

2015 Youth Tobacco Surveillance—Connecticut

Youth Tobacco Survey

Component of the Connecticut School Health Survey



Connecticut
Department of
Public Health



2015
Connecticut Youth Tobacco Surveillance

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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2015 YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

Connecticut Middle and High School Survey

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Introduction

2015 YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

Connecticut Middle and High School Survey

Introduction

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated, "Tobacco use and addiction most often begin during youth and young adulthood. Youth use of tobacco in any form is unsafe and might have lasting adverse consequences on their developing brains."

In 2015, an estimated 27,800 Connecticut youths, including 24,000 high school and 3,800 middle school students, reported current use (use on 1 or more days in the past 30 days) of any tobacco product. From 2013 to 2015, a statistically significant increase was observed in e-cigarette use among middle and high school students, while a statistically significant decrease was observed in the use of cigarettes. Current use of any tobacco product, cigars, and bidis also decreased significantly among high school students.

In 2015, nearly 1 in 7 Connecticut high school students and 1 in 30 middle school students reported current use of any tobacco product. The use of emerging tobacco products, such as e-cigarettes, is on the rise among Connecticut's middle and high school students. According to the CDC, "it is crucial that comprehensive tobacco control and prevention strategies for youths should address all tobacco products and not just cigarettes." (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2011-2014]. MMWR 2015; 64:[381]).

The 2015 Connecticut School Health Survey (CSHS) is a comprehensive survey that consists of two components: the Youth Tobacco Component (YTC) and the Youth Behavior Component (YBC). This report discusses data collected from the YTC. The YTC is known nationally as the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) and will be referred to as the YTS within this document. Between March and June 2015, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) conducted the CSHS in cooperation with the CDC. The Connecticut YTS is administered biennially. Prior to 2015, the CT YTS was successfully completed in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013.

YTS data are used by health and education officials to improve state programs to prevent and control youth tobacco use. The findings are also used in presentations to demonstrate the need for funding tobacco use cessation and prevention programs for Connecticut's youth.

National results referenced in this report are from the following publication: [Tushar Singh, MD, PhD; René A. Arrazola, MPH; Catherine G. Corey, MSPH; et al.] [Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students—United States, 2011-2015]. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2016;65:[361-367].

Sample Description

2015 YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

Connecticut Middle and High School Survey

Sample Description

Middle School

All regular public schools in Connecticut containing grades 6, 7, or 8 were included in the sampling frame. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce a representative sample of students in grades 6-8.

School Level — The first-stage sampling frame consisted of all public schools containing any of grades 6-8. Schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size (i.e., the larger the number of students enrolled in a school, the more likely the school will be selected to participate).

Class Level — The second sampling stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling (with a random start) of classes from each school that participated in the survey. All second period classes (or other period/required class selected by the school) in the selected schools were included in the sampling frame. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey.

Overall Response Rates:

Schools — 72.00% (36 of the 50 sampled schools participated)

Students — 89.74% (2,474 of the 2,757 sampled students completed usable questionnaires)

Overall response rate — $72.00\% * 89.74\% = 64.61\%$

High School

All regular public schools in Connecticut containing grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 were included in the sampling frame. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce a representative sample of students in grades 9-12.

School Level — The first-stage sampling frame consisted of all public schools containing any of grades 9-12. Schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size (i.e., the larger the number of students enrolled in a school, the more likely the school will be selected to participate).

Class Level — The second sampling stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling (with a random start) of classes from each school that participated in the survey. All second period classes (or other period/required class selected by the school) in the selected schools were included in the sampling frame. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey.

Overall Response Rates:

Schools — 82.00% (41 of the 50 sampled schools participated)

Students — 80.34% (2,292 of the 2,853 sampled students completed usable questionnaires)

Overall response rate — 82.00% * 80.34% = 65.88%

Weighting

A weight has been associated with each questionnaire to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and to reduce bias by compensating for differing patterns of non-response. The weight used for estimation is given by:

$$W = W1 * W2 * f1 * f2 * f3 * f4$$

W1 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the school;

W2 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the classroom within the school;

f1 = a school-level non-response adjustment factor calculated by school size category (small, medium, large);

f2 = a class adjustment factor calculated by school;

f3 = a student-level non-response adjustment factor calculated by class;

f4 = a post-stratification adjustment factor calculated by gender, race, and grade.

The weighted results can be used to make important inferences concerning tobacco use risk behaviors of all regular public school students in grades 6 through 8 or students in grades 9 through 12 in Connecticut.

Sampling

The 2015 CT YTS was made up of 63 questions—core questions developed by CDC and supplemental questions added by DPH. Most results are reported separately for middle school and high school students. When sample size and prevalence rates allow, results are presented by sex, grade, and race/ethnicity [non-Hispanic white (NH-whites); non-Hispanic black (NH-blacks); and Hispanic or Latino (Hispanics)]. The numbers of students in other racial and ethnic groups were too low for meaningful analysis in this report. SAS[®] and SUDAAN[®] were used to compute 95% confidence intervals, which were used to determine the differences between subgroups at the $p < 0.05$ level. Differences between prevalence estimates were considered statistically significant if the 95% confidence intervals did not overlap. Subgroup comparisons that are statistically significant are mentioned in this report. The sampling design does not allow for analysis at the school or district level.

Data Collection

The survey was administered during one class period. Procedures were designed to protect students' privacy by assuring that student participation was anonymous and voluntary. Students completed the self-administered pencil-and-paper questionnaire in the classroom, recording their responses directly into the computer-scannable survey booklet. Before the survey was administered, schools were given the option of obtaining parental permission. The core questionnaire included questions about tobacco use, exposure to secondhand smoke, smoking cessation, minors' ability to purchase or obtain tobacco products, knowledge and attitudes about tobacco, and familiarity with tobacco media messages.

Demographics

Demographics of the Students Who Participated in the 2015 Connecticut Youth Tobacco Survey				
	Middle School		High School	
	unweighted frequency	weighted %	unweighted frequency	weighted %
TOTAL	2,474	100	2,292	100
Sex				
male	1,264	51.4	1,185	51.3
female	1,199	48.6	1,101	48.7
missing	11	—	6	—
Race/Ethnicity				
non-Hispanic white	1,310	61.6	1,371	64.2
non-Hispanic black	361	12.9	252	13.1
Hispanic	624	19.2	521	17.4
non-Hispanic other	129	6.3	106	5.3
missing	50	—	42	—
Grade				
6th	685	32.9	—	—
7th	937	33.3	—	—
8th	848	33.8	—	—
9th	—	—	618	26.4
10th	—	—	704	25.1
11th	—	—	490	24.6
12th	—	—	472	23.8
ungraded or other grade	0	0.0	0	0.0
missing	4	—	8	—
Age				
9 years or younger	0	0.0	2	0.1
10 years	2	0.1	0	0.0
11 years	321	15.5	0	0.0
12 years	757	31.5	0	0.0
13 years	879	32.7	1	0.04
14 years	480	18.8	295	12.6
15 years	32	1.3	601	23.6
16 years	2	0.1	599	24.6
17 years	0	0.0	512	25.3
18 years	0	0.0	251	12.6
19 years or older	0	0.0	31	1.1
missing	1	—	—	—

Note: Due to rounding total percentages might not equal 100.

Summary of Results

2015 YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

Connecticut Middle and High School Survey

Summary of Results*

LIFETIME TOBACCO USE

Middle and high school students were asked about their lifetime use (i.e., ever use) of various tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks (clove cigarettes), hookahs (water pipes), and electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

Middle School (grades 6-8)

Ever Tobacco Use

In Connecticut, 7.7% of middle school students have ever tried any form of tobacco.[†] Hispanics (12.8%) are significantly more likely than non-Hispanic whites (6.3%) to have ever used any form of tobacco. The prevalence of ever tobacco use is significantly higher in grade 8 (11.3%) than in grade 6 (3.5%).

Ever Cigarette Smoking

The prevalence of ever cigarette smoking is 4.4% among middle school students. Hispanics (8.3%) are significantly more likely than non-Hispanic whites (3.3%) to have ever smoked cigarettes.

Ever Vaping

Because there are various names for e-cigarettes, and students might not know them as e-cigarettes, a separate question was added to the Connecticut questionnaire, using different terminology. This additional question was used to try to get a better estimate of students' lifetime use of these types of products (i.e., electronic nicotine delivery systems).

Students were asked, "Do you think you will try vaping, using a vapor pen, v-pen, e-vapor, or an e-cigarette in the next year?" The answer responses were 1) I have already tried vaping; 2) Yes; 3) No; and 4) Not sure.

In Connecticut, 5.9% of middle school students answered, "I have already tried vaping," which was classified as "ever vaping". The prevalence of ever vaping is significantly higher in grades 7 (5.5%) and 8 (10.6%) than in grade 6 (1.5%).

*US data referenced in this report collected from the 2015 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)

[†]including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks, hookahs, and e-cigarettes

Ever Use of Other Tobacco Products

Ever use of cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes, bidis, kreteks, and hookahs among Connecticut middle school students is not covered in this report.

High School (grades 9-12)

Ever Tobacco Use

In Connecticut, 31.3% of high school students have ever tried any form of tobacco. The prevalence of ever tobacco use is significantly higher in grades 11 (34.0%) and 12 (46.5%) than in grade 9 (20.0%); and significantly higher in grade 12 (46.5%) than in grade 10 (26.4%).

Ever Cigarette Smoking

The prevalence of ever cigarette smoking is 21.8% among Connecticut high school students. The prevalence of ever cigarette smoking is significantly higher in grades 11 (24.2%) and 12 (34.2%) than in grade 9 (12.9%); and significantly higher in grade 12 (34.2%) than in grade 10 (17.0%).

Ever Vaping

Because there are various names for e-cigarettes, and students might not know them as e-cigarettes, a separate question was added to the Connecticut questionnaire, using different terminology. This additional question was used to try to get a better estimate of students' lifetime use of these types of products (i.e., electronic nicotine delivery systems).

Students were asked, "Do you think you will try vaping, using a vapor pen, v-pen, e-vapor, or an e-cigarette in the next year?" The answer responses were 1) I have already tried vaping; 2) Yes; 3) No; and 4) Not sure.

In Connecticut, 25.1% of high school students answered, "I have already tried vaping," which was classified as "ever vaping". Non-Hispanic whites (28.4%) and Hispanics (25.2%) are significantly more likely than non-Hispanic blacks (12.6%) to have ever tried vaping. The prevalence of ever vaping is significantly higher in grade 12 (30.2%) than in grade 9 (19.0%).

Ever Use of Other Tobacco Products

Ever use of cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes, bidis, kreteks, and hookahs among Connecticut high school students is not covered in this report.

CURRENT TOBACCO USE

Students were asked if they had used various forms of tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes, bidis, kreteks, hookahs and e-cigarettes, on 1 or more of the 30 days preceding the survey. Current use of any tobacco product is defined as using cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, tobacco in a pipe or hookah, bidis, kreteks,[‡] or e-cigarettes on 1 or more of the 30 days preceding the survey.

For middle school students, estimates for current use of several of the tobacco products discussed in this report are not shown because the data collected were not statistically reliable. A notation is made on each of the pages where middle school data are suppressed. Additionally, throughout this report, if estimates for any subgroup in middle or high school were not statistically reliable, they are also noted and suppressed.

Middle School

Current Tobacco Use

In Connecticut, 3.0% of middle school students are current users of any tobacco product. Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (7.4%). In Connecticut, Hispanics (5.2%) are significantly more likely than non-Hispanic whites (2.0%) to be current users of any tobacco product.

Current Cigarette Smoking

The prevalence of current cigarette smoking is 0.8% among Connecticut middle school students. Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (2.3%).

Current Pipe Smoking

In Connecticut, 0.9% of middle school students currently smoke tobacco in a pipe. Nationwide, the rate is 0.4%.

Current Hookah Smoking

The prevalence of current hookah smoking is 1.0% among middle school students in Connecticut. Nationwide, the rate is 2.0%.

[‡]Kreteks (sometimes referred to as clove cigarettes) are no longer legally sold in the US; therefore, data on these products were not collected on the 2015 cycle of the NYTS. Also, kreteks were not included in the national definition of "current tobacco use", so it differs slightly from CT's, which included kreteks in 2015.

Current E-Cigarette Use

In Connecticut, the prevalence of current e-cigarette use is 1.4% among middle school students. Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (5.3%).[§]

High School

Current Tobacco Use

In Connecticut, 14.3% of high school students are current users of any tobacco product. Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (25.3%). In Connecticut, students in grade 12 (20.7%) are significantly more likely than students in grade 9 (9.4%) to currently use tobacco.

Current E-Cigarette Use

E-cigarettes are the most prevalent form of tobacco product used (7.2%) among Connecticut high school students. Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (16.0%).[§]

Current Cigarette Smoking

In Connecticut, cigarettes are the second most prevalent form of tobacco used (5.6%) among high school students. Nationwide, the rate is 9.3%.

[§]For the 2015 NYTS, current use of e-cigarettes was assessed by the question, "During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes?" E-cigarette questions were preceded by an introductory paragraph: "The next twelve questions are about electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes are electronic devices that usually contain a nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled. You may also know them as vape-pens, hookah-pens, electronic hookahs (e-hookahs), electronic cigars (e-cigars), electronic pipes (e-pipes), or e-vaporizers. Some look like cigarettes and others look like pens or small pipes. These are battery-powered devices that produce vapor instead of smoke. Some brands are NJOY, Blu, VUSE, MarkTen, Finiti, Starbuzz, and Fantasia." In 2014, current use of e-cigarettes was assessed by the question, "During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use e-cigarettes such as Blu, 21st Century Smoke, or NJOY?"; and in 2011 to 2013, e-cigarette use was assessed by the question "In the past 30 days, which of the following products have you used on at least one day?," and the response option for e-cigarettes was "Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes such as Ruyan or NJOY."

For the CT YTS, the question for current use of e-cigarettes was asked on the questionnaire in 2011, 2013, and 2015, and the wording has not changed; it was assessed using the same question asked on the NYTS in 2011 to 2013, "In the past 30 days, which of the following products have you used on at least one day?," and the response option for e-cigarettes was "Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes such as Ruyan or NJOY." Therefore, CT's 2015 current e-cigarette use estimates are possibly conservative and are not directly comparable to 2015 national results.

Current Cigar Smoking

Cigars are the third most prevalent form of tobacco used (4.5%) among Connecticut high school students. Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (8.6%). In Connecticut, males (6.5%) are significantly more likely than females (2.5%) to currently smoke cigars. The prevalence of current cigar smoking is significantly higher in grade 12 (8.0%) than in grades 9 (2.8%) and 10 (3.1%).

Current Hookah Smoking

Among Connecticut high school students, tobacco in a hookah is the fourth most prevalent form of tobacco used (3.3%). Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (7.2%).

Current Smokeless Tobacco Use

Smokeless tobacco (including chewing tobacco, snuff, and dip) is the fifth most prevalent form of tobacco used (2.8%) among Connecticut high school students. Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (6.0%).**

Current Pipe Smoking

In Connecticut among high school students, tobacco in a pipe is the sixth most prevalent form of tobacco used (2.3%). Nationwide, the rate is significantly lower (1.0%).

Current Kretek Smoking

Among high school students in Connecticut, kreteks are the seventh most prevalent form of tobacco used (0.5%). No questions on kretek use were asked on the 2015 National Youth Tobacco Survey because kreteks can no longer be legally sold in the US.

Current Bidi Smoking

In Connecticut, Bidis are the eighth most prevalent form of tobacco used (0.4%) among high school students. Nationwide, the rate is 0.6%.

FREQUENT USE OF CIGARETTES

In Connecticut, 32.1% of high school current cigarette smokers smoked cigarettes on 20 or more of the 30 days prior to the survey (i.e., frequent cigarette smoking).

