Trends in the Prevalence of Tobacco Use
National YRBS: 1991—2015

The national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The national YRBS is conducted every two years during the spring semester and provides data representative of 9th through 12th grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States.

Percentages													Change from 1991–2015[1]	Change from 2013–2015[2]
1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015		
Ever tried cigarette smoking (even one or two puffs)														
70.1	69.5	71.3	70.2	70.4	63.9	58.4	54.3	50.3	46.3	44.7	41.1	32.3	Decreased 1991—2015 No change 1991—1999 Decreased 1999—2015	Decreased
Smoked a whole cigarette before age 13 years (for the first time)														
23.8	26.9	24.9	24.8	24.7	22.1	18.3	16.0	14.2	10.7	10.3	9.3	6.6	Decreased 1991—2015 Increased 1991—1999 Decreased 1999—2015	Decreased
Currently smoked cigarettes (on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)														
27.5	30.5	34.8	36.4	34.8	28.5	21.9	23.0	20.0	19.5	18.1	15.7	10.8	Decreased 1991—2015 Increased 1991—1997 Decreased 1997—2015	Decreased
Currently smoked cigarettes frequently (on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey)														
12.7	13.8	16.1	16.7	16.8	13.8	9.7	9.4	8.1	7.3	6.4	5.6	3.4	Decreased 1991—2015 Increased 1991—1999 Decreased 1999—2015	Decreased
Tried to quit smoking cigarettes (during the 12 months before the survey, among students who currently smoked cigarettes)														
—[3]	—	—	—	—	57.4	53.8	54.6	49.7	50.8	49.9	48.0	45.4	Decreased 2001—2015 No change 2001—2015	No change

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

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Division of Adolescent and School Health

Percentages													Change from 1991–2015[1]	Change from 2013–2015[2]
1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015		
Currently smoked cigarettes daily (during the 30 days before the survey)														
9.8	10.0	12.2	12.2	12.8	10.3	7.6	7.2	6.1	5.3	4.8	4.0	2.3	Decreased 1991—2015 Increased 1991—1999 Decreased 1999—2015	Decreased
Currently used smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)														
—	—	11.4	9.3	7.8	8.2	6.7	8.0	7.9	8.9	7.7	8.8	7.3	No change 1995—2015 Decreased 1995—1999 No change 1999—2015	No change
Currently smoked cigars (cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)														
—	—	—	22.0	17.7	15.2	14.8	14.0	13.6	14.0	13.1	12.6	10.3	Decreased 1997—2015 No change 1997—2015	Decreased
Currently used tobacco (current cigarette, smokeless tobacco, or cigar use on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)														
—	—	—	44.5	41.0	35.4	30.0	30.2	27.2	27.9	25.5	24.0	18.5	Decreased, 1997—2015 No change 1997—2015	Decreased

[1] Based on linear and quadratic trend analyses using logistic regression models controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade, $p < 0.05$. Significant linear trends (if present) across all available years are described first followed by linear changes in each segment of significant quadratic trends (if present).
[2] Based on t-test analysis, $p < 0.05$.
[3] Not available.