

1999 Tennessee Youth Tobacco Survey

Methodology

The survey instrument was jointly developed and validated by the Tennessee Department of Health and the Office on Smoking and Health at the CDC. The instrument consisted of a 72 item questionnaire that included information on smoking status, current tobacco use patterns, age of initiation, cessation efforts, availability, perceived social norms related to tobacco product use, knowledge of anti-tobacco efforts, tobacco attitudes and beliefs, and social influences.

The TnYTS is a randomly selected representative survey of all public middle and high school students in the state. The sample selection included 58 schools (27 middle and 31 high schools) located across the state of Tennessee. Both public and private schools were included in the sample pool and the same questionnaire items were administered to both middle and high school students.

The TnYTS used a two-stage cluster sampling methodology to identify the actual schools and classes to be surveyed. Schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment. Classes within each school were identified by random selection of all second period classes. The participation rate for selected middle schools was 96.4 percent and 96.9 percent for selected high schools. The student response rate was 76.2 percent for selected middle schools and 72.9 percent for selected high schools. The overall response rate was 73.5 percent for middle schools and 70.7 percent for high schools.

The CDC analyzed the survey data using the Statistical Analysis System to determine point estimates. Variance estimates and 95 percent confidence intervals associated with the estimates were calculated using the Software for Statistical Analysis of Correlated Data.

The 1999 TnYTS report provides baseline information on youth tobacco prevalence rates and trends. Future reports will provide data on tobacco-related attitudes, knowledge, and behavior as well as the social and media influences on tobacco use and decision-making. The data included in this report will be essential in monitoring trend changes over time and providing assistance in the development and evaluation of intervention programs.