**The definition of smokeless tobacco for the 2015 cycle of the NYTS includes chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, snus, and dissolvable tobacco because of limited sample sizes. In previous years of the NYTS, the definition of smokeless tobacco included only chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, whereas snus and dissolvable tobacco were reported as separate products. The definition of smokeless tobacco for the 2015 CT YTS does not include snus and dissolvable tobacco. Therefore, 2015 prevalence rates for CT and nationwide are not directly comparable.

DAILY CIGARETTE SMOKING

In Connecticut, 21.9% of high school current cigarette smokers smoked cigarettes on all of the 30 days before the survey (i.e., daily cigarette smoking).

NUMBER OF CIGARETTES SMOKED IN LIFETIME

In Connecticut, 3.4% of high school youth reported having smoked 100 cigarettes or more (i.e., 5 packs or more) in their entire life. Among Connecticut current cigarette smokers in high school, 51.2% have smoked 5 packs of cigarettes or more in their lifetime.

ACCESS

In Connecticut, high school current cigarette smokers report that, in the 30 days prior to the survey, 33.8% bought their own cigarettes and 31.5% said they had someone else buy the cigarettes for them.

REFUSAL OF SALE^{††}

In Connecticut, 14.6% of middle and high school students less than age 18 years who tried to buy^{††} cigarettes in the preceding 30 days were refused sale because of their age.

TOBACCO USE INITIATION BEFORE AGE 11 YEARS

Cigarette Smoking Initiation

Among ever cigarette smokers in high school in Connecticut, 7.9% first tried cigarette smoking before age 11 years.

Cigar Smoking Initiation

Among Connecticut high school youth who ever smoked cigars, 6.9% first tried cigar smoking before age 11 years.

Smokeless Tobacco Use Initiation

Among ever smokeless tobacco (i.e., chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip) users in high school in Connecticut, 1.8% first tried smokeless tobacco before age 11 years.

^{††}In the state of Connecticut, it is illegal for a person less than 18 years of age to purchase or possess cigarettes.

^{††}This includes students who might not have bought their cigarettes at a retail establishment.

CIGARETTE SMOKING CESSATION

Want to Stop Smoking Cigarettes for Good

In Connecticut, 38.3% of high school students who currently smoke cigarettes want to quit smoking cigarettes for good.

Tried to Quit Smoking Cigarettes for Good

In Connecticut, 59.6% of current cigarette smokers in high school tried to quit smoking for a day or longer in the past 12 months because they wanted to quit smoking for good.

Last Time Smoked a Cigarette

Among high school ever cigarette smokers in Connecticut, 33.2% last smoked a cigarette, even one or two puffs, more than one year ago.

In Connecticut, among high school current cigarette smokers, 38.1% last smoked a cigarette earlier in the day on the day of the survey.

RECENT SECONDHAND TOBACCO SMOKE EXPOSURE

Recent secondhand smoke exposure is defined as having breathed the smoke from someone else's tobacco product at home, in a vehicle, at school, in an indoor or outdoor public place, or at work on one day or more of the seven days preceding the survey. Overall, the prevalence of recent secondhand smoke exposure among Connecticut middle and high school students is 48.0%.

At Home with Someone Who Was Smoking a Tobacco Product

In Connecticut, 15.9% of middle and high school youth were home when someone smoked a tobacco product.

Rode in a Vehicle Where Someone Was Smoking a Tobacco Product

In Connecticut, 17.4% of middle and high school students rode in a vehicle with someone who was smoking a tobacco product.

Breathed the Smoke from Someone Who Was Smoking at Their School

In Connecticut, 17.1% of middle and high school students breathed the smoke from someone who was smoking a tobacco product at their school.

Breathed the Smoke from Someone Who Was Smoking in a Public Place

In Connecticut, 36.0% of middle and high school students breathed the smoke from someone who was smoking a tobacco product in a public place.

Live with Tobacco Smoker

In Connecticut, 26.4% of middle and high school students live with someone who smokes a tobacco product.

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

Inquiry and Advisement About Tobacco Use

In Connecticut, 38.9% of middle and 64.1% of high school youth report that they were asked if they used tobacco of any kind and/or advised not to use tobacco of any kind by a doctor, dentist, or nurse during the past 12 months.^{§§}

Beliefs About Dangers of Tobacco

In Connecticut, 91.5% of middle school students strongly agree or agree that all tobacco products are dangerous. In high school, 92.1% of non-tobacco users strongly agree or agree that all tobacco products are dangerous; among tobacco users, the rate is significantly lower (78.2%).

Beliefs About Tobacco Smoke Harm

In Connecticut, 94.6% of middle school students think that breathing the smoke from other people's cigarettes or other tobacco products is very harmful or harmful to one's health. In high school, 95.3% of non-tobacco users think that breathing the smoke from other people's cigarettes or other tobacco products is very harmful or harmful to one's health; among tobacco users, the rate is significantly lower (86.5%).

Exposure to Tobacco Advertising

In Connecticut, 48.1% of middle and 56.7% of high school students report most of the time or always seeing ads or promotions for cigarettes or other tobacco products when they go to convenience stores, supermarkets, or gas stations.^{***}

Beliefs About Tobacco Companies

In Connecticut, 61.4% of middle and 61.1% of high school students believe that tobacco companies try to get young people under 18 to use tobacco products.

Receiving Tobacco Company Ads and Merchandise

In Connecticut, middle and high school current tobacco users (26.0%) are significantly more likely than non-tobacco users (16.8%) to have received ads from a tobacco company during the past 30 days.

^{§§}among students who saw a doctor, dentist, or nurse in the past 12 months

^{***}Students who answered that they do not go to convenience stores, supermarkets, or gas stations were excluded from this analysis.

In Connecticut, middle and high school current tobacco users (31.7%) are significantly more likely than non-tobacco users (4.5%) to have bought or received anything during the past 12 months that has a tobacco company name or picture on it.

Using or Wearing Tobacco Company Promotional Items

In Connecticut, 8.3% middle school students report that they are very or somewhat likely to ever use or wear something that has a tobacco company name or picture on it. Among tobacco users, the rate is significantly higher (41.7%) than among non-tobacco users (7.2%).

In high school, 17.1% of students report that they are very or somewhat likely to ever use or wear something that has a tobacco company name or picture on it. Among tobacco users, the rate is significantly higher (46.1%) than among non-tobacco users (12.2%).

SIGNIFICANT TRENDS

Since 2000, significant decreases in the prevalence of middle and high school students who currently use tobacco products have been observed in Connecticut and nationwide. Connecticut began tracking the use of emerging tobacco products, such as hookahs and e-cigarettes, in 2011. This section will focus on any significant increases or decreases in tobacco use for students overall and by sex^{†††} and secondhand smoke exposure (students overall) that occurred between 2011 and 2015. Note: If statistically reliable data were not available for 2011 and/or 2015, significant increases or decreases cannot be determined.

Current Tobacco Use

Middle School

During 2011-2015, a significant **decrease** (2.9%-0.8%) occurred in the percentage of students who currently smoke cigarettes.

High School

During 2011-2015, a significant **decrease** (21.0%-14.3%) occurred in the percentage of students who currently use tobacco. Overall, the prevalence of current tobacco use decreased significantly among males (26.7%-16.3%).

During 2011-2015, a significant **decrease** (14.0%-5.6%) occurred in the percentage of students who currently smoke cigarettes. Overall, the prevalence of current cigarette smoking decreased significantly among males (16.1%-5.6%) and females (11.8%-5.6%).

^{†††}In the trends section of this report (pp. 41-46), data are shown for students overall but not by sex.

During 2011-2015, a significant **decrease** (11.3%-4.5%) occurred in the percentage of students who currently smoke cigars. Overall, the prevalence of current cigar smoking decreased significantly among males (17.8%-6.5%).

During 2011-2015, a significant **increase** (2.4%-7.2%) occurred in the percentage of students who currently use e-cigarettes. Overall, the prevalence of current e-cigarette use increased significantly among males (3.3%-8.3%) and females (1.5%-6.0%).

During 2011-2015, a significant **decrease** (1.9%-0.4%) occurred in the percentage of students who currently smoke bidis.

Recent Secondhand Smoke Exposure^{†††}

Middle School

During 2011-2015, a significant **decrease** (22.2%-13.5%) occurred in the percentage of students who rode in a vehicle where someone was smoking a tobacco product.

High School

During 2011-2015, a significant **decrease** (31.0%-20.2%) occurred in the percentage of students who rode in a vehicle where someone was smoking a tobacco product.

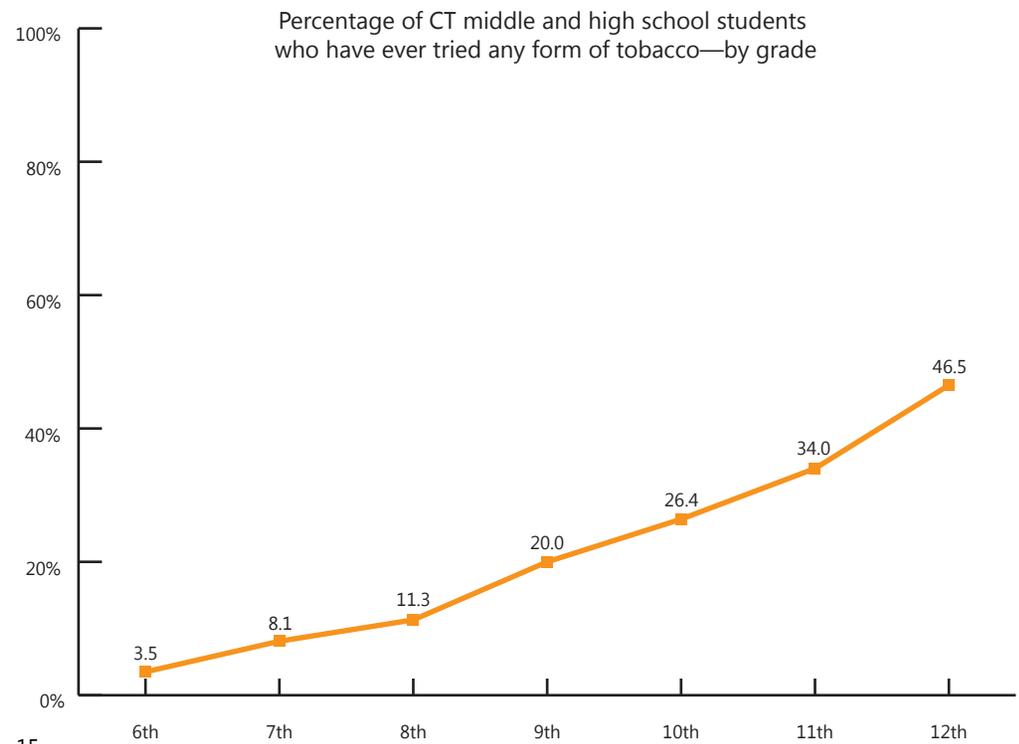
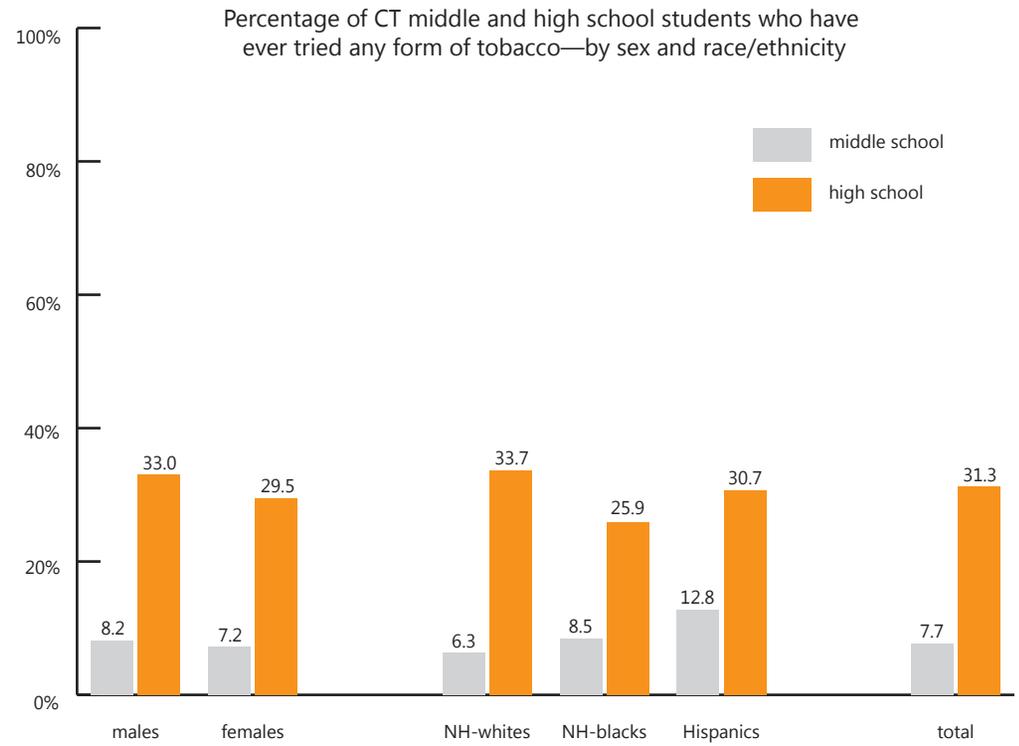
During 2011-2015, a significant **decrease** (47.1%-38.9%) occurred in the percentage of students who breathed the smoke from someone who was smoking a tobacco product at an indoor or outdoor public place.

