

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services**  
**2008 Wisconsin Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)**  
**High School Fact Sheet**



The Wisconsin YTS is a comprehensive measure of youth awareness, attitudes, and related behaviors about tobacco use. The purpose of this survey is to monitor trends of these attitudes and behaviors to assist in improving youth programs and initiatives. The 2008 Wisconsin YTS was funded by the Department of Health Services, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

The Wisconsin YTS is a school-based survey of students in grades 9-12, conducted every other spring semester of the academic year beginning in 1999-2000. Fifty schools were randomly selected in 2008 to participate in this survey. Classrooms in the selected schools were also randomly selected. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate. The overall high school response rate for the 2008 YTS was 82%. A total of 1,913 of the 2,158 sampled students completed the survey. Forty-one high schools participated in the Wisconsin YTS in 2008 for a student response rate of 88.6%. Overall response rate was 73%.

**Prevalence**

- 54.5% of students have used a tobacco product in their lifetime (9<sup>th</sup> grade=44.1%, 10<sup>th</sup> grade=46.4%, 11<sup>th</sup> grade=59.2%, 12<sup>th</sup>=68.7%)
- 47.2% have smoked cigarettes in their lifetime (Male=48.8%, Female=45.6%)
- 28.4% currently use any tobacco product (Male=33.2%, Female=23.2%)
- 20.7% currently smoke cigarettes (9<sup>th</sup> grade=14.2%, 10<sup>th</sup> grade=14.5%, 11<sup>th</sup> grade=25.6%, 12<sup>th</sup>=28.1%)
- 7.0% currently use smokeless tobacco or chew (Male=12.2%, Female=1.5%)

**Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)**

- 38.1% live in homes where others smoke
- 58.9% in the same room as others who smoke during the week
- 95.5% think that smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to them

**Cessation – Current Smokers**

- 50.5% want to stop smoking
- 55.3% attempted to quit smoking during the past 12 months

**Media**

- 77.3% have seen or heard commercials about the dangers of cigarette smoking within the past 30 days
- 88.8% who use the internet, watch TV, or go to the movies have seen ads for tobacco products

**School**

- 43.6% were taught in class about the dangers of tobacco use
- 7.3% smoked on school property in the past month

**Community**

- 8.4% participated in a community event to discourage people their own age from using cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, or cigars

**Access and Availability – Current Smoker < 18 years old**

- 8.6% buy cigarettes in a store
- 38.1% gave money to someone else to buy the cigarettes
- 65.1% who bought cigarettes in a store were not asked to show proof of age

**High School Highlights**

- The current smoking rate has decreased from 33% in 2000 to 20.7% in 2008.
- The current use of any tobacco product decreased from 39% in 2000 to 28.4% in 2008.
- 7.0% of public high school students are current users of smokeless tobacco.
- ETS exposure is high – nearly 6 in 10 students were in the same room with smokers during the past week.
- Half of current smokers want to stop smoking in 2008.
- Nearly 8 out of 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month.
- In 2008, over 4 out of 10 students were taught about the dangers of tobacco in class.