



## TOBACCO USE AMONG YOUTH

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- **3 million middle and high school students are current smokers.**  
*Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress, A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/>. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2013," *MMWR*, 61(No. 4), June 13, 2014; 2013 National Youth Tobacco Survey, *MMWR*, 63(No. 45), November 14, 2014.
- **Nearly one out of every seven children is a current smoker by the time they leave high school.**  
*Source:* University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study, 2014, <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/14data/14tobtbl1.pdf>.
- **7.2 percent of 10th graders and 4.0 percent of 8th graders are current smokers.**  
*Source:* University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study, 2014, <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/14data/14tobtbl1.pdf>.
- **5.6 million children under age 18 alive today will eventually die from smoking-related disease, unless current rates are reversed.**  
*Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress, A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/>.
- **15.7 percent of all high school students are current smokers. (16.4% of males and 15.0% of females).**  
*Source:* CDC, "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, United States, 2013," *MMWR*, 63(No. 4), June 13, 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>. The 2011 YRBS found a 18.1% high school smoking rate (16.1% for girls, 19.9% for boys). Current smoker defined as having smoked in the past month. YRBS is done in odd-numbered years, YTS in even.
- **22.4 percent of high school students report current use of tobacco (cigarettes, smokeless, and/or cigars), including 27.0 percent of high school boys and 17.8 percent of high school girls.**  
*Source:* CDC, 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- **16.5 percent of high school boys report current cigar use. 14.7 percent of high school boys report past-month smokeless tobacco use.**  
*Source:* CDC, 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- **90 percent of adult smokers began at or before age 18.**  
*Source:* Calculated based on data in National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2012. See, also, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 1994.
- **More than one-third of all kids who ever try smoking a cigarette become regular, daily smokers before leaving high school.**  
*Source:* CDC, "Selected Cigarette Smoking Initiation and Quitting Behaviors Among High School Students – United States, 1997," *MMWR*, 47(10):386-389, May 22, 1998, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm4719.pdf>.
- **85.8 percent of youth (12-17) smokers prefer Marlboro, Newport and Camel –three heavily advertised brands.**  
*Source:* SAMHSA, Calculated based on data from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/series/00064>.
- **17.8 percent of adults (20.5% of men and 15.3% of women) are current smokers.**  
*Source:* CDC, "Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults—United States, 2005–2013," *MMWR*, 63(No.47), November 28, 2014, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6347.pdf>.

Percentage of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Who Report Past Month Cigarette Use

8th Grade	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total:	15.5	16.7	18.6	19.1	21.0	19.4	19.1	17.5	14.6	12.2	10.7	10.2	9.2	9.3	8.7	7.1	6.8	6.5	7.1	6.1	4.9	4.5	4.0
Sex:																							
Male	14.9	17.2	19.3	18.8	20.6	19.1	18.0	16.7	14.3	12.2	11.0	9.6	8.3	8.7	8.1	7.5	6.7	6.7	7.4	6.2	4.6	4.0	3.5
Female	15.9	16.3	17.9	19.0	21.1	19.5	19.8	17.7	14.7	12.0	10.4	10.6	9.9	9.7	8.9	6.4	6.7	6.0	6.8	5.7	4.9	4.7	4.2
10th Grade																							
Total:	21.5	24.7	25.4	27.9	30.4	29.8	27.6	25.7	23.9	21.3	17.7	16.7	16.0	14.9	14.5	14.0	12.3	13.1	13.6	11.8	10.8	9.1	7.2
Sex:																							
Male	20.6	24.6	26.6	27.7	30.1	28.2	26.2	25.2	23.8	20.9	16.7	16.2	16.2	14.5	13.4	14.6	12.7	13.7	15.0	13.4	12.0	10.5	7.7
Female	22.2	24.5	23.9	27.9	30.8	31.1	29.1	25.8	23.6	21.5	18.6	17.0	15.7	15.1	15.5	13.3	11.9	12.5	12.1	10.0	9.6	7.5	6.6
12th grade																							
Total:	27.8	29.9	31.2	33.5	34.0	36.5	35.1	34.6	31.4	29.5	26.7	24.4	25.0	23.2	21.6	21.6	20.4	20.1	19.2	18.7	17.1	16.3	13.6
Sex:																							
Male	29.2	30.7	32.9	34.5	34.9	37.3	36.3	35.4	32.8	29.7	27.4	26.2	25.3	24.8	22.4	23.1	21.5	22.1	21.9	21.5	19.3	18.4	15.2
Female	26.1	28.7	29.2	32.0	32.4	35.2	33.3	33.5	29.7	28.7	25.5	22.1	24.1	20.7	20.1	19.6	19.1	17.6	15.7	15.1	14.5	13.2	11.6

**Data Source:** The chart on this page and several facts on the previous page are based on the University of Michigan's *Monitoring the Future Study* – an annual survey of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders on tobacco and other drug use. Several facts on the previous page also come from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which has been conducted every other year since 1991. Although the two sources present slightly different prevalence results in some cases, the overall trends are the same and both data sources are endorsed and used by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

*Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, January 6, 2015 / Lorna Schmidt*