^{†††} on ≥ 1 day of the past 7 days

Lifetime Tobacco Use

Ever Tobacco Use

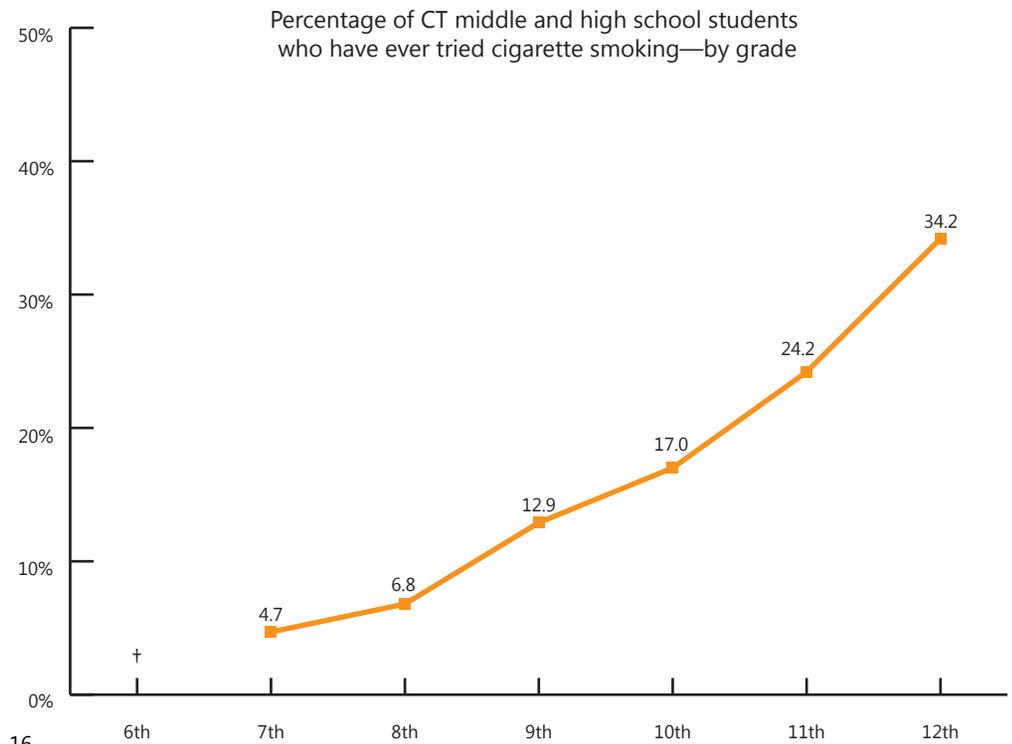
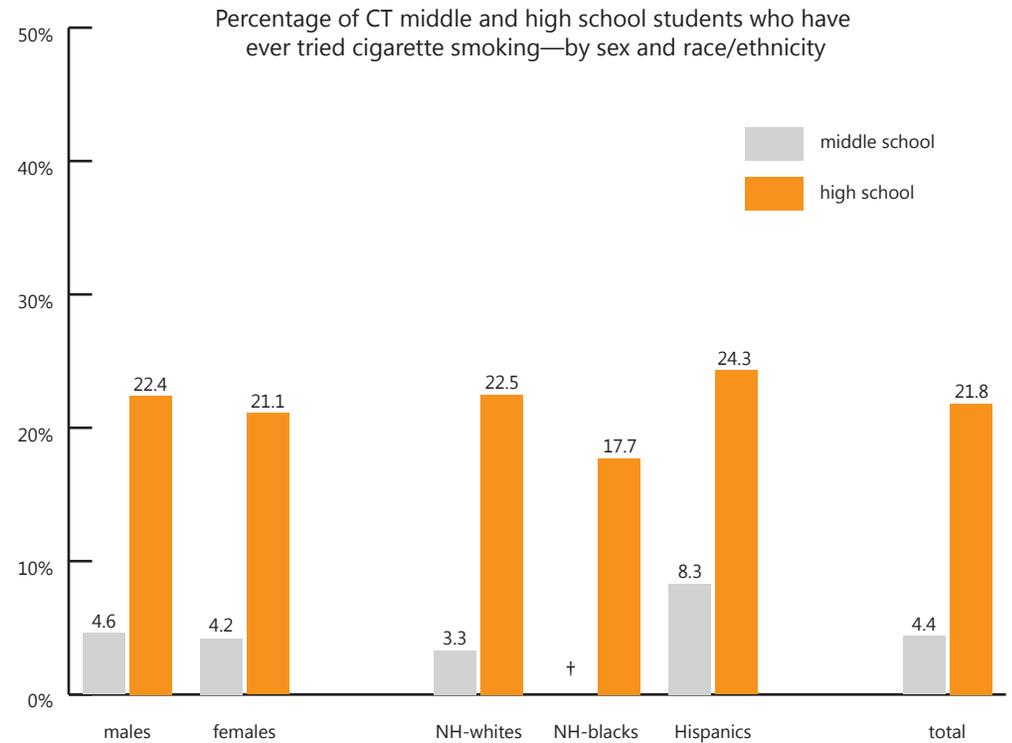
- In Connecticut, 7.7% of middle school and 31.3% of high school students have ever tried any form of tobacco* (i.e., ever tobacco use)
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of ever tobacco use:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex
 - Is significantly higher among Hispanics (12.8%) than among non-Hispanic whites (6.3%)
 - Is significantly higher in grade 8 (11.3%) than in grade 6 (3.5%)
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of ever tobacco use:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
 - Is significantly higher in grades 11 (34.0%) and 12 (46.5%) than in grade 9 (20.0%); and significantly higher in grade 12 (46.5%) than in grade 10 (26.4%)



*including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks (clove cigarettes), hookahs (water pipes), and electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

Ever Cigarette Smoking

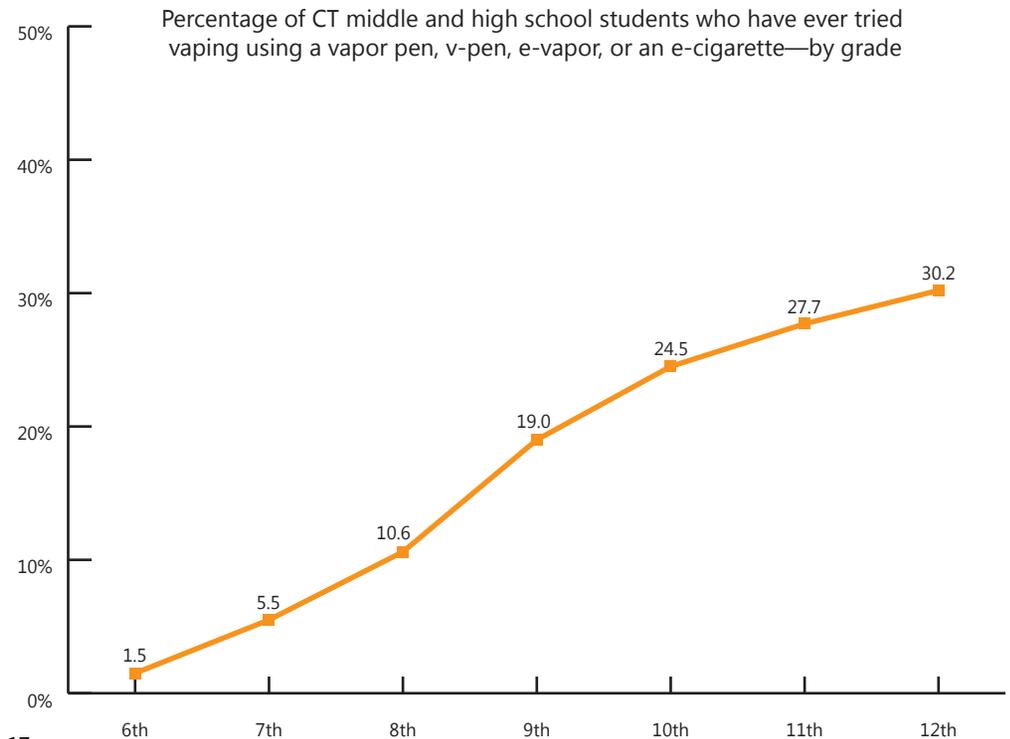
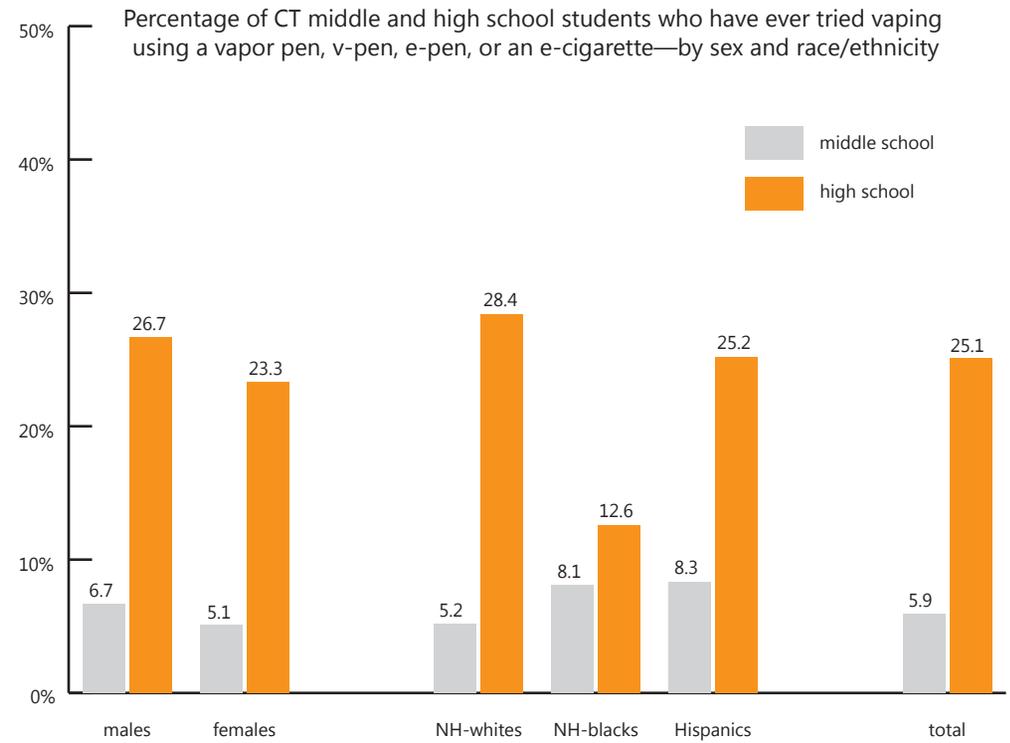
- In Connecticut, 4.4% of middle school and 21.8% of high school students have ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs (i.e., ever cigarette smoking)
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of ever cigarette smoking:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or grade
 - Is significantly higher among Hispanics (8.3%) than among non-Hispanic whites (3.3%)
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of ever cigarette smoking:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
 - Is significantly higher in grades 11 (24.2%) and 12 (34.2%) than in grade 9 (12.9%); and significantly higher in grade 12 (34.2%) than in grade 10 (17.0%)



†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was >30% or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Ever Vaping

- In Connecticut, 5.9% of middle school and 25.1% of high school students have ever tried vaping using a vapor pen, v-pen, e-vapor, or e-cigarette (i.e., ever vaping)
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of ever vaping:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
 - Is significantly higher in grades 7 (5.5%) and 8 (10.6%) than in grade 6 (1.5%)
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of ever vaping:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex
 - Is significantly higher among non-Hispanic whites (28.4%) and Hispanics (25.2%) than among non-Hispanic blacks (12.6%)
 - Is significantly higher in grade 12 (30.2%) than in grade 9 (19.0%)
- Among students who have never tried vaping, 1.8% in middle school and 5.7% in high school think they will try it in the next year (Data not shown on graphs)



Current Tobacco Use & Access

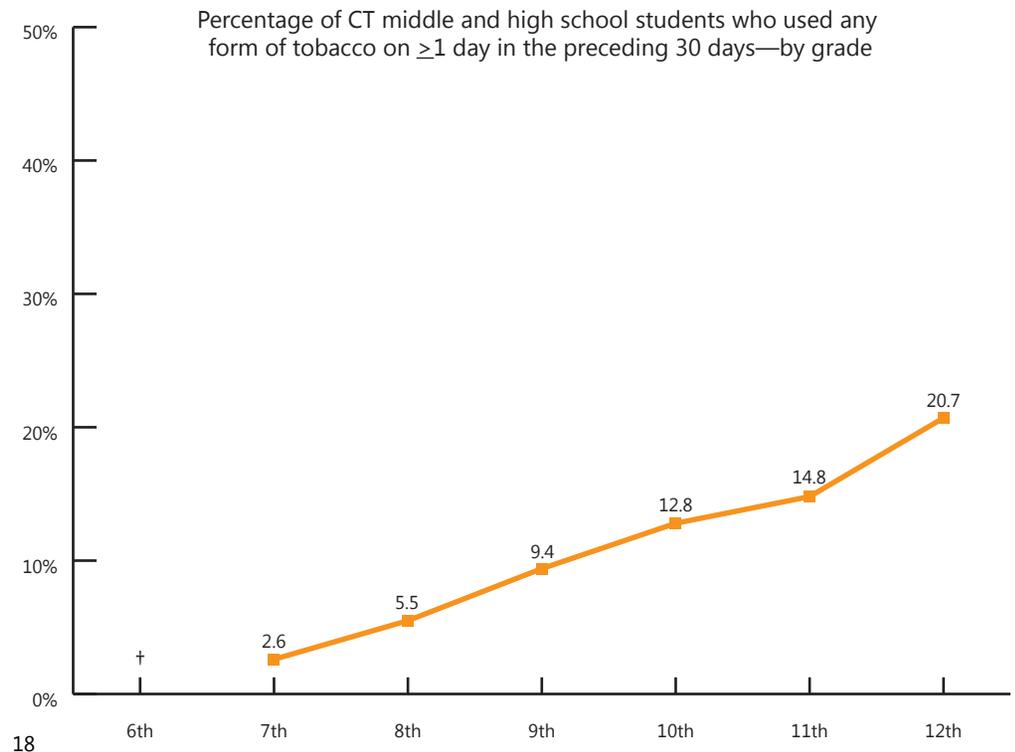
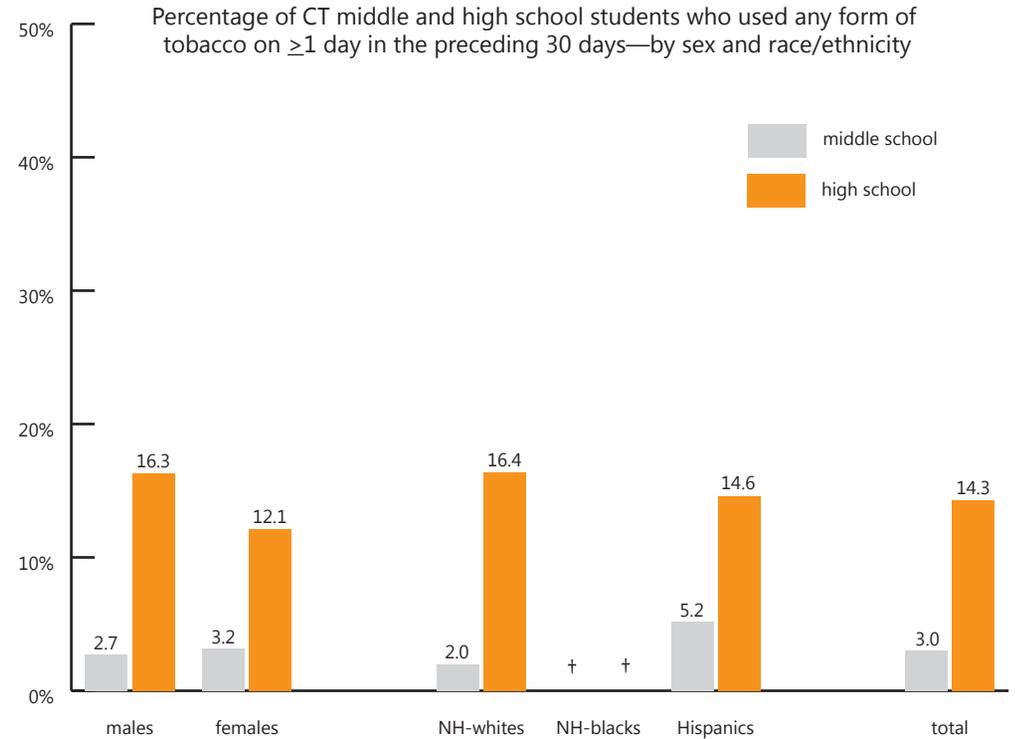
Current Tobacco Use

- In Connecticut, 3.0% of middle school and 14.3% of high school students used any form of tobacco* on ≥ 1 day in the preceding 30 days (i.e., current tobacco use)
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of current tobacco use:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or grade
 - Is significantly higher among Hispanics (5.2%) than among non-Hispanic whites (2.0%)
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of current tobacco use:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
 - Is significantly higher in grade 12 (20.7%) than in grade 9 (9.4%)
- Nationwide, the prevalence of current tobacco use[§] is significantly higher among middle (7.4%) and high (25.3%) school students than it is among their CT counterparts (3.0% and 14.3%, respectively)—US data not shown on graphs

*including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks (clove cigarettes), hookahs (water pipes), and electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

