



Tobacco Use and United States Students

What is the problem?

The 2017 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among U.S. high school students:

Cigarette Use

- 28.9% ever tried cigarette smoking. (1)
- 8.8% currently smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.
- 2.6% currently frequently smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey.
- 2% currently smoked cigarettes daily on all 30 days during the 30 days before the survey.

Smokeless Tobacco and Cigar Use

- 5.5% currently used smokeless tobacco (e.g., chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products) on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey. (2)
- 8% currently smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.

Electronic Vapor Use

- 42.2% ever used an electronic vapor products (3)
- 13.2% currently used an electronic vapor product on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey. (3)

Any Tobacco Use

- 19.5% currently smoked cigarettes or cigars or used smokeless tobacco or an electronic vapor product on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.

What are the solutions?

Better health education • More family and community involvement
Healthier school environments • More comprehensive health services

What is the status?

The School Health Policies and Practices Study 2014 indicates that among U.S. high schools:

Health Education

- 85% required students to receive instruction on tobacco-use prevention.
- 61% provided students with the opportunity to practice communication, decision-making, goal-setting, or refusal skills related to tobacco use prevention in a required health education course.

Family and Community Involvement

- 27% had a school health council that addressed tobacco-use prevention.
- 14% involved students' families and 23% involved community members in the development, communication, and implementation of policies or activities related to tobacco-use prevention.
- 25% had or participated in a youth empowerment or advocacy program related to tobacco-use prevention.

School Environment

- 74% prohibited all tobacco use in all locations. (4)
- 90% prohibited all tobacco advertising. (5)
- 72% posted signs marking a tobacco-free school zone.

Health Services

- 44% provided tobacco-use prevention services at school in one-on-one or small-group sessions.
- 31% provided tobacco-use prevention services to students through arrangements with providers not located on school property.
- 39% provided tobacco-use cessation services at school.
- 22% provided tobacco-use cessation services to students through arrangements with providers not located on school property.

1. Even one or two puffs.
2. Not counting any electronic vapor products.
3. Including e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens.
4. Prohibited all tobacco use by students, faculty and school staff, and visitors; in school buildings, outside on school grounds (including parking lots and playing fields), on school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events.
5. Prohibited tobacco advertising in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses or other vehicles, at off-campus, school-sponsored events, and through sponsorship of school events, and prohibited students from wearing tobacco brand name apparel or carrying merchandise with tobacco company names, logos, or cartoon characters.

Where can I get more information? Visit www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/ or call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).