

- Finally, 53.6% of Tennessee students had tried, at some time, to quit smoking cigarettes, increased from 38% in 1999. The prevalence in males is 50%, compared to 57% in females.

Cigars, Cigarillos, or Little Cigars

- On one or more of the 30 days preceding the survey, 17% of Tennessee students had smoked at least one cigar, cigarillo, or little cigar, compared to 15% nationally. Twice as many males (22%) had used these tobacco products as females (11%). The highest prevalence was observed among 12th graders (21%, compared to 15% of 9th graders, 14% of 10th graders, and 18% of 11th graders).

Chewing Tobacco or Snuff Use

- In 2001, 12% of students had used chewing tobacco or snuff at least once in the past 30 days, and 7.2% had used smokeless tobacco on school grounds within the past 30 days. The highest 30-day prevalence rate for smokeless tobacco use was observed for males (22% compared to 1.7% for females), for whites (15.3%) compared to 2.3% for blacks, and for 12th graders (15.2% compared to the range of 10% to 12% among students in other grades). Students' 30-day use of smokeless tobacco was higher in Tennessee than in the U.S. (8.2%).

Early Introduction to Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drugs

- In 2001, 26% of students in Tennessee reported that, before age 13, they had smoked a whole cigarette, compared to 22% of students nationwide. In Tennessee, a higher percentage of males (29%) had tried smoking at an early age compared with females (23%). There are also differences in percentages by race/ethnicity. Seventeen percent of black students reported trying smoking before age 13, compared with 29% of white respondents.
- In both the U.S. and Tennessee, 29.1% of students had their first drink of alcohol (more than just a "taste") before age 13. The proportion of males (34.6%) was higher than females (23.5%).
- In Tennessee, 12.2% of students had tried marijuana by age 13. Nearly sixteen percent of males, and 8.5% of females, reported early marijuana use in Tennessee in 2001. Nationally, the percentage of students reporting early marijuana use was 10.2%.