

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
2008 Wisconsin Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)
Middle 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 6-8, conducted every 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 middle school response rate for the 2008 YTS was 76.0%. A total of 1,571 of the 1,720 sampled students completed the survey. Thirty-eight out of 50 middle schools participated in the Wisconsin YTS in 2008, for a student response rate of 88.5%. Overall response rate was 69.4%.

<p><u>Prevalence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24.2% of students have used a tobacco product in their lifetime (6th grade=15.2%, 7th grade=27.4%, 8th grade=29.0%) • 16.4% have smoked cigarettes in their lifetime (6th grade=10.4%, 7th grade=18.3%, 8th grade=20.0%) • 6.8% currently use any tobacco product (Male=8.5%, Female=5.1%) • 4.3% currently smoke cigarettes (6th grade=2.3%, 7th grade=5.5%, 8th grade=5.0%) • 1.8% currently use smokeless tobacco or chew (Male=2.5%, Female=1.1%) <p><u>Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36.1% live in homes where others smoke • 43.4% were in the same room as others who smoke during the week • 93.2% think that smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to them <p><u>Cessation – Current Smokers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54.8% want to stop smoking • 61.7% attempted to quit smoking during the past 12 months <p><u>Media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60.7% have seen or heard commercials about the dangers of cigarette smoking within the past 30 days • 79.2% who use the internet, watch TV, or go to the movies have seen ads for tobacco products <p><u>School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69.2% were taught in class about the dangers of tobacco use • 1.7% smoked on school property in the past month <p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.6% participated in a community event to discourage people their own age from using cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, or cigars <p><u>Access and Availability – Current Smoker < 18 years old</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23.5% get cigarettes by taking from a store or family member • 32.3% gave money to someone else to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days 	<p><u>Middle School Highlights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.3% of public middle school youth are current cigarette smokers. • 6.8% currently use any tobacco product. • 16.4% of public middle school students have tried smoking cigarettes. • Current smokeless tobacco use has remained relatively the same over the past several years at 1.8%. • ETS exposure is high – over 4 in 10 students were in the same room with smokers during the past week. • Over half of current smokers want to stop smoking. • More than 6 out of 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month. • Nearly 7 out of 10 students were taught about the dangers of tobacco in class.
---	---