



## STATE HIGH-SCHOOL YOUTH SMOKING RATES

Ranking all the states on the basis of their youth smoking rates is not currently possible because the states do not all use the same survey instruments for collecting that information and, consequently, comparable youth smoking data for each state is not available. However, most states do use one or both of the two different major surveys for determining youth smoking rates: the Youth Tobacco Surveillance (YTS) and the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance (YRBS). While YTS rates cannot be compared to YRBS rates, it is possible to compare the YTS rates of those states that use the YTS and to compare the YRBS rates of the states that use the YRBS.

States	2009 YTS
Hawaii	11.3
Florida	14.3
Connecticut	15.3
New Hampshire	16.0
North Carolina	16.7
New Jersey	17.0
Louisiana	19.4
Oklahoma	20.2

For various methodological reasons, the YTS almost always produces lower rates than the YRBS, even when the two surveys are done in the same year. Missing states did not participate in the surveys. Ideally, all states would at least complete the YTS survey every other year. That would provide extensive, comparable information on youth tobacco use and trends in each state, well beyond the relatively small amount of tobacco-related data collected in the YRBS, which also covers other youth risk behaviors.

States	2009 YRBS	States	2009 YRBS
Utah	8.5	<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>19.5</b>
Hawaii	11.3	Montana	18.7
Maryland	11.9	Michigan	18.8
Rhode Island	13.3	Missouri	18.9
Florida	14.3	Delaware	19.0
Idaho	14.5	Louisiana	19.4
New York	14.8	Mississippi	19.6
Connecticut	15.3	Arizona	19.7
Alaska	15.7	Oklahoma	20.0
Massachusetts	16.0	Arkansas	20.3
North Carolina	16.7	South Carolina	20.5
Georgia	16.9	Alabama	20.8
Kansas	16.9	New Hampshire	20.8
Wisconsin	16.9	Tennessee	20.9
Nevada	17.0	Texas	21.2
New Jersey	17.0	West Virginia	21.8
Vermont	17.6	Wyoming	22.1
Colorado	17.7	North Dakota	22.4
Illinois	18.1	South Dakota	23.2
Maine	18.1	Indiana	23.5
Pennsylvania	18.4	New Mexico	24.0
		Kentucky	26.1

All rates are based on weighted samples. Nationwide rates include all states, not just those that do the individual surveys. Smoking rates are for "current smokers," those who have smoked in the past 30 days. More information on the school-based YRBS and YTS surveys is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/> (YRBS) & [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/surveys/NYTS/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/NYTS/index.htm) (YTS).

*Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, June 25, 2010 / Meg Riordan*