

2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey Results

Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control
South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control



2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey Preface

South Carolina, and the United States overall, has seen large shifts in tobacco use over the past decade. One of the more promising of these trends is the sharp decrease in youth tobacco use, indicating the effectiveness of current tobacco control efforts around the prevention of youth initiation. The following report highlights many of the same indicators that are available for past iterations of the SC YTS, however due to an ever-shrinking prevalence of combustible tobacco use among youth in the state there are a number of tables that are either omitted or updated from this 2021 report. In an effort to continue monitoring tobacco use in its most relevant forms there are new tables reported here such as those reflecting e-cigarette quit attempts and intentions.

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Table HS-1: Percentage of high school students who report ever¹ using tobacco products by gender, race/ethnicity and grade – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Any Tobacco ²		Cigarette		Smokeless Tobacco		Cigar		Pipe		e-Cigarette	
	%	(95% CI) ³	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Gender												
Male	43.6	(±4.7)	19.0	(±3.6)	12.8	(±2.3)	18.2	(±2.9)	7.8	(±1.9)	31.8	(±3.9)
Female	47.0	(±4.2)	18.4	(±3.6)	5.6	(±1.3)	15.9	(±2.5)	6.0	(±1.4)	39.9	(±5.1)
Race/Ethnicity												
White	48.5	(±4.8)	22.2	(±3.8)	12.9	(±2.4)	17.3	(±2.5)	7.8	(±2.1)	40.8	(±4.4)
Black	41.3	(±4.9)	11.3	(±4.0)	5.7	(±1.9)	16.2	(±2.9)	-- ⁴	--	29.8	(±4.7)
Hispanic	47.5	(±9.0)	22.6	(±7.7)	8.2	(±4.6)	19.5	(±4.8)	--	--	37.4	(±7.6)
Grade												
9	37.1	(±5.2)	12.6	(±4.4)	8.0	(±1.9)	16.3	(±2.5)	7.9	(±2.2)	25.6	(±5.1)
10	44.5	(±4.9)	18.8	(±3.7)	8.2	(±3.8)	19.2	(±2.8)	7.0	(±2.9)	35.3	(±5.6)
11	48.1	(±7.4)	19.8	(±6.4)	11.8	(±3.2)	15.2	(±4.6)	8.4	(±3.6)	37.9	(±7.6)
12	56.8	(±5.2)	27.8	(±5.8)	11.6	(±3.8)	19.6	(±4.8)	--	--	50.1	(±6.0)
Total	45.5	(±3.7)	18.8	(±3.1)	9.7	(±1.6)	17.4	(±2.1)	7.4	(±1.4)	36.0	(±3.7)

1 - To determine the ever use of tobacco, students were asked “Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?” “Have you ever used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Bandits, or Copenhagen, even just a small amount?”, “Have you ever tried smoking cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, even one or two puffs?”, “Have you ever tried smoking tobacco in a pipe, even one or two puffs?”, “Have you ever tried smoking tobacco in a hookah or waterpipe, even one or two puffs?”, “Have you ever used an e-cigarette, even once or twice?”

2 - Any tobacco includes cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, pipe, e-cigarettes, or hookah.

3 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

4 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-2: Percentage of high school students who report current use¹ of tobacco products by gender, race/ethnicity and grade – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Any Tobacco ²		Cigarette		Smokeless Tobacco		Cigars		Pipes		e-Cigarette	
	%	(95% CI) ³	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Gender												
Male	20.8	(±3.7)	3.1	(±1.3)	4.3	(±1.9)	5.2	(±3.9)	--	--	16.5	(±3.1)
Female	27.4	(±4.7)	2.9	(±1.6)	--	--	3.5	(±1.6)	--	--	25.5	(±4.6)
Race/Ethnicity												
White	27.4	(±3.8)	4.6	(±1.5)	--	--	4.0	(±1.3)	--	--	25.4	(±3.3)
Black	19.6	(±5.1)	-- ⁴	--	--	--	4.8	(±1.5)	--	--	14.8	(±4.1)
Hispanic	25.4	(±5.7)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21.2	(±4.1)
Grade												
9	16.9	(±3.7)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14.4	(±4.0)
10	23.2	(±5.2)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20.1	(±5.0)
11	24.7	(±6.8)	--	--	--	--	4.3	(±2.3)	--	--	20.8	(±5.8)
12	36.8	(±5.5)	--	--	--	--	8.3	(±4.0)	--	--	32.6	(±5.3)
Total	24.5	(±3.6)	3.3	(±1.1)	3.1	(±1.2)	4.6	(±1.1)	2.0	(±0.9)	21.2	(±2.9)

1 - Current use is defined as having used the product on one or more days in the past 30 days preceding the survey.

