

North Carolina  
2003 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL FACT SHEET**



The North Carolina YTS includes data on the prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco products as well as information on tobacco use, environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), cessation, pro-health media, tobacco advertising, school tobacco prevention education, community participation, and access and availability of tobacco products. These areas are critical components that North Carolina should include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The North Carolina YTS was a public school-based survey of students in grades 6-12, conducted in 1999<sup>1</sup>, 2001 & 2003. 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 2003 YTS school response rate was 93.7%, the student response rate was 82.2% and the overall response rate was 77.1%. A total of 3037 middle school students participated in the North Carolina YTS in 2003.

**Prevalence**

37.6% of students had ever used any tobacco product (White = 35.0%, Black = 41.8%, Hispanic = 43.6%)<sup>2</sup>  
29.5% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 30.2%, Female = 28.8%)  
14.3% currently use any tobacco product (White = 14.1%, Black = 13.7%, Hispanic = 17.7%)  
9.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 9.8%, Female = 8.9%)  
4.5% currently use smokeless tobacco (Male = 7.2%, Female = 1.5%)

**Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)**

43.4% live in homes where others smoke  
52.6% are in the same room as others who smoke during the week  
87.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them

**Cessation – Current Smokers**

47.6% want to quit smoking  
55.6% attempted to stop smoking in the past year

**Pro-health Media vs Tobacco Advertising**

81.5% saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month  
18.7% have an object with a tobacco brand logo

**School**

47.5% were taught the dangers of tobacco  
2.7% smoked on school property in the past month

**Community**

20.5% participated in a community event to discourage tobacco use

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

4.9% buy cigarettes in stores  
68.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

**Middle School Highlights**

Nearly 4 in 10 students have used tobacco; 14% currently use some form of tobacco; 9% currently smoke cigarettes; 5% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, dip or chew)

ETS exposure – more than 5 in 10 students were in the same room with smokers during the past week

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

Nearly half of current smokers want to quit smoking

8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past month

Nearly half of students were taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year

Only 2 in 10 participated in a community event to discourage tobacco use in the past year

Nearly 7 in 10 students were not refused the purchase of cigarettes due to age

<sup>1</sup> 1999 and 2001 YTS results at <http://www.communityhealth.dhhs.state.nc.us/tobacco/Survey/survey.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Detailed 2003 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.