

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

2012 Wisconsin Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

Middle School Fact Sheet



The Wisconsin YTS is a comprehensive measure of youth awareness, attitudes, and behaviors related to 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 2012 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 since the 1999-2000 school year. Fifty schools were randomly selected in 2012 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 2012 YTS was 72.94%. A total of 1,741 of the 2,005 sampled students completed the survey.

Prevalence

- 17.2% of students have used a tobacco product in their lifetime (6th grade=11.4%, 7th grade=19.2%, 8th grade=20.9%)
- 10.1% have smoked cigarettes in their lifetime (6th grade=5.0%, 7th grade=10.2%, 8th grade=15.2%)
- 3.8% currently use a tobacco product (Male=4.0%, Female=3.7%)
- 2.5% currently smoke cigarettes (6th grade=1.1%, 7th grade=2.4%, 8th grade=4.0%) (Male=2.2%, Female=2.9%)
- 1.6% currently smoke cigars (Male=1.8%, Female=1.4%)

Smokeless Tobacco

- 1.2% currently use smokeless tobacco or chew (Male=1.6%, Female=0.8%)
- 5.0% have used smokeless tobacco (Male=7.0%, Female=2.8%)
- 20.8% have ever heard of Snus (a smokeless tobacco product)

Second-Hand Smoke Exposure

- 35.2% live in homes where others smoke
- 31.9% were in the same room or rode in a car with someone who was smoking
- 94.5% think that smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to them

Cessation – Current Smokers

- 53.1% want to stop smoking
- 76.3% attempted to quit smoking at least once during the past 12 months
- 19.4% participated in a program to help quit using tobacco

Media

- 73% who use the internet, watch TV, or go to the movies have seen ads for tobacco products

School

- 59.2% were taught in class about not using tobacco products
- 11.2% smoked on school property in the past month

Community

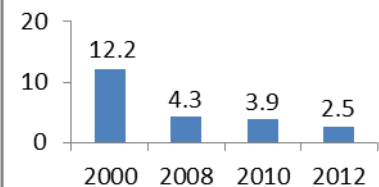
- 18.9% participated in a community event during the past 12 months that was intended to discourage people from using tobacco

Attitudes Toward Tobacco Use

- 88.4% believe smoking tobacco products should never be allowed inside the home
- 92.7% agree or strongly agree that all tobacco products are dangerous
- 83.7% do not think that smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool
- 94.5% believe breathing smoke from other people's cigarettes or other tobacco products is somewhat or very harmful to one's health

Middle School Highlights

Percent of Middle School Youth Who Smoke



- 3.8% of public middle school youth are currently using a tobacco product.
- 1.6% of middle school students currently smoke cigars.
- In 2012, 1.2% of middle school students used smokeless tobacco.
- Over half of current smokers want to stop smoking.
- 59.2% of students were taught about not using tobacco in class.
- 73% who use the internet, watch TV, or go to the movies have seen ads for tobacco products
- 18.9% of students participated in a community event to discourage people from using tobacco.