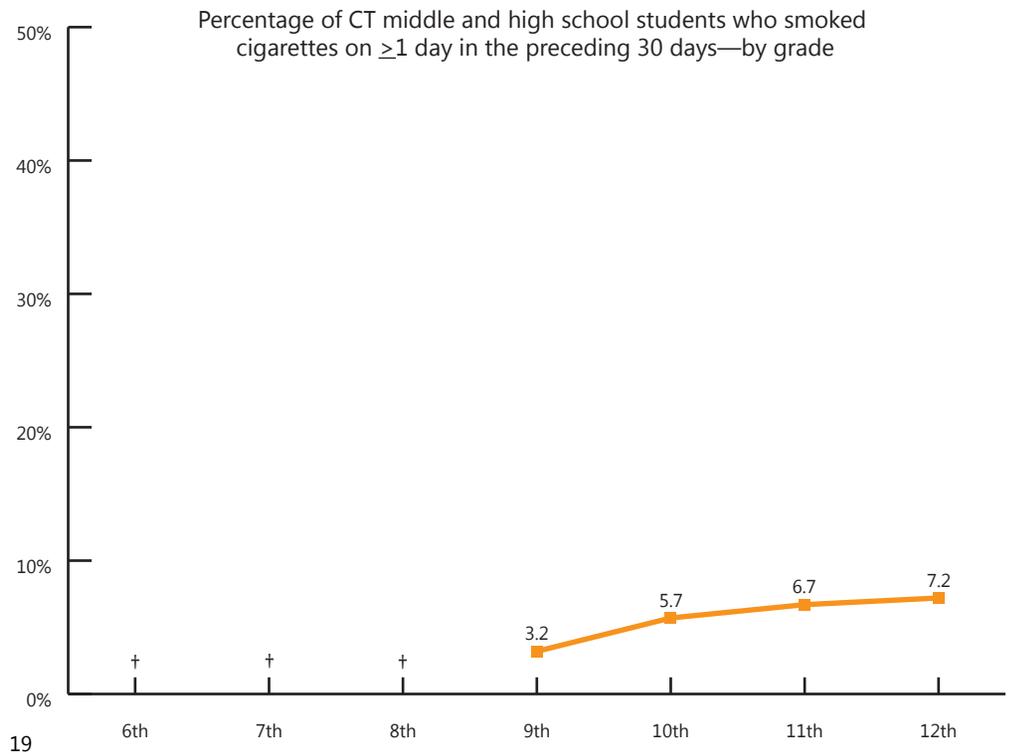
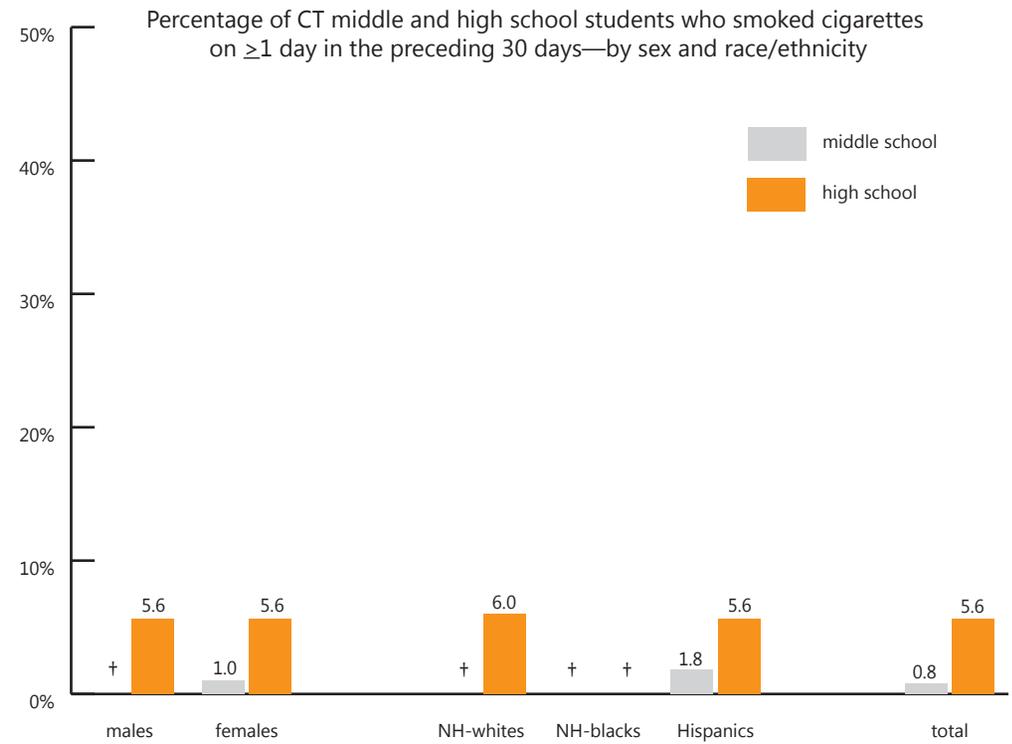
[§]Kreteks are no longer legally sold in the US. Therefore, data on these products were not collected on the 2015 cycle of the NYTS, so the national definition of "current tobacco use" differs slightly from CT's, which included kreteks in 2015.

[†]These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.



Current Cigarette Smoking

- In Connecticut, 0.8% of middle school and 5.6% of high school students smoked cigarettes on ≥ 1 day in the preceding 30 days (i.e., current cigarette smoking)
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of current cigarette smoking does not vary significantly by sex, race/ethnicity, or grade
- Nationwide, the prevalence of current cigarette smoking among middle school students (2.3%) is significantly higher than it is among their CT counterparts (0.8%). The rate among US high school students is 9.3% (US data not shown on graphs)
- Among CT high school current cigarette smokers, 48.2% report that the cigarettes they usually smoked during the past 30 days were menthol or taste like mint (Data not shown on graphs)

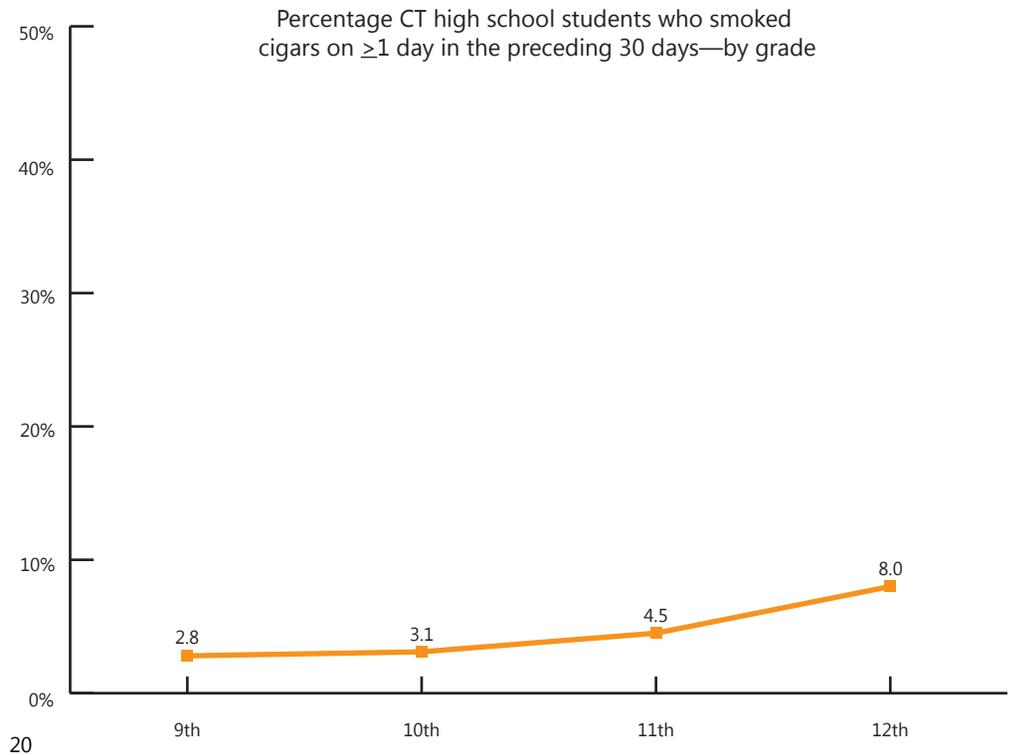
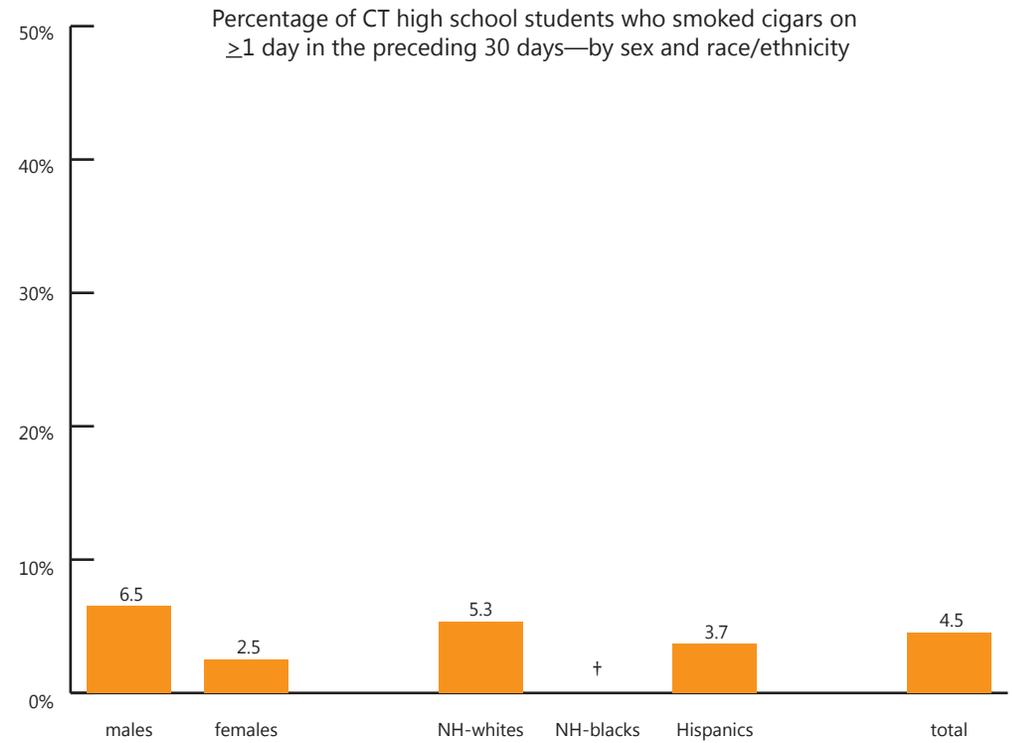


†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Current Cigar Smoking

Note: Estimates for current cigar smoking among Connecticut middle school students are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

- In Connecticut, 4.5% of high school students smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on ≥ 1 day in the preceding 30 days (i.e., current cigar smoking)
- Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (8.6%)—US data not shown on graphs
- Overall for CT high school students, the prevalence of current cigar smoking:
 - Is significantly higher among males (6.5%) than among females (2.5%)
 - Does not vary significantly by race/ethnicity
 - Is significantly higher in grade 12 (8.0%) than in grades 9 (2.8%) and 10 (3.1%)

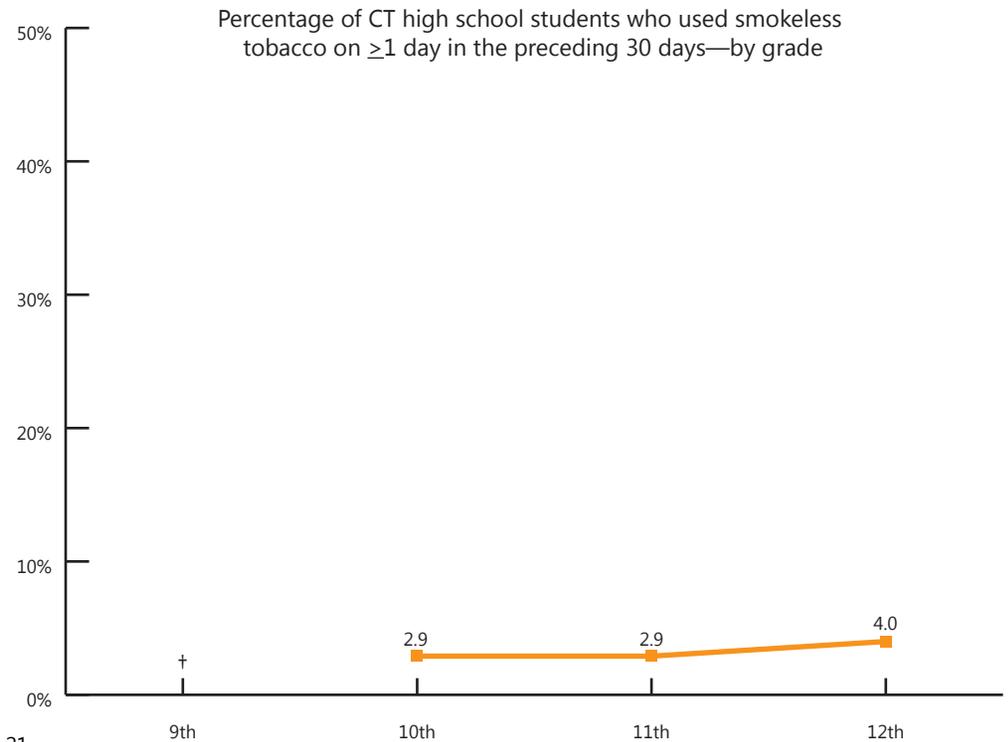
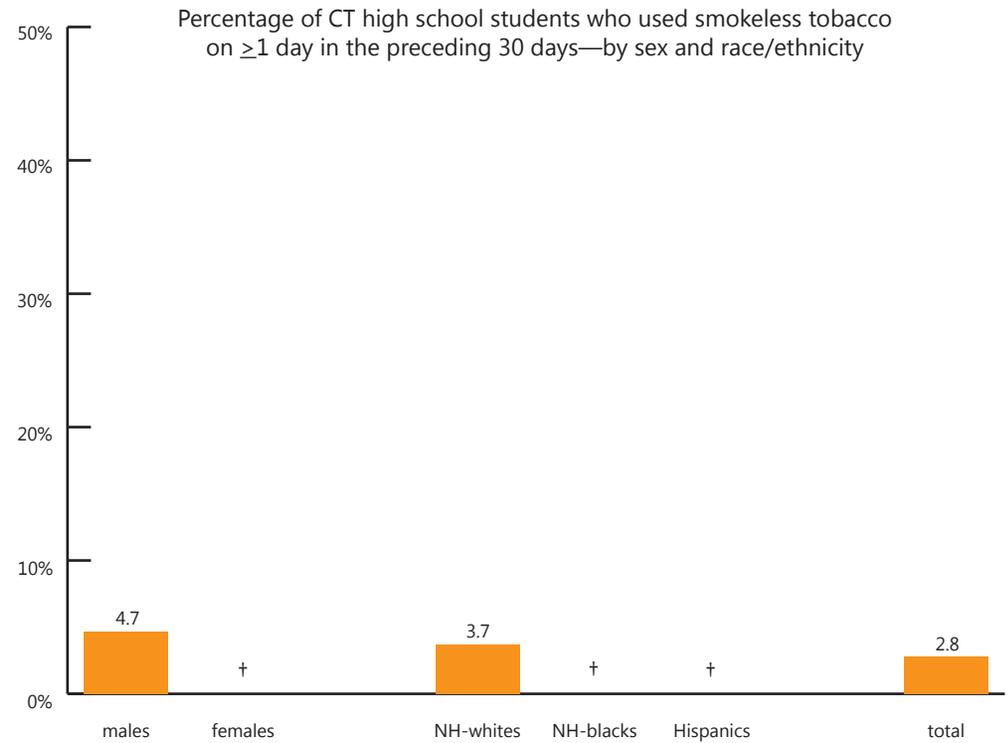


†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Current Smokeless Tobacco Use

Note: Estimates for current smokeless tobacco use among Connecticut middle school students are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

- In Connecticut, 2.8% of high school students used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on ≥ 1 day in the preceding 30 days (i.e., current smokeless tobacco use)
- Nationwide, the rate is significantly higher (6.0%)*—US data not shown on graphs
- Overall for CT high school students, the prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use does not vary significantly by grade

