

# SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

North Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch May 2008



## 2007 N.C. Youth Tobacco Survey: Hispanic Youth

North Carolina has approximately 130,690 Hispanic students in public schools, which represents 9.1% of the total student population. It is also about 33% higher than the total percentage of Hispanics in the state (6.7%). The percentages of Hispanic students throughout North Carolina's 115 districts vary widely from over 25% in Lee County, Lexington City, Montgomery County, Asheboro City and Duplin County districts to less than 1% in Weldon City Schools. The numbers of Hispanic in North Carolina Schools continues to increase each year.<sup>1</sup>

### Tobacco Use Among Hispanic Youth

Current use of any tobacco products among Hispanic students is 26.6%, according to the 2007 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), a survey conducted every two years by the Division of Public Health (Figure 1). The YTS also found that 19.0% of Hispanic high school students and 4.5% of Hispanic middle school students were current cigarette smokers.

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

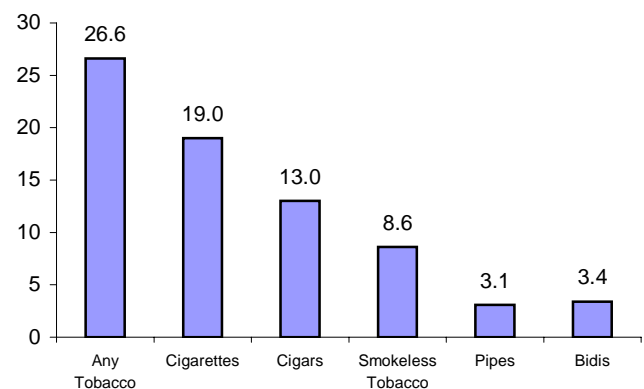
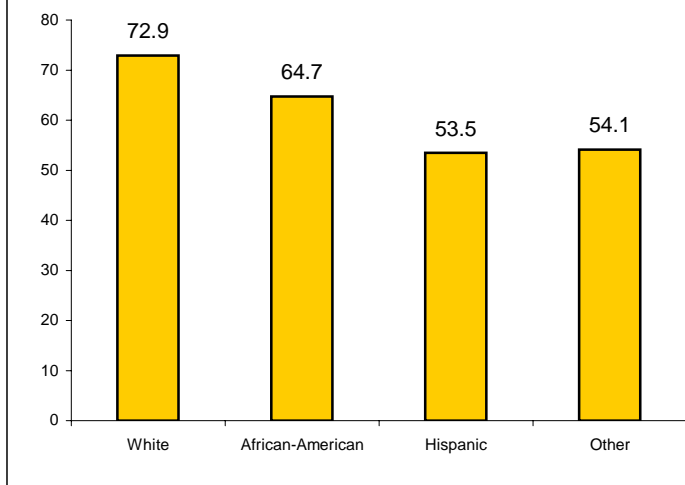


Figure 2. Percentage of High School Students Exposed\* to Secondhand Smoke in the Past 7 Days, YTS 2007



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

### Secondhand Smoke – Are Hispanic Youth Protected?

According to the 2007 YTS, 53.5% 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.

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

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](http://www.healthwellnc.com).

1. NC Department of Public Instruction- [www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org)



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