The North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey (NC YTS) is a public school-based survey of students in grades 6-12 that measures youth tobacco use behaviors every two years since 1999. The Healthy North Carolina 2020 objective is to decrease the percentage of high school students reporting current use of any tobacco product to 15%.

A random sample of schools are selected to participate in the NC YTS. In 2019, 7135 students responded to the survey (3583 middle school students and 3552 high school students). The statewide overall response rate was 56.8% for middle schools and 59.3% for high schools.

PERCENT OF NC MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO CURRENTLY USE ANY TOBACCO PRODUCT

APPROXIMATELY 135,000 N.C. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND 38,000 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS CURRENTLY USE A TOBACCO PRODUCT.

CURRENT E-CIGARETTE USE INCREASE 2011 - 2019

MIDDLE SCHOOL
510%

HIGH SCHOOL
1129%

Tobacco use varies by race/ethnicity

Current use is defined as using tobacco products on one or more of the past 30 days.
North Carolina 2019 enrollment figures were used to generalize NC YTS findings to all middle and high school students in the state. The 2019 NC YTS response rates were 57% and 59% among middle and high school students, respectively. Response rates lower than 60% can increase the potential for non-response bias.
STUDENT ARE USING MULTIPLE PRODUCTS

Nearly 1 out of 2 current tobacco users uses MORE THAN ONE PRODUCT.

STUDENTS ARE VAPING MARIJUANA

Nearly 1 in 4 HIGH SCHOOL students and 7% of all MIDDLE SCHOOL students report they have ever vaped marijuana.

Among current e-cigarette users, over half of HIGH SCHOOL students and nearly half of MIDDLE SCHOOL students report they have ever vaped marijuana.

STUDENTS ARE BECOMING DEPENDENT ON TOBACCO

Among HIGH SCHOOL students

25% of current e-cigarette users want to use a tobacco product within 1 hour of waking up.

30% of current e-cigarette users find it hard to get through the school day without vaping.

TOBACCO USE IS HIGHER AMONG LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL STUDENTS

CURRENT USE-HIGH SCHOOL 2019 (%)

BLUNTS ARE USED ALMOST AS OFTEN AS E-CIGARETTES

CURRENT USE-HIGH SCHOOL 2019 (%)

STUDENTS WANT TO STOP USING TOBACCO

WANT TO STOP USING ALL FORMS OF TOBACCO

(AMONG CURRENT USERS %)

ATTEMPTED TO QUIT IN PAST YEAR

(AMONG CURRENT USERS %)

YES

High School 44.9%

Middle School 41.9%

YES

High School 65.7%

Middle School 74.3%

For more information, please contact the North Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch at (919) 707-5400. www.tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov

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