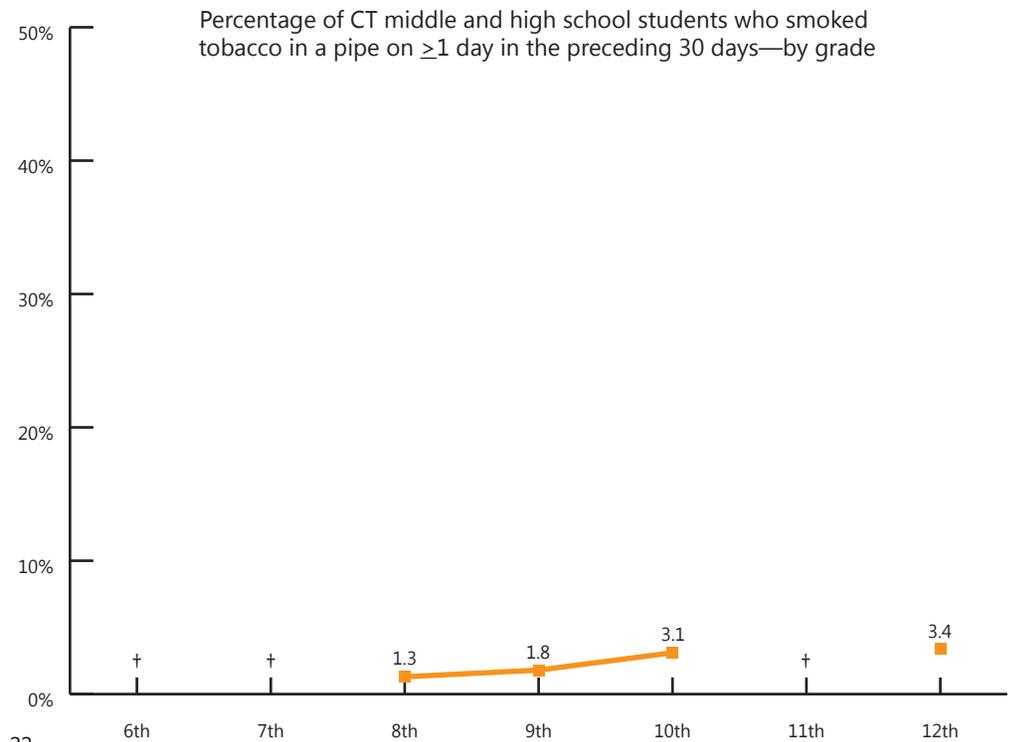
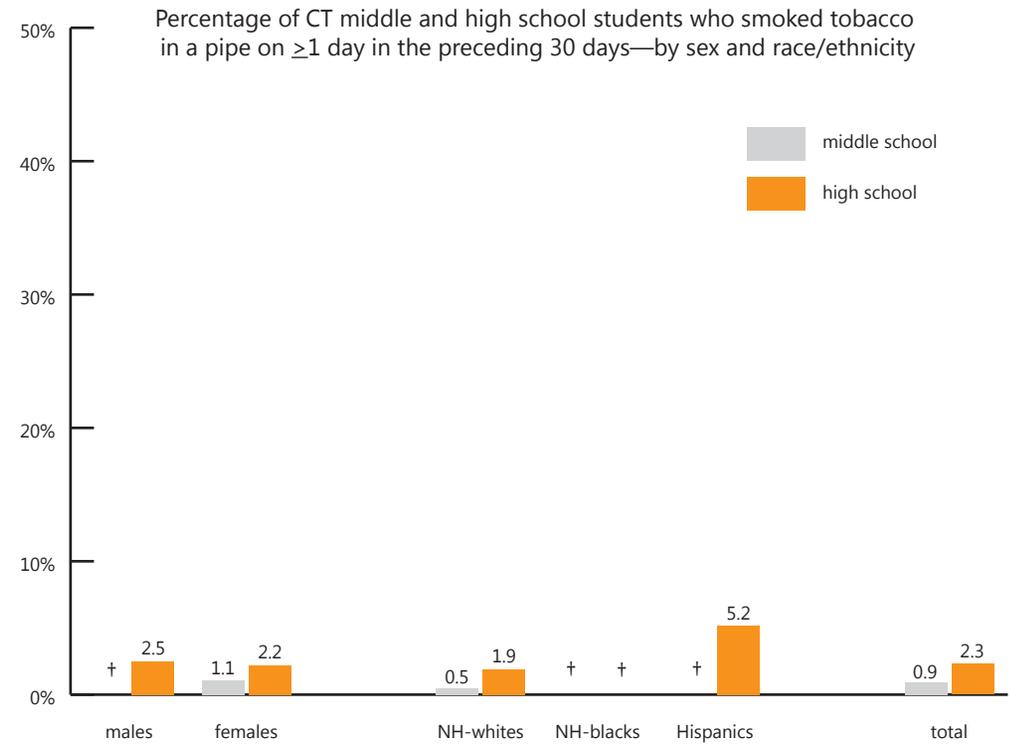


*The definition of smokeless tobacco for the 2015 cycle of the NYTS includes chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, snus, and dissolvable tobacco because of limited sample sizes. In previous years of the NYTS, the definition of smokeless tobacco included only chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, whereas snus and dissolvable tobacco were reported as separate products. The definition of smokeless tobacco for the 2015 CT YTS does not include snus and dissolvable tobacco. Therefore, 2015 prevalence rates for CT and nationwide are not directly comparable.

†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Current Pipe Smoking

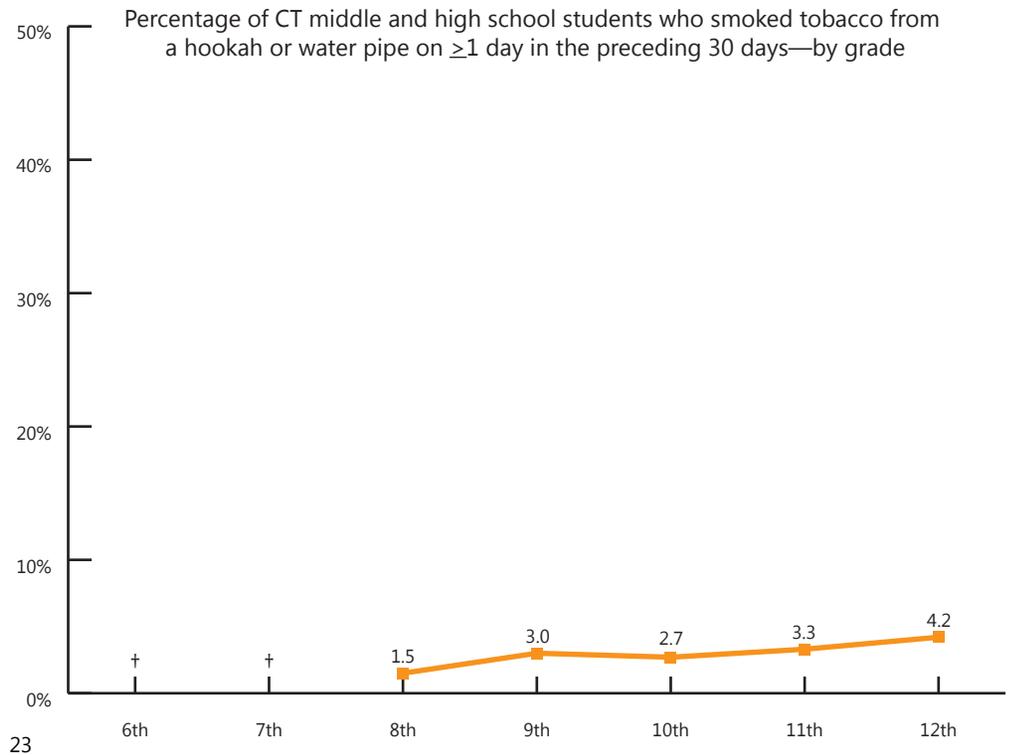
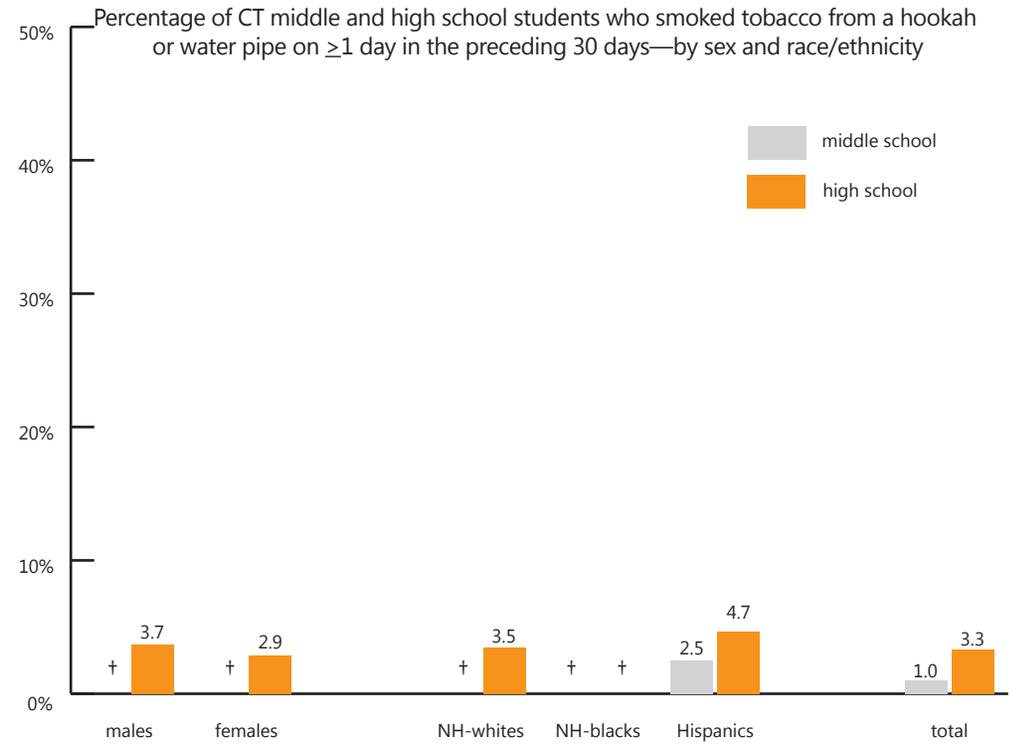
- In Connecticut, 0.9% of middle school and 2.3% of high school students smoked tobacco in a pipe (other than a water pipe or hookah) on ≥ 1 day in the preceding 30 days (i.e., current pipe smoking)
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of current pipe smoking:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or grade
 - Is significantly higher among Hispanics (5.2%) than among non-Hispanic whites (1.9%)
- Nationwide, the prevalence of current pipe smoking among middle school students is 0.4%. The rate is significantly lower among US high school students (1.0%) than among their CT counterparts (2.3%)—US data not shown on graphs



†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Current Hookah Smoking

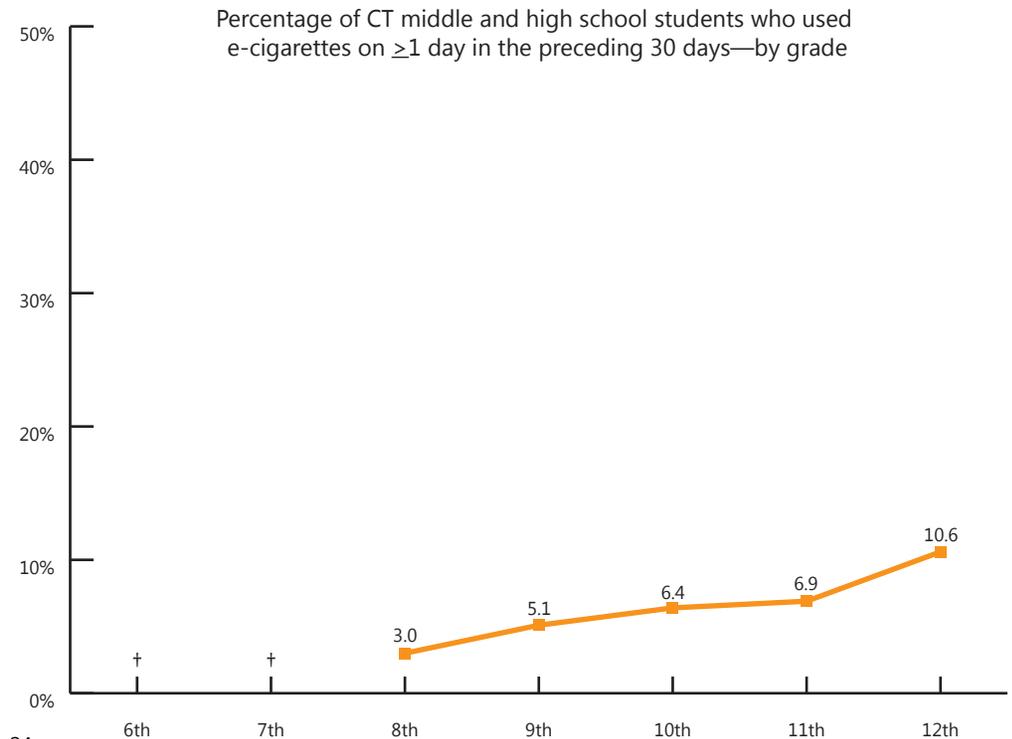
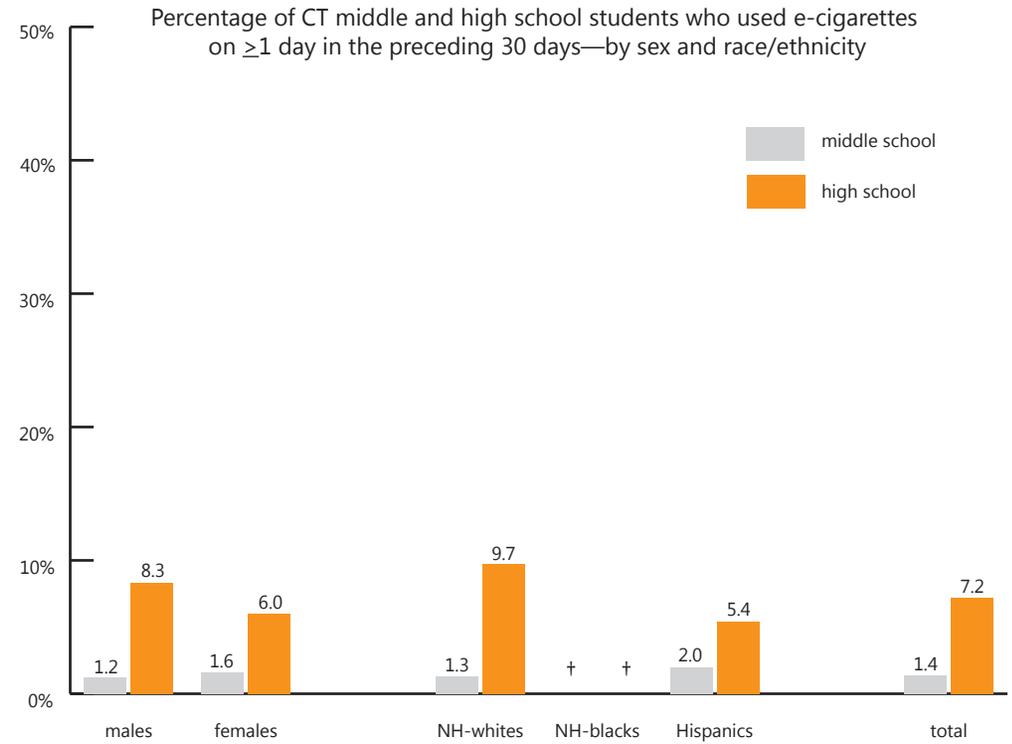
- In Connecticut, 1.0% of middle school and 3.3% of high school students smoked tobacco from a hookah or water pipe on ≥ 1 day in the preceding 30 days (i.e., current hookah smoking)
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of current hookah smoking does not vary significantly by sex, race/ethnicity, or grade
- Nationwide, the prevalence of current hookah smoking among middle school students is 2.0%. The rate is significantly higher among US high school students (7.2%) than among their CT counterparts (3.3%)—US data not shown on graphs



†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Current E-Cigarette Use

- In Connecticut, 1.4% of middle school and 7.2% of high school students used electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) on ≥ 1 day in the preceding 30 days (i.e., current e-cigarette use)
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of current e-cigarette use does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of current e-cigarette use does not vary significantly by sex, race/ethnicity, or grade
- Nationwide, the prevalence of current e-cigarette use is significantly higher among middle (5.3%)* and high (16.0%)* school students than among their CT counterparts (1.4% and 7.2%, respectively)—US data not shown on graphs



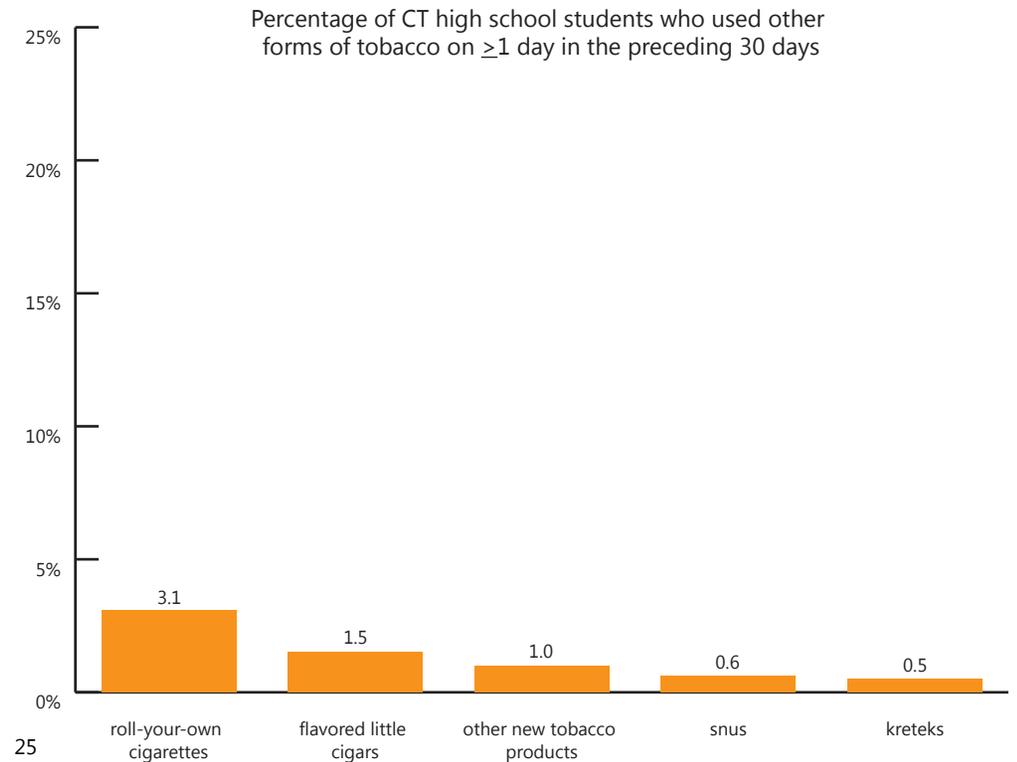
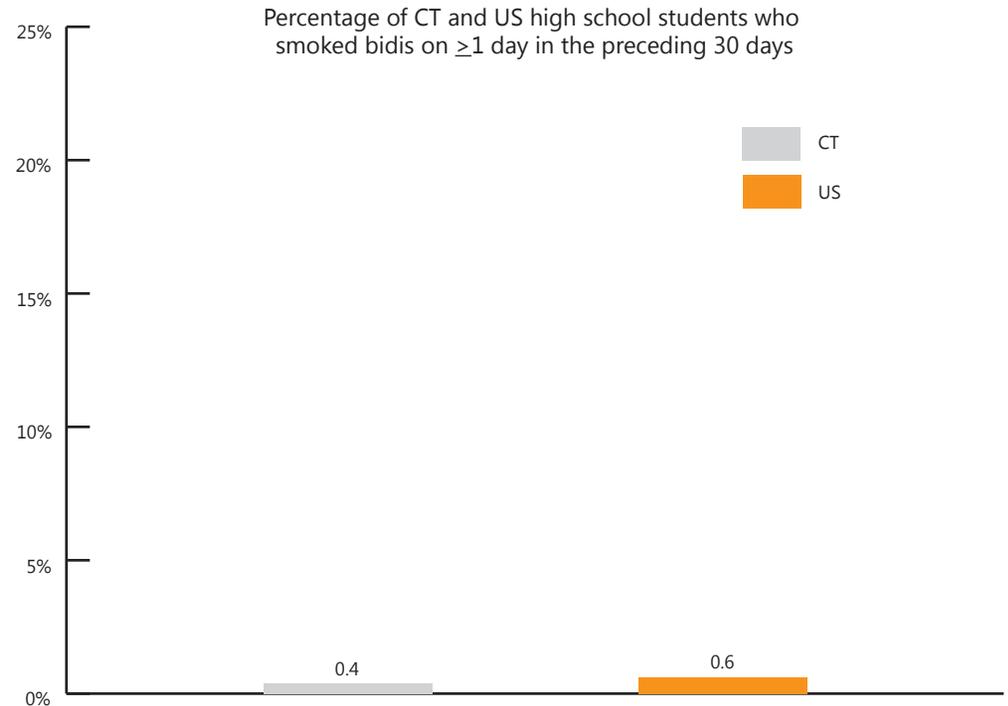
*For the 2015 NYTS, current use of e-cigarettes was assessed by the question, “During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes?” E-cigarette questions were preceded by an introductory paragraph: “The next twelve questions are about electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes are electronic devices that usually contain a nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled. You may also know them as vape-pens, hookah-pens, electronic hookahs (e-hookahs), electronic cigars (e-cigars), electronic pipes (e-pipes), or e-vaporizers. Some look like cigarettes and others look like pens or small pipes. These are battery-powered devices that produce vapor instead of smoke. Some brands are NJOY, Blu, VUSE, MarkTen, Finiti, Starbuzz, and Fantasia.” In 2014, current use of e-cigarettes was assessed by the question, “During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use e-cigarettes such as Blu, 21st Century Smoke, or NJOY?”; and in 2011 to 2013, e-cigarette use was assessed by the question “In the past 30 days, which of the following products have you used on at least one day?,” and the response option for e-cigarettes was “Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes such as Ruyan or NJOY.” For the CT YTS, the question for current use of e-cigarettes was asked on the questionnaire in 2011, 2013, and 2015, and the wording has not changed; it was assessed using the same question asked on the NYTS in 2011 to 2013, “In the past 30 days, which of the following products have you used on at least one day?,” and the response option for e-cigarettes was “Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes such as Ruyan or NJOY.” Therefore, CT’s 2015 current e-cigarette use estimates are possibly conservative and are not directly comparable to 2015 national results.

†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Current Other Tobacco Use

Note: Estimates for current use of bidis, roll-your-own cigarettes, flavored little cigars, other new tobacco products, snus, and kreteks among Connecticut middle school students are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

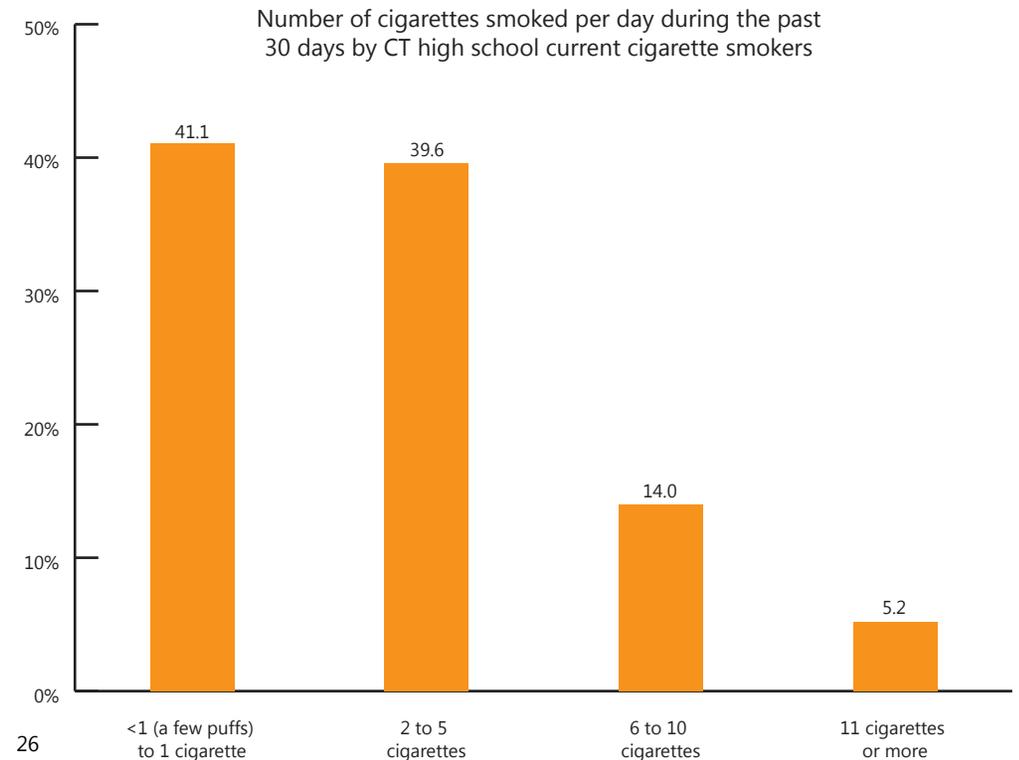
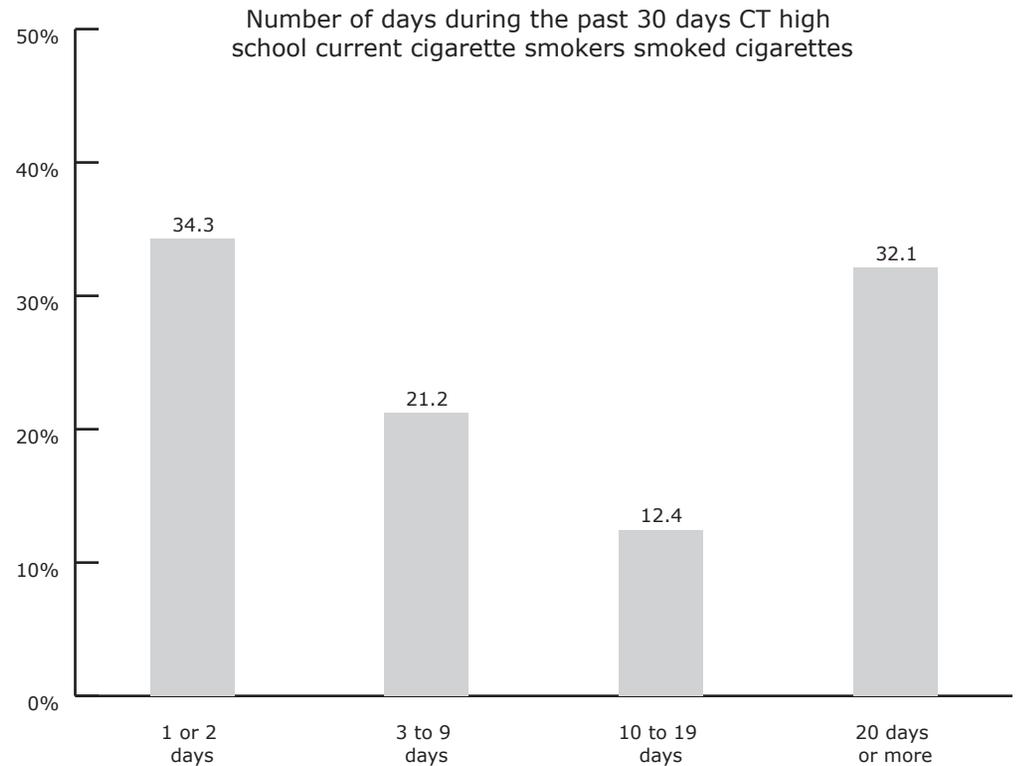
- In Connecticut, 0.4% of high school students smoked bidis (small brown cigarettes wrapped in a leaf) on ≥ 1 day in the preceding 30 days (i.e., current bidi smoking)
- Nationwide, the rate of current bidi smoking is 0.6%
- Overall for CT high school students, the following are estimates of current use of other tobacco products:
 - Roll-your-own cigarettes 3.1%
 - Flavored little cigars 1.5%
 - Other new tobacco products 1.0%
 - Snus 0.6%
 - Kreteks (clove cigarettes) 0.5%



Frequency of Cigarette Smoking

Note: Estimates for frequency of cigarette smoking among Connecticut middle school current cigarette smokers are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

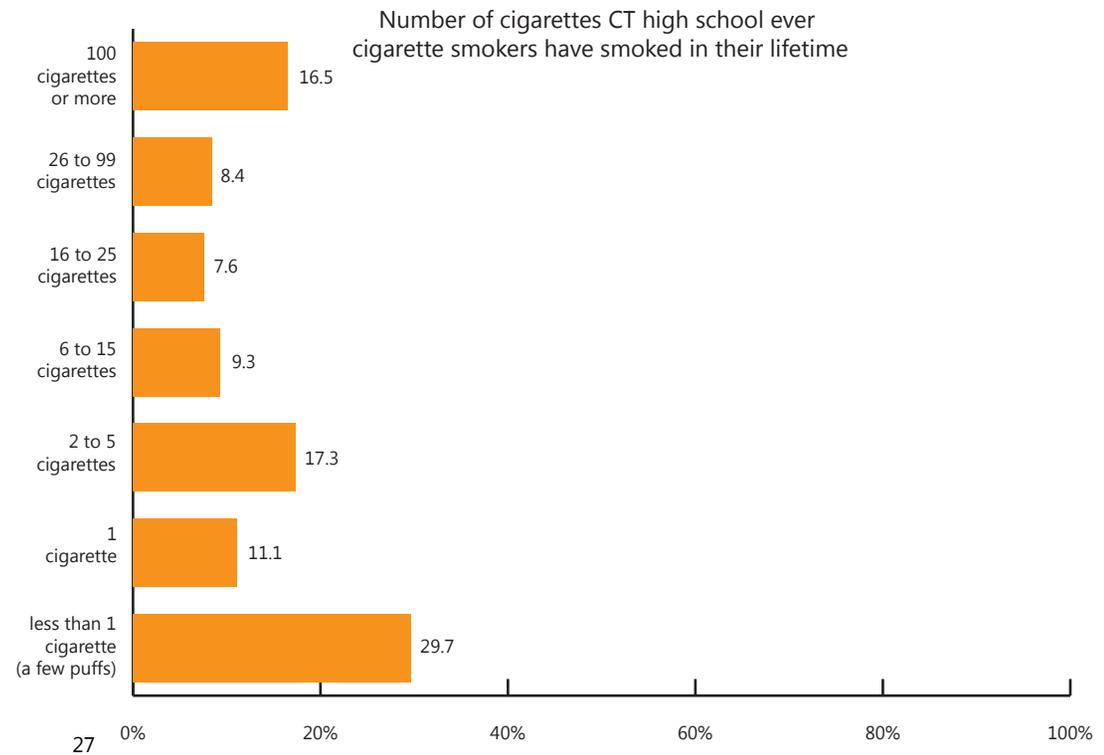
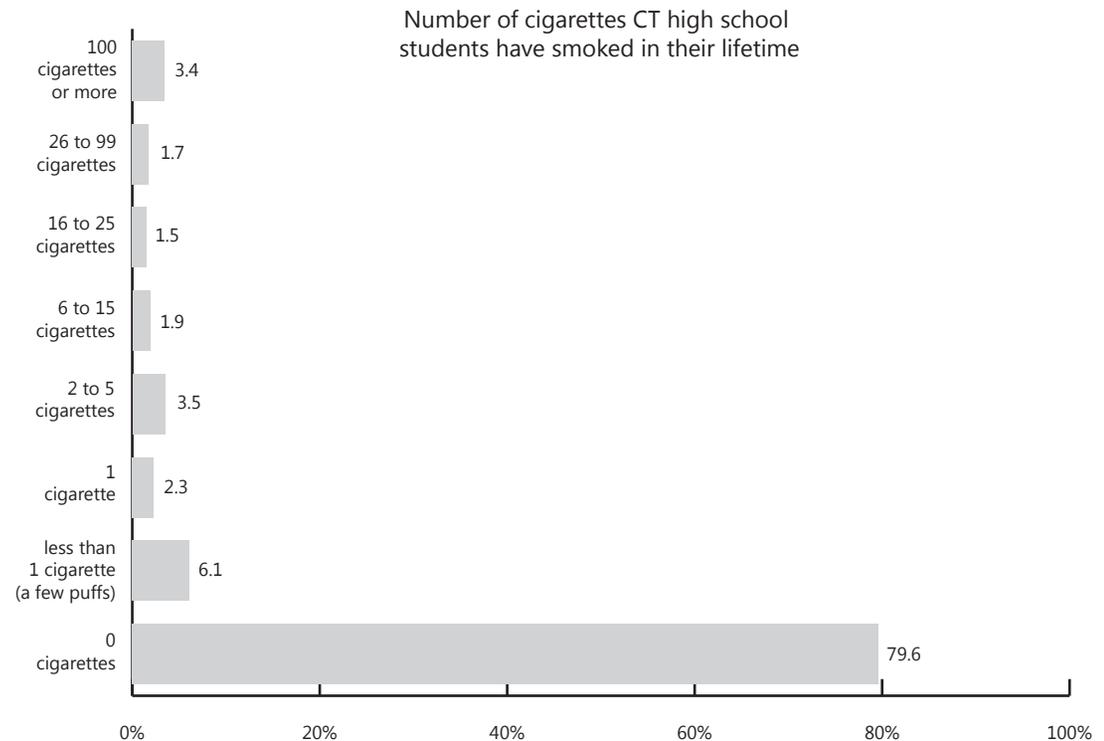
- In Connecticut, about one-third (34.3%) of current cigarette smokers in high school smoked cigarettes on 1 or 2 days during the past 30 days
- Among high school youth who are current cigarette smokers, 32.1% smoked on 20 days or more in the previous 30 days (i.e., frequent cigarette smoking)
- Among high school students who are current cigarette smokers, 21.9% smoked cigarettes on all of the previous 30 days (i.e., daily smokers)
- The majority (80.7%) of high school students who currently smoke cigarettes smoked between less than 1 cigarette (i.e., a few puffs or more but never a whole cigarette) and 5 cigarettes (i.e., up to 1/4 of a pack) on the days they smoked during the previous 30 days
- High school daily cigarette smokers smoke an average of 6-10 cigarettes per day (Data not shown on graphs)
- Among high school current cigarette smokers, 5.2% smoked 11 cigarettes or more (i.e., more than 1/2 a pack) on the days they smoked during the past 30 days