2 - Any tobacco includes cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, pipe, e-cigarettes, or hookah

3 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

4 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-3: Percentage of high school students¹ who report ever-use and current use of emerging tobacco products – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Ever use		Current use	
	% ²	(95% CI) ³	%	(95% CI)
Roll-Your-Own Cigarette	5.6	(±1.1)	4.9	(±1.2)
Flavored Cigars/cigarillos	7.2	(±1.3)	3.7	(±1.0)
Snus	3.3	(±0.8)	-- ⁴	--
Heat-not-burn products	--	--	--	--
Oral nicotine pouches/lozenges	2.3	(±0.7)	--	--
Dissolvable tobacco products	1.9	(±0.7)	--	--
Bidis	--	--	--	--
Hookah	8.0	(±1.3)	3.9	(±1.0)
Other new product	4.3	(±1.0)	2.7	(±0.7)
HS students using at least one of the above products	17.7	(±1.9)	13.5	(±1.7)

1 - This table was presented among current smokers in the 2017 detailed tables. However, due to the significant decline in smoking use among high school students, the above indicators represent use among all respondents.

2 - Students had an option to choose more than one emerging tobacco product; hence the total could be more than 100%.

3 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

4 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-4: Percentage of high school current vapers who report their usual source of cigarettes by commercial sources, social sources and other sources – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Current Vapers	
	% ¹	(95% CI) ²
<i>Commercial Sources</i>		
Bought them in a gas station or convenience store	23.8	(±4.6)
Bought them from a vape shop	20.5	(±4.2)
Bought them from another store type ³	-- ⁴	--
<i>Social Sources</i>		
Family	11.7	(±3.3)
Friends	42.6	(±5.1)
Some other person	12.0	(±3.6)
Other sources such as Internet	--	--

1 - Students had an option to choose more than one source; hence the total could be more than 100%.

2 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

3 - Includes grocery store, drugstore, or mall kiosk

4 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-5: Percentage of high school students¹ who report quit intentions, quit attempts and length of last quit attempt by gender, race/ethnicity and grade – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Students who want to stop smoking cigarettes		Students who tried to quit at least once in the past 12 months		Students who stayed off cigarettes for less than 30 days during their quit attempt	
	%	(95% CI) ²	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Gender						
Male	40.2	(±9.0)	64.9	(±13.3)	--	--
Female	47.1	(±10.4)	53.0	(±12.2)	--	--
Race/Ethnicity						
White	-- ³	--	--	--	--	--
Black	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hispanic	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grade						
9	--	--	--	--	--	--
10	--	--	--	--	--	--
11	--	--	--	--	--	--
12	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	41.1	(±5.6)	58.6	(±8.8)	25.5	(±6.6)

1 - This table was presented among current smokers in the 2017 detailed tables. However, due to the significant decline in smoking use among high school students, the above indicators represent intentions to quit smoking among all respondents.

2 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

3 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-6: Percentage of high school students who report *e-cigarette* quit intentions, quit attempts and length of last quit attempt by gender, race/ethnicity and grade – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Students who want to stop smoking e-cigarettes		Students who tried to quit e-cigarettes at least once in the past 12 months		Students who stayed off e-cigarettes for less than 30 days during their quit attempt	
	%	(95% CI) ¹	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Gender						
Male	35.2	(±7.2)	61.8	(±8.3)	28.8	(±6.4)
Female	44.4	(±6.6)	64.5	(±6.5)	32.4	(±5.4)
Race/Ethnicity						
White	42.4	(±6.5)	64.5	(±7.4)	30.5	(±4.3)
Black	35.5	(±8.6)	55.5	(±9.5)	30.3	(±8.5)
Hispanic	-- ²	--	65.4	(±12.1)	36.3	(±9.3)
Grade						
9	41.0	(±9.5)	68.2	(±9.6)	29.2	(±8.6)
10	35.8	(±8.8)	62.9	(±9.2)	32.5	(±7.6)
11	32.4	(±9.6)	64.5	(±10.0)	32.2	(±8.3)
12	46.4	(±9.7)	60.8	(±10.0)	30.3	(±7.8)
Total	39.5	(±4.7)	63.6	(±4.8)	31.0	(±4.0)

