



North Carolina 2009 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

# Middle School FACT SHEET



[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 is 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 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 was 83.5% and the overall response rate was 79.2%. A total of 3,805 middle school students participated and completed the North Carolina YTS in 2009.

## Prevalence

30.2% of students had ever used any tobacco (White 26.3%, Black 35.6%, Hispanic 30.6%)  
21.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male 23.3%, Female 18.6%)  
10.5% currently use any tobacco product (White 9.0%, Black 13.1%, Hispanic 8.9%)  
4.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Male 4.3%, Female 4.1%)  
3.0% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male 4.1%; Female 1.8%)

## Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

40.4% live in homes where others smoke  
46.6% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week  
86.8% think smoke from others is harmful to them

## Cessation – Current Smokers

51.1% want to quit smoking  
67.9% attempted to stop smoking in the past year  
9.1% ever participated in a program to help quit using tobacco

## Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising

64.9% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month  
13.7% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

## School

40.9% were taught the dangers of tobacco  
1.6% smoked on school property in the past month  
3.3% said their school had classes for helping students quit using tobacco

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

4.4% buy cigarettes in stores  
48.0% got their cigarettes via social sources (friends, family or other people)

## Middle School Highlights

3 in 10 students have used tobacco;  
10.5% currently use some form of tobacco.

4.3% currently smoke cigarettes; 3% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, dip or chew).

SHS exposure is high – 4 in 10 students were in the same room with smokers during the past week.

Almost 9 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.

More than half of current smokers want to quit smoking.

About 6 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past month.

Nearly 6 in 10 students were NOT taught the dangers of tobacco at school in the past year.

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

1 in 30 students said their school has classes to help students quit.

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

