



Middle School

FACT SHEET



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 1999¹, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009². 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 2009 YTS school district response rate was 97.5%, the middle school student response rate in the Mountain Region was 86.6% and the overall response rate was 78.7%. A total of 1,262 middle school students from the Mountain Region participated in and completed the North Carolina YTS in 2009.

Prevalence

33.6% of students had ever used any tobacco (White=33.7%, Black=36.5%, Hispanic=26.0%)
22.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 23.8%, Female = 21.9)
12.2% currently use any tobacco product (White=13.0%, Black=7.5%, Hispanic=9.4%)
5.1% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 5.0%, Female = 5.1%)
6.0% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 7.8%, Female = 4.0%)

Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

44.5% live in homes where others smoke
52.0% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week
87.3% think smoke from others is harmful to them

Cessation – Current Smokers

37.2% want to quit smoking
50.2% attempted to stop smoking in the past year
10.4% ever participated in a program to help quit using tobacco

Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising

59.7% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month
16.8% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

School

44.3% were taught the dangers of tobacco
1.3% smoked on school property in the past month
4.6% said their school has a program to help students quit using tobacco

Access and Availability- Current Smokers < 18 years old

3.5% buy cigarettes in stores
60.1% got their cigarettes via social sources (friends, family and others)

Middle School Highlights

3 in 10 students have used tobacco;
12% currently use some form of tobacco;
5% currently smoke cigarettes;
6% 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.
Nearly 9 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
Nearly 4 in 10 current smokers want to quit smoking.
6 in 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month.
More than 5 in 10 students 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.

¹ 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 YTS results at <http://www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov/data/yts.htm>

² Detailed 2009 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.



For additional information, please contact:
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