

1999 Tennessee Youth Tobacco Survey Report Two: Environmental Tobacco Smoke

Volume 1, Report 2

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During the Spring of 1999, the TN Department of Health in cooperation with the TN Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and numerous partners from local health organizations and school districts, conducted the first comprehensive survey of tobacco use among Tennessee youth. Respondents were 1,348 middle school students (grades 6-8) from 20 middle school districts and 1,501 high school students (grades 9-12) from 26 high school districts.

The data collected by the 1999 Tennessee Youth Tobacco Survey (TnYTS) provides prevalence data on tobacco use at the state level. The survey instrument measured tobacco knowledge, attitudes, and use among Tennessee youth and will provide critical baseline data for development of tobacco use prevention programs.

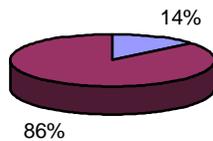
This report addresses adolescent exposure to tobacco smoke, tobacco use prevalence, parental knowledge and acceptance of adolescent tobacco use, and adolescent smoking on school property.

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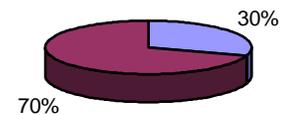
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Adolescent Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke

Tennessee High School Student Exposure to Cigarette Smoke



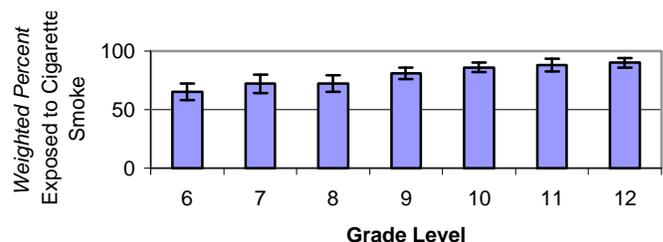
Tennessee Middle School Student Exposure to Cigarette Smoke



- 86% of all Tennessee high school students rode in a car or were in the same room with someone who was smoking cigarettes in the 7 days prior to the survey.
- 77% of Tennessee high school students have one or more friends who smoke cigarettes.
- 91% of Tennessee high school students think that smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to them.
- 70% of all Tennessee middle school students rode in a car or were in the same room with someone who was smoking cigarettes in the 7 days prior to the survey.
- 51% of all Tennessee middle school students have one or more friends who smoke cigarettes.
- 88% of Tennessee middle school students think that smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to them.

Exposure to Tobacco Smoke Increases with Grade Level

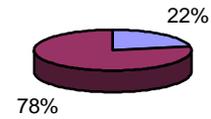
Overall, adolescent exposure to cigarette smoke increases with rising grade level.



Tobacco Use Prevalence

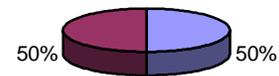
Over three quarters of Tennessee high school students have used tobacco products, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipe.

Tennessee High School Students Having Used Any Tobacco Product

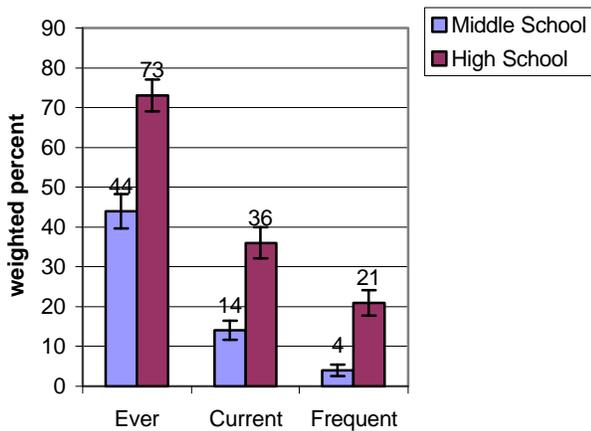


Half of all Tennessee middle school students have used tobacco products, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipe.

Tennessee Middle School Students Having Used Any Tobacco Product



Overall Cigarette Use



Among Tennessee high school students, 73% have tried cigarette smoking, 36% are current smokers, and 21% are frequent smokers.

Among Tennessee middle school students, 44% have tried cigarette smoking, 14% are current smokers, and 4% are frequent smokers.

Among Tennessee middle school students who have never smoked, 30% are susceptible to starting smoking while 23% of Tennessee non-smoking high school students are susceptible.

Cigar/Cigarillo Use and Pipe Use

Cigar/Cigarillo Use

19% of Tennessee high school students and 9% of Tennessee middle school students are *current* cigar/cigarillo users.

Pipe Use

5% of Tennessee high school students and 4% of Tennessee middle school students are *current* pipe users.

Parental Knowledge and Acceptance of Adolescent Tobacco Use

Of those Tennessee high school students who are current smokers, 51% say their parents *know* they smoke cigarettes.

Of those Tennessee high school students who are current smokers, 22% report that their parents *approve* of their smoking.

Over half of all Tennessee high school students live with someone who smokes cigarettes.

Of those Tennessee middle school students who are current smokers, 32% say their parents *know* they smoke cigarettes.

Of those Tennessee middle school students who are current smokers, 20% report that their parents *approve* of their smoking.

Half of all Tennessee middle school students live with someone who smokes cigarettes.

Children are most affected by secondhand smoke. During their physical development, exposure to the toxins in secondhand smoke puts children in danger of upper respiratory diseases, ear infections, and asthma. Secondhand smoke can also hinder the growth of children's lungs, having effects that may last a lifetime.

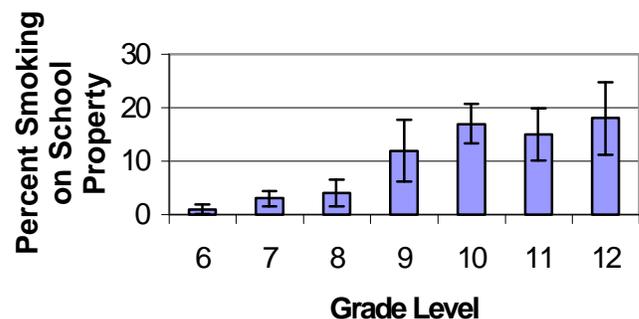
-CDC 's Tobacco Information and Prevention Source

Smoking on School Property

15% of Tennessee high school students smoked cigarettes on school property in the 30 days prior to the survey.

3% of Tennessee middle school students smoked cigarettes on school property in the 30 days prior to the survey.

Smoking on School Property by Grade



This survey was conducted before state legislation was passed that allows law enforcement officials or school principals to issue a juvenile court citation for students who unlawfully possess tobacco products. The enactment of this law predicts a decrease in the numbers of students using tobacco products on school property.

**TENNESSEE TOBACCO
SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

P.O. Box 668
Rogersville, TN 37857

(423) 921-8330 Phone
(423) 921-8324 Fax
tnyts1@usit.net

Acknowledgements

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Tennessee Tobacco Surveillance Program
East Tennessee State University
P.O. Box 668
Rogersville, TN 37857