United States
National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)
FACT SHEET

The United States NYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are some of the components the United States could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The United States NYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 6-12, conducted in 2000. A multi-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of the United States. Schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. Classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 90.0%, the student response rate was 93.4%, and the overall response rate was 84.1%. A total of 35,828 students participated in the United States NYTS.

Prevalence

49.5% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 50.5%, Female = 48.6%)
23.1% currently use any tobacco product (Male = 26.0%, Female =20.1%)
17.7% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 17.8%, Female =17.7%)
14.5% currently use other tobacco products (Male = 19.9%, Female = 9.1%)

Knowledge and Attitudes

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

9.6% buy cigarettes in a store
61.2% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

42.1% live in homes where others smoke
69.7% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
90.8% think smoke from others is harmful to them

Cessation - Current Smokers

55.8% want to stop smoking
58.2% tried to stop smoking during the past year

Media and Advertising

88.6% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
88.0% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
21.7% have an object with a cigarette brand logo

School

48.6% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke

Highlights

- 23% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 18% currently smoke cigarettes; 15% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is very high – 4 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke; 7 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places.
- 9 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over half of smokers want to stop smoking.
- Almost 9 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; almost 9 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.

For additional information, please contact:
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