1 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

2 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-7: Percentage of high school students¹ who report living in houses or riding in vehicles with strict no-smoking rules (smoking never allowed) by gender, race/ethnicity and grade – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Home smoke-free rules		Vehicle Smoke-free rules	
	%	(95% CI) ²	%	(95% CI)
Gender				
Male	77.0	(±4.6)	73.2	(±3.6)
Female	76.6	(±3.8)	71.3	(±5.1)
Race/Ethnicity				
White	79.9	(±3.9)	73.2	(±5.6)
Black	71.0	(±6.4)	67.7	(±5.1)
Hispanic	77.7	(±4.2)	82.9	(±4.7)
Grade				
9	79.8	(±5.0)	77.2	(±3.6)
10	75.4	(±4.0)	71.3	(±4.2)
11	74.2	(±5.3)	66.5	(±6.3)
12	74.3	(±7.4)	69.0	(±8.2)
Total	76.3	(±1.1)	71.6	(±3.8)

1 - This table was presented among current smokers in 2017. However, due to the significant decline in smoking use among high school students, the above indicators represent no-smoking rules among all respondents as of 2019.

2 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-8: Percentage of high school students who report living in the same home or riding in the same car with someone who was smoking cigarettes in the past thirty days by gender, race/ethnicity, grade and smoking status – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Vehicles						Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Homes					
	All Respondents		Current Smokers		Never Smokers		All Respondents		Current Smokers		Never Smokers	
	%	(95% CI) ¹	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Gender												
Male	33.1	(±4.1)	-- ²	--	21.9	(±3.2)	27.1	(±3.9)	--	--	18.0	(±2.9)
Female	32.4	(±4.0)	--	--	31.4	(±3.6)	25.3	(±3.7)	--	--	23.3	(±2.1)
Race/Ethnicity												
White	39.3	(±4.1)	--	--	32.9	(±3.4)	30.8	(±3.9)	--	--	26.2	(±3.2)
Black	23.7	(±4.5)	--	--	21.5	(±3.9)	17.3	(±3.9)	--	--	17.8	(±3.5)
Hispanic	30.7	(±7.9)	--	--	17.6	(±5.1)	26.3	(±7.5)	--	--	16.3	(±4.9)
Grade												
9	29.7	(±5.3)	--	--	20.5	(±4.7)	25.2	(±5.0)	--	--	18.2	(±3.6)
10	28.7	(±4.7)	--	--	28.4	(±4.3)	21.4	(±4.2)	--	--	21.0	(±3.8)
11	38.8	(±5.7)	--	--	30.3	(±5.2)	30.4	(±5.5)	--	--	22.1	(±4.4)
12	35.0	(±7.2)	--	--	33.1	(±4.9)	28.9	(±6.9)	--	--	25.2	(±5.5)
Total	32.8	(±2.8)	67.7	(±12.1)	27.3	(±2.4)	26.3	(±2.7)	59.1	(±13.5)	21.2	(±1.9)

1 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

2 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-9: Percentage of high school students who report smokers have more friends and vapers have more friends by gender, race/ethnicity, grade and smoking status – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Smokers have more friends						Vapers have more friends					
	All Respondents		Current Smokers		Never Smokers		All Respondents		Current Vapers		Never Vapers	
	%	(95% CI) ¹	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Gender												
Male	26.3	(±3.3)	-- ²	--	25.6	(±3.3)	35.3	(±3.5)	46.0	(±9.5)	33.3	(±2.8)
Female	25.3	(±2.8)	--	--	25.6	(±3.4)	43.6	(±3.6)	52.0	(±8.2)	40.8	(±4.1)
Race/Ethnicity												
White	20.5	(±2.8)	--	--	20.3	(±2.9)	36.3	(±3.3)	45.0	(±6.9)	33.2	(±2.8)
Black	26.4	(±4.0)	--	--	26.4	(±3.9)	39.9	(±4.5)	52.2	(±11.8)	37.4	(±4.9)
Hispanic	36.7	(±5.7)	--	--	36.1	(±6.1)	49.6	(±6.0)	57.5	(±12.0)	47.8	(±6.9)
Grade												
9	27.2	(±3.9)	--	--	27.0	(±4.0)	38.3	(±4.3)	50.6	(±11.1)	36.6	(±4.7)
10	26.9	(±3.8)	--	--	26.8	(±4.4)	40.5	(±4.6)	48.7	(±9.1)	38.8	(±5.5)
11	28.0	(±6.2)	--	--	27.8	(±5.3)	45.2	(±5.6)	59.0	(±12.2)	40.7	(±6.5)
12	20.2	(±4.8)	--	--	19.4	(±5.2)	34.1	(±5.3)	40.6	(±10.3)	31.5	(±6.5)
Total	25.9	(±2.3)	--	--	25.7	(±2.4)	39.6	(±2.5)	48.8	(±4.6)	37.2	(±3.2)

