / 919-707-5400 / www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov
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