

2013 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey High School Fact Sheet

The South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey (SCYTS) is a comprehensive survey designed to evaluate prevalence of tobacco use, age of initiation and access to tobacco products. It also includes data on school curriculum, knowledge and attitudes, attitudes toward cessation and readiness to quit, mass media influences, and secondhand smoke exposure. As a surveillance tool, SCYTS monitors key behaviors and attitudes toward tobacco. As an evaluation tool, the survey is intended to document the Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control's progress over time, to recognize groups at risk and to identify areas to strengthen the Division's activities and strategies.

The SCYTS was conducted in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009¹, 2011, and 2013². A two-stage cluster sample design was used to select a representative sample of public middle (containing any of grades 6-8) and high school students (containing any of grades 9-12) in South Carolina. In the first-stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. In all, 50 middle schools and 50 high schools were chosen. The second sampling stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling of approximately two classes from each school. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey. The high school response rate was 78%. The high school student response rate was 84% yielding an overall response rate (school rate x student rate) of 65.5% for high school. In 2013, a total of 1,609 high school students completed the SCYTS.

Prevalence

59.0% of students had ever used any tobacco product (Male 60.5%, Female 57.3%)
48.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (White 51.2%, Black 44.1%, Hispanic 38.0%)
27.2% of students currently use any tobacco product (Male 32.1%, Female 21.9%)
23.7% currently smoke cigarettes (White 26.8%, Black 13.7%, Hispanic 20%)
9.0% currently use Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) (Male 15.3%, Female 2.3%)
36.5% of students had ever used a new and emerging tobacco product³.
21% of students used a new and emerging tobacco product³ in the past 30 days.

Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

31.5% were exposed to SHS in their home in the past month
38.3% were exposed to SHS in a vehicle in the past month
90.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them

Cessation – Current Smokers

41.0% want to quit smoking
58.1% attempted to quit smoking in the past year
34.1% stayed off cigarettes for less than 30 days during a quit attempt

Pro-health Media vs. Tobacco Advertising

28.3% saw a warning label on a smokeless tobacco product in the past month
25.0% said they would ever wear or use something that has a tobacco company name or picture on it

School

28.3% were taught the dangers of tobacco in the past year
40.5% smoked or saw someone smoking a tobacco product on school property in the past month
40.7% used or saw someone using a smokeless tobacco (SLT) product on school property in the past month
6.9% said their school has a program to help students quit using tobacco

Access and Availability - Current Smokers < 18 years old

22.9% buy cigarettes in stores
81.2% get cigarettes via social sources (friends, family and others)

High School Highlights

About 6 out of 10 students have ever used tobacco; 27% currently use some form of tobacco; 15% currently smoke cigarettes; 9% currently use smokeless tobacco (spit, chew or dip).

SHS exposure is very high – near 5 out of 10 students have been exposed in the last 7 days. About 9 out of 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.

More than 40% of current smokers want to quit smoking.

Almost 1 out of every 3 students saw a warning label on a smokeless tobacco product in the last 30 days.

More than two-thirds were NOT taught the dangers of tobacco at school in past year.

40% of students smoked or saw someone smoking on school property

Less than 1 out of 10 students said that their school had a program to help students quit.

¹ 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009 SCYTS results at <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/chcdp/tobacco/yts.htm>

² Detailed 2011 & 2013 YTS tables including 95% confidence intervals are available upon request.

³ New and emerging tobacco products include roll-your-own cigarettes, flavored cigarettes, clove cigars, flavored little cigarettes, smoking from hookah or a waterpipe, snus, dissolvable products, E-cigarettes or some other new tobacco product.