1 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

2 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-10: Percentage of high school students who believe smoking is cool by gender, race/ethnicity, grade and smoking status – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Believe smoking is cool					
	All Respondents		Current Smokers		Never Smokers	
	%	(±95% CI) ¹	%	(±95% CI)	%	(±95% CI)
Gender						
Male	15.5	(±2.8)	-- ²	--	13.8	(±2.8)
Female	16.3	(±2.7)	--	--	15.2	(±2.7)
Race/Ethnicity						
White	14.3	(±2.4)	--	--	13.7	(±2.6)
Black	19.3	(±3.7)	--	--	17.1	(±3.6)
Hispanic	16.5	(±4.6)	--	--	13.9	(±4.6)
Grade						
9	16.4	(±3.3)	--	--	14.7	(±3.3)
10	15.0	(±3.3)	--	--	13.8	(±3.3)
11	17.0	(±4.9)	--	--	15.9	(±4.9)
12	16.5	(±4.3)	--	--	13.6	(±3.8)
Total	16.3	(±2.9)	--	--	14.6	(±2.0)

1 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval.

2 - Unreliable estimates (based on less than 35 respondents) are not presented.

Table HS-11: Percentage of high school students who are susceptible to smoking and vaping, by gender, race/ethnicity, grade and smoking status – Results from 2021 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey.

Characteristic	Susceptibility to smoking						Susceptibility to vaping					
	Non-susceptible never smokers		Susceptible never smokers		Smoking experiementers ¹		Non-susceptible never vapers		Susceptible never vapers		Vaping experimenters ²	
	%	(95% CI) ³	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
Gender												
Male	75.3	(±3.7)	24.7	(±3.7)	90.5	(±5.2)	73.0	(±2.1)	27.0	(±2.1)	73.0	(±2.1)
Female	72.7	(±3.6)	27.3	(±3.6)	94.9	(±3.3)	67.2	(±1.8)	32.8	(±1.8)	67.2	(±1.8)
Race/Ethnicity												
White	69.7	(±3.7)	30.3	(±3.7)	92.2	(±4.0)	65.5	(±4.4)	34.5	(±4.4)	63.2	(±5.3)
Black	79.9	(±3.8)	20.1	(±3.8)	93.6	(±6.4)	72.8	(±4.7)	27.2	(±4.7)	88.8	(±5.8)
Hispanic	73.3	(±6.0)	26.7	(±6.0)	88.3	(±8.5)	70.1	(±6.9)	29.9	(±6.9)	84.2	(±7.0)
Grade												
9	73.1	(±5.2)	26.9	(±5.2)	90.4	(±8.1)	67.0	(±4.8)	33.0	(±4.8)	82.3	(±6.8)
10	72.4	(±4.9)	27.6	(±4.9)	92.0	(±8.5)	65.5	(±5.6)	34.5	(±5.6)	79.3	(±6.1)
11	72.0	(±5.5)	28.0	(±5.5)	95.4	(±4.5)	71.8	(±6.4)	28.2	(±6.4)	72.6	(±7.3)
12	77.2	(±6.1)	22.8	(±6.1)	89.5	(±5.5)	78.0	(±6.5)	22.0	(±6.5)	63.1	(±7.8)
Total	73.4	(±2.5)	26.6	(±2.5)	91.8	(±3.2)	69.4	(±2.8)	30.6	(±2.8)	73.4	(±3.6)

1 - Among respondents who reported having ever tried cigarettes, “Smoking Experimenters” are those who smoked less than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime (note: “Established Smokers” are those who smoked 100 cigarettes or more)

2 - Among respondents who reported having ever used e-cigarettes, “Vaping Experimenters” are those who used e-cigarettes on 100 days or less in their lifetime (note: “Established Vapers” are those who used e-cigarettes on more than 100 days)

3 - Ninety-five percent confidence interval

Note: South Carolina Middle Schools were not sampled in the 2021 Youth Tobacco Survey due to logistical complications of the COVID-19 pandemic.