



TOBACCO USE AMONG YOUTH

- **Over 800,000 high school students are current smokers.**
Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "Tobacco Product Use and Associated Factors Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2019," *MMWR*, 68, December 6, 2019, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/ss/pdfs/ss6812a1-H.pdf> (2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey).
- **About one out of every eighteen children is a current smoker by the time they leave high school.**
Source: University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study, 2019, <http://monitoringthefuture.org/data/19data.html#2019data-drugs>.
- **3.4 percent of 10th graders and 2.3 percent of 8th graders are current smokers.**
Source: University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study, 2019, <http://monitoringthefuture.org/data/19data.html#2019data-drugs>.
- **5.6 million children under age 18 alive today will eventually die from smoking-related disease, unless current rates are reversed.**
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress, A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/>.
- **5.8 percent of all high school students are current smokers (7.3% of males and 4.1% of females).**
Source: CDC, 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey. The 2018 NYTS found that 8.1% of high school students were current smokers (7.3% for girls, 8.8% for boys). Current smoker defined as having smoked in the past month. The 2019 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, using a different methodology than the NYTS, found that 6.0% of U.S. high school kids smoke.
- **12.0 percent of all high school students are current combustible tobacco users (cigarette, cigar, hookah, pipe tobacco, and/or bidis), including 13.6 percent of high school boys and 10.2 percent of high school girls.**
Source: CDC, 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey.
- **9.0 percent of high school boys report current cigar use. 7.5 percent of high school boys report past-month smokeless tobacco use.**
Source: CDC, 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey.
- **E-cigarettes are the most popular tobacco product among youth. 27.5 percent of high school students report current e-cigarette use.**
Source: CDC, 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey.
- **31.2 percent of high school students reported current use of any tobacco product (cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookah, pipe tobacco, and/or bidis).**
Source: CDC, 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey.
- **Nearly 90 percent of adult smokers began smoking at or before age 18. Two-thirds of adult smokers became everyday smokers at or before age 18.**
Source: Calculated based on data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s public online data analysis system (PDAS), National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2016, <https://pdas.samhsa.gov/#/survey/NSDUH-2016-DS0001>.
- **81.3 percent of youth (12-17) smokers prefer Marlboro, Newport and Camel –three heavily advertised brands.**
Source: SAMHSA's public online data analysis system (PDAS), National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015. Another survey, the 2016 NYTS, found that 78.7% of high school students prefer these three brands. CDC, "Cigarette Brand Preference and Pro-Tobacco Advertising Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2012-2016," *MMWR*, 67(4): 119-124, February 2, 2018, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/pdfs/mm6704a3-H.pdf>.
- **13.7 percent of adults (15.6% of men and 12.0% of women) are current smokers.**
Source: CDC, "Tobacco Product Use and Cessation Indicators Among Adults—United States, 2018," *MMWR* 68(45): 1013-1019, November 15, 2019, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/pdfs/mm6845a1-H.pdf>.

Percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th Grade Students Who Report Past Month Cigarette Use

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
8th Grade																							
Total:	19.4	19.1	17.5	14.6	12.2	10.7	10.2	9.2	9.3	8.7	7.1	6.8	6.5	7.1	6.1	4.9	4.5	4.0	3.6	2.6	1.9	2.2	2.3
Sex:																							
Male	19.1	18.0	16.7	14.3	12.2	11.0	9.6	8.3	8.7	8.1	7.5	6.7	6.7	7.4	6.2	4.6	4.0	3.5	3.3	2.5	1.8		
Female	19.5	19.8	17.7	14.7	12.0	10.4	10.6	9.9	9.7	8.9	6.4	6.7	6.0	6.8	5.7	4.9	4.7	4.2	3.7	2.6	1.9		
10th Grade																							
Total:	29.8	27.6	25.7	23.9	21.3	17.7	16.7	16.0	14.9	14.5	14.0	12.3	13.1	13.6	11.8	10.8	9.1	7.2	6.3	4.9	5.0	4.2	3.4
Sex:																							
Male	28.2	26.2	25.2	23.8	20.9	16.7	16.2	16.2	14.5	13.4	14.6	12.7	13.7	15.0	13.4	12.0	10.5	7.7	6.1	5.0	5.0		
Female	31.1	29.1	25.8	23.6	21.5	18.6	17.0	15.7	15.1	15.5	13.3	11.9	12.5	12.1	10.0	9.6	7.5	6.6	6.3	4.4	4.9		
12th Grade																							
Total:	36.5	35.1	34.6	31.4	29.5	26.7	24.4	25.0	23.2	21.6	21.6	20.4	20.1	19.2	18.7	17.1	16.3	13.6	11.4	10.5	9.7	7.6	5.7
Sex:																							
Male	37.3	36.3	35.4	32.8	29.7	27.4	26.2	25.3	24.8	22.4	23.1	21.5	22.1	21.9	21.5	19.3	18.4	15.2	13.0	12.7	10.6		
Female	35.2	33.3	33.5	29.7	28.7	25.5	22.1	24.1	20.7	20.1	19.6	19.1	17.6	15.7	15.1	14.5	13.2	11.6	9.1	8.1	8.3		

Data Source: The chart on this page and several facts on the previous page are based on the University of Michigan's *Monitoring the Future Study* – an annual survey of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders on tobacco and other drug use. Several facts on the previous page also come from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which has been conducted every other year since 1991. Although the two sources present slightly different prevalence results in some cases, the overall trends are the same and both data sources are endorsed and used by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, August 20, 2020 / Maddy Bolger