Number of Cigarettes Smoked in Lifetime

Note: Estimates for the number of cigarettes smoked in a lifetime among Connecticut middle school students are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

- In Connecticut, 79.6% of high school youth have never smoked a cigarette, not even one or two puffs*
- A total of 3.4% of high school students reported having smoked 100 or more cigarettes (i.e., 5 packs or more) in their entire life
- Among ever cigarette smokers in high school, 29.7% have smoked less than one cigarette (i.e., a few puffs or more but never a whole cigarette) in their lifetime
- For high school ever smokers, 16.5% have smoked 5 packs of cigarettes or more in their entire life
- In high school, 51.2% of current cigarette smokers have smoked 5 packs of cigarettes or more in their lifetime (Data not shown on graphs)



*Students who answered earlier on the questionnaire that they had smoked a cigarette, even one or two puffs, were excluded from this analysis.

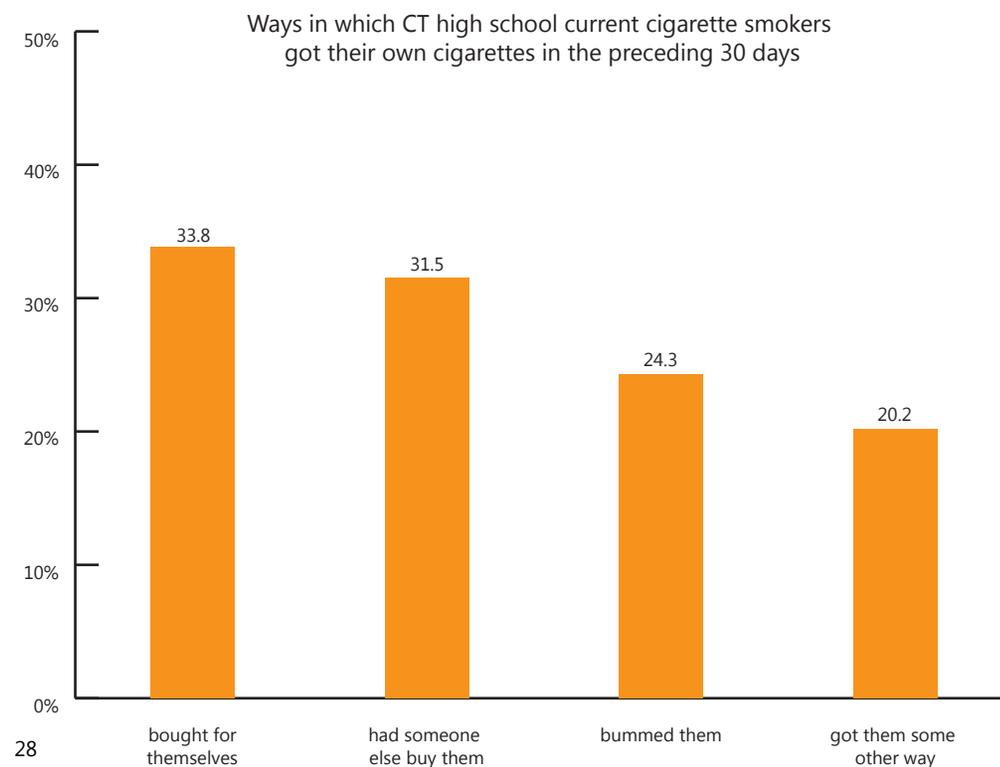
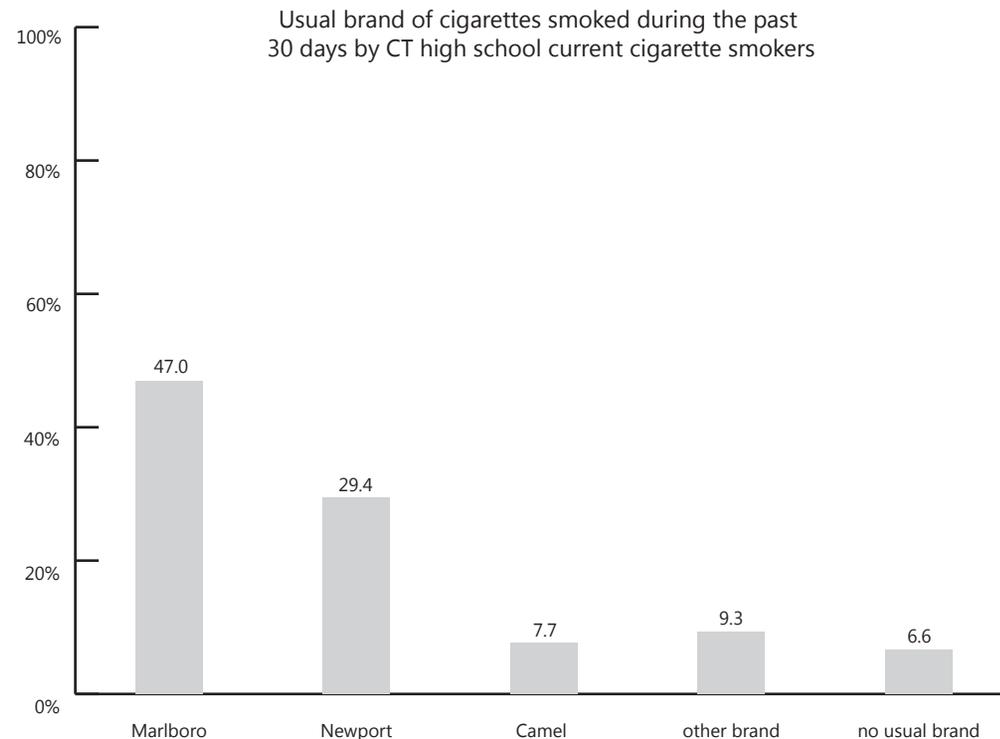
Usual Brand of Cigarettes Smoked

Note: Estimates for usual brand of cigarettes Connecticut middle school current smokers smoked and their ways of getting cigarettes are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

- In Connecticut, nearly one-half (47.0%) of current cigarette smokers in high school report that during the past 30 days Marlboro was the brand of cigarettes they usually smoked
- Among high school current cigarette smokers, Newport was the second most smoked brand of cigarettes during the 30 days prior to the survey (29.4%)

Ways of Getting Cigarettes*

- In CT, high school current cigarette smokers report that, in the 30 days prior to the survey, 33.8% bought their own cigarettes and 31.5% said they had someone else buy the cigarettes for them

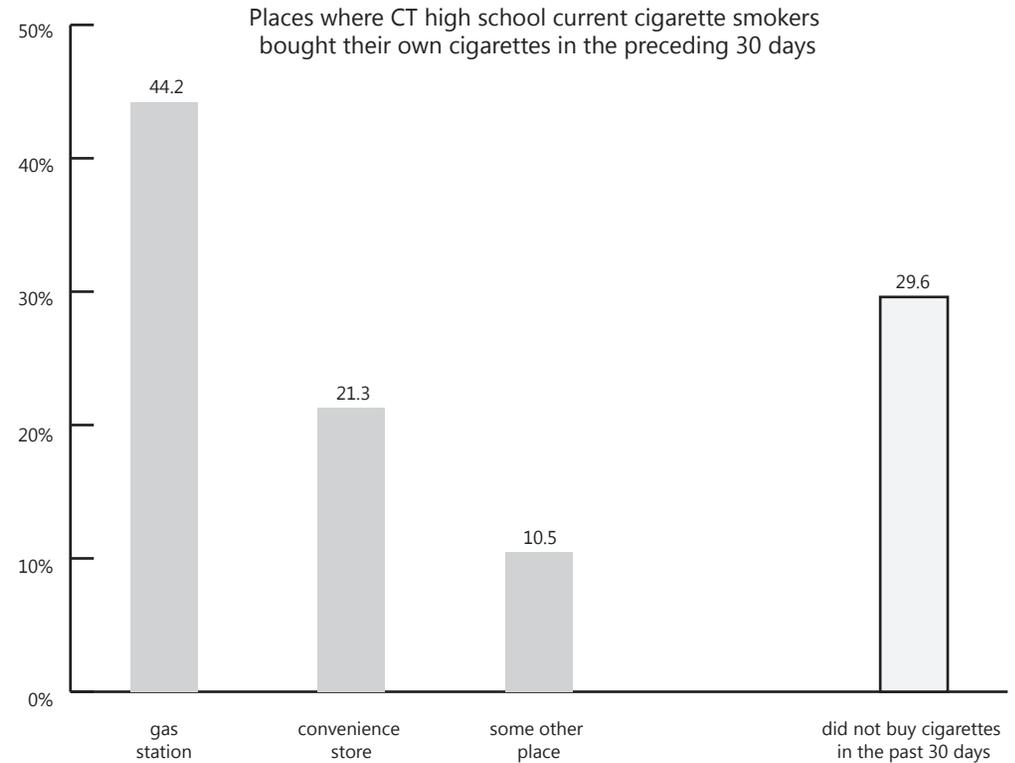


*Students could choose one or more answers.

Places Where Cigarettes Were Purchased*

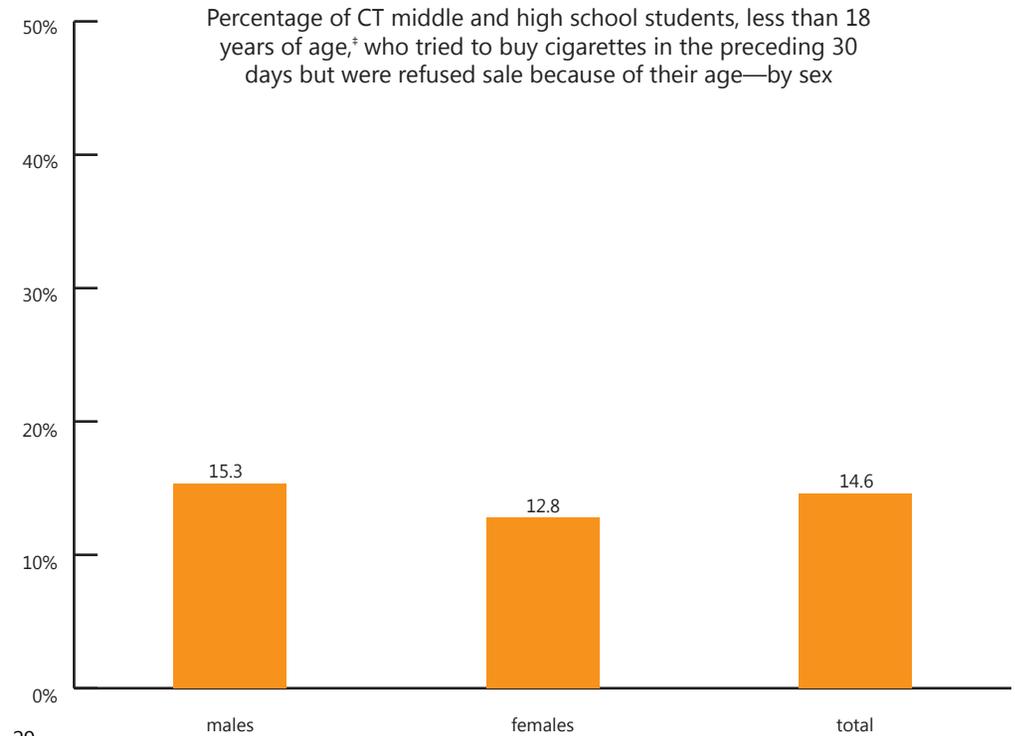
Note: Estimates for place of purchase of cigarettes for Connecticut middle school current smokers are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

- In Connecticut, 44.2% of high school current cigarette smokers reported that they bought cigarettes at a gas station during the preceding 30 days and 21.3% bought them at a convenience store
- Among current cigarette smokers in high school, nearly one-third (29.6%) said that they did not buy cigarettes during the 30 days prior to the survey



Refused Sale of Cigarettes[†]

- In CT, 14.6% of middle and high school students, less than 18 years of age, who tried to buy cigarettes in the preceding 30 days were refused sale because of their age[‡]



*Students could choose one or more answers

[†]This includes students who might not have bought their cigarettes at a retail establishment.

