



North Carolina 2009 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

# High School FACT SHEET



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

## Western/Mountain Region (3)

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, 2007, and 2009<sup>2</sup>. 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 2009 YTS school district response rate was 97.5%, the high school student response rate in the Western Region was 84.6% and the overall response rate was 74.6%. A total of 1,060 high school students from the Western Region participated in and completed the North Carolina YTS in 2009.

### Prevalence

59.6% of students had ever used any tobacco product (Male = 64.4%, Female = 54.6%)  
48.8% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (White=49.0%, Black=47.2%, Hispanic=43.6%)  
30.8% of students currently use any tobacco product (Male = 35.1%, Female = 26.1%)  
18.9% currently smoke cigarettes (White = 19.4%, Black = 19.4%, Hispanic = 7.0%)  
12.9% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 20.9%, Female = 4.4%)

### Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

40.1% live in homes where others smoke  
61.4% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week  
91.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them

### Cessation – Current Smokers

42.3% want to quit smoking  
53.7% attempted to quit smoking in the past year  
9.5% ever participated in a program to help quit using tobacco

### Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising

63.8% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month  
24.1% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

### School

30.2% were taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year  
6.4% smoked on school property in the past month  
14.0% said their school has a program to help students quit using tobacco

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

19.3% buy cigarettes in stores  
62.3% get cigarettes via social sources (friends, family and others)

### High School Highlights

6 in 10 students have used tobacco;  
31% currently use some form of tobacco; 19% currently smoke cigarettes; 13% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, chew or dip).

SHS exposure is high – more than 6 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.

42% of current smokers want to quit smoking.

More than 6 in 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month.

Nearly two-thirds were NOT taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year in school.

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

14% said their school had a program to help students quit.

\* 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, 2007 YTS results at <http://www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov/data/yts.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Detailed 2009 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.



For additional information, please contact:  
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