Youth Tobacco Use

Results from the 2010 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) show that about 3 percent of middle school students and about 19 percent of high school students smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days [Figure 5-1].

Cigarettes are the most prevalent tobacco product, compared to cigars and smokeless tobacco.

Smokeless tobacco use increased from 2 percent in middle school to 9 percent in high school.

Smokeless tobacco includes chewing tobacco, snuff or dip. Students who smoked cigars, cigarillos or small cigars are one percent in middle school and 11 percent in high school. Any tobacco product was used in the last 30 days by 5 percent of middle school students and 25 percent of high school students.

Any tobacco products include cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, pipes and bidis.

Figure 5-1. Percentage of Middle School (Grades 6-8) and High School (Grades 9-12) Students Who Used Tobacco Products in the Last 30 Days, Pennsylvania 2010-2011


Note: Any tobacco includes cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, pipes and bidis.
Prevalence and 95% confidence intervals are displayed
There is no significant difference in cigarette smoking by gender in middle and high school. Prevalence of use of smokeless tobacco is significantly higher among male students than among female students in middle and high school.
Prevalence of cigar use in middle school is around one percent and is not significantly different for males and females. In high school cigar use becomes significantly higher among male students than among female students.

There is no significant difference in overall tobacco use by gender in middle and high school.
Cigarette smoking decreased significantly from 2000 to 2010 in public middle and high schools. There was a rapid decrease in smoking prevalence from 2000 to 2006 and almost no change since 2006.

There is no significant change in smokeless tobacco use from 2000 to 2010 in either middle schools or high schools.
The percentage of cigar smoking students in middle school decreased significantly since 2000. However, the percentage did not change significantly in high school from 2000 to 2010.

Source: Pennsylvania Youth Tobacco Survey 2010, Pennsylvania Department of Health. Prevalence and 95% confidence intervals are displayed.
Use of any tobacco products (cigarettes, smokeless, cigars, pipes, bidis) decreased significantly from 2000, but leveled out in recent years.