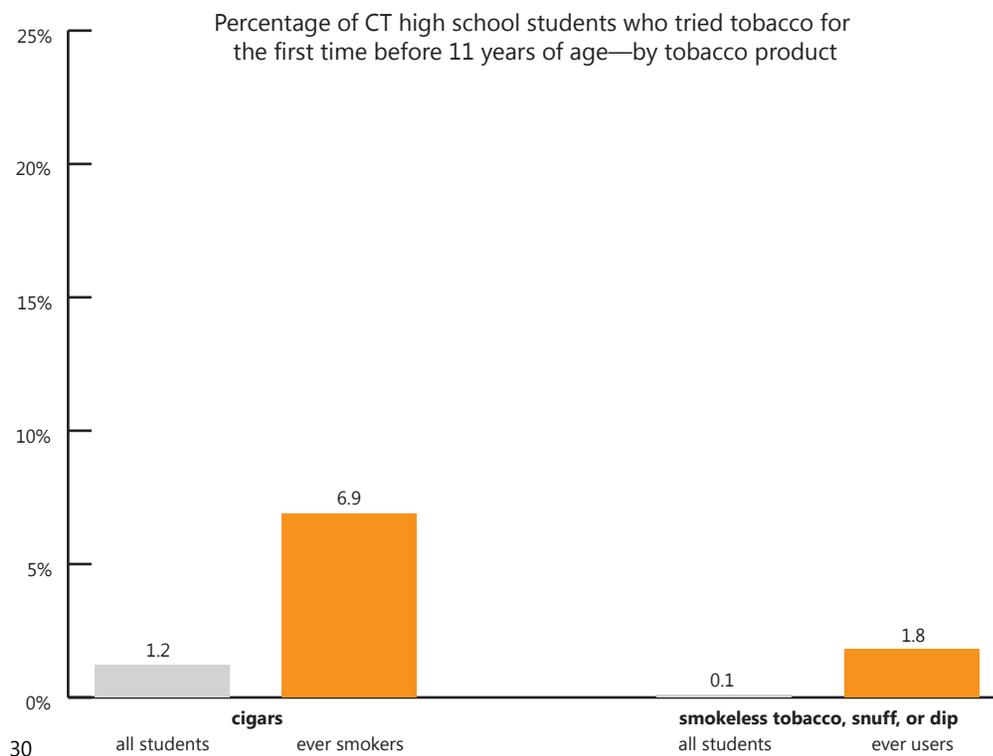
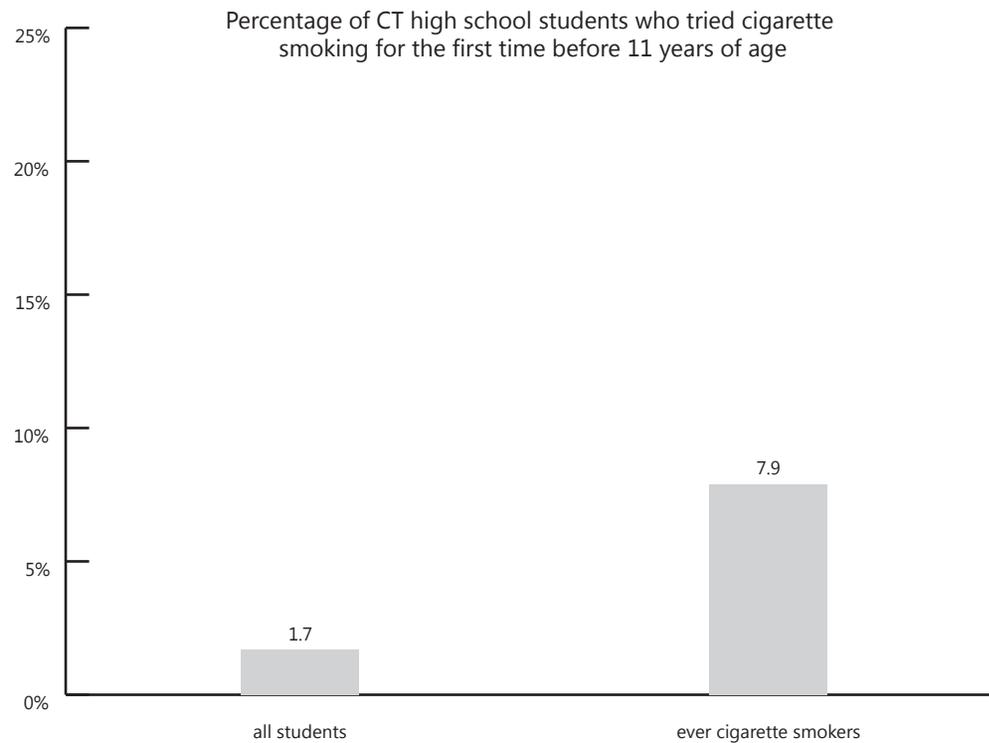
[‡]In the state of Connecticut, it is illegal for a person less than 18 years of age to purchase or possess cigarettes.

Tobacco Use Initiation

Tobacco Use Initiation

Note: Estimates for initiation of tobacco use before 11 years of age among Connecticut middle school students are not presented because of a sample bias. Since younger students are over-represented in this population, distortion of the results can occur.

- In Connecticut, 1.7% of high school students tried cigarette smoking for the first time before 11 years of age
- For high school students who ever smoked cigarettes, the average age of initiation is 13.9 years old (Data not shown on graphs)
- Among ever cigarette smokers in high school, the prevalence of first trying cigarette smoking before age 11 years is 7.9%
- For high school youth who ever smoked cigarettes, 28.7% first tried cigarette smoking between 11 and 13 years of age; 38.1% between 14 and 15 years; 23.0% between 16 and 17 years; and 2.3% were 18 years of age or older (Data not shown on graphs)
- In high school, 1.2% of students tried cigar smoking for the first time before 11 years of age
- Among high school youth who ever smoked cigars, 6.9% first tried cigar smoking before age 11 years
- In high school, among students who ever tried smokeless tobacco, snuff, or dip, 1.8% first tried it before 11 years of age

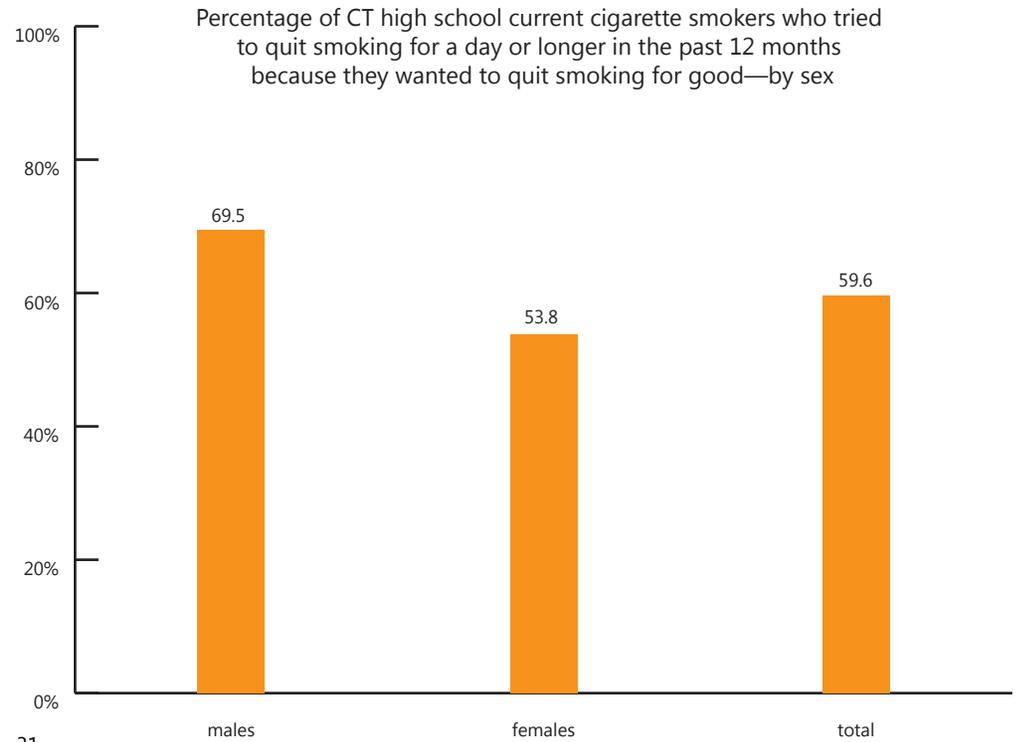
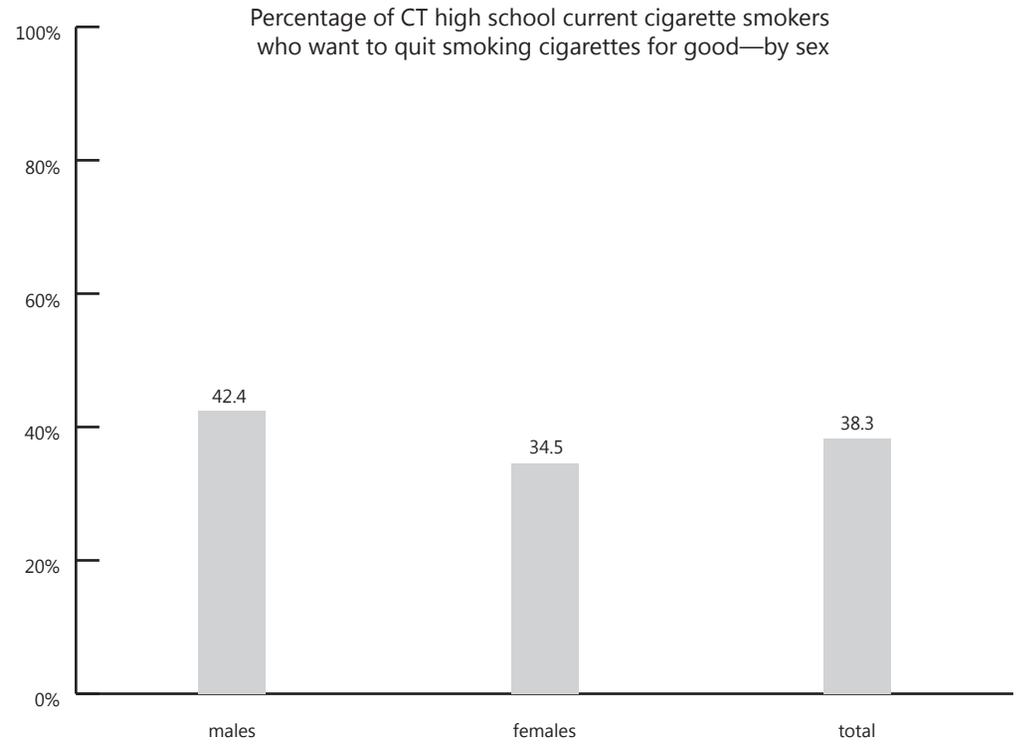


Cigarette Smoking Cessation

Cigarette Smoking Cessation

Note: Estimates for smoking cessation among Connecticut middle school current cigarette smokers are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

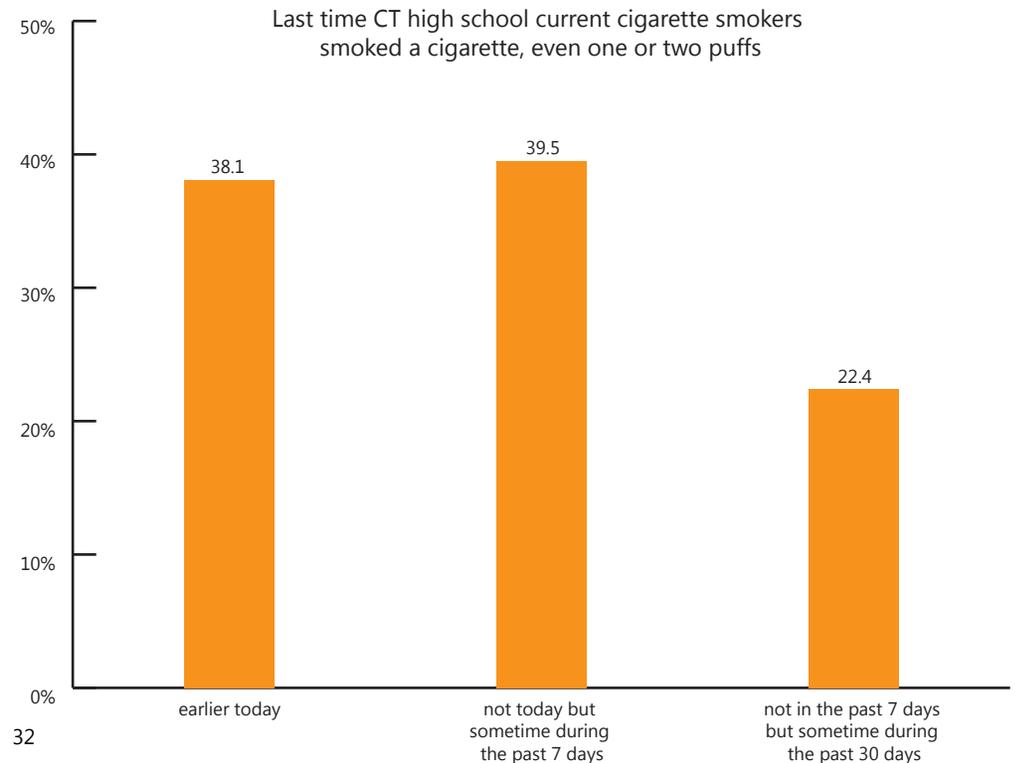
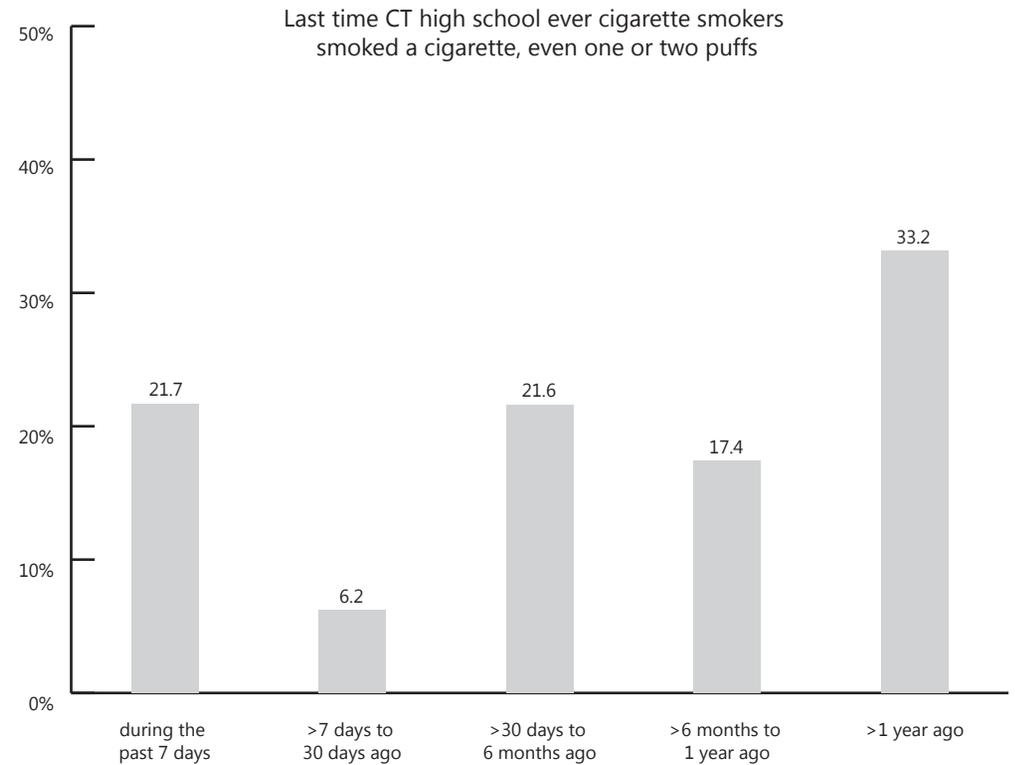
- In Connecticut, 38.3% of high school students who currently smoke cigarettes want to quit smoking for good
- In high school, the prevalence of wanting to quit smoking cigarettes for good does not vary significantly by sex
- Among current cigarette smokers in high school, 59.6% tried to quit smoking for a day or longer in the past 12 months because they wanted to quit smoking for good
- In high school, the prevalence of quitting cigarette smoking for a day or longer in the past 12 months does not vary significantly by sex



Last Time Smoked a Cigarette

Note: Estimates for the last time Connecticut middle school ever and current smokers smoked a cigarette are not presented because the data collected are not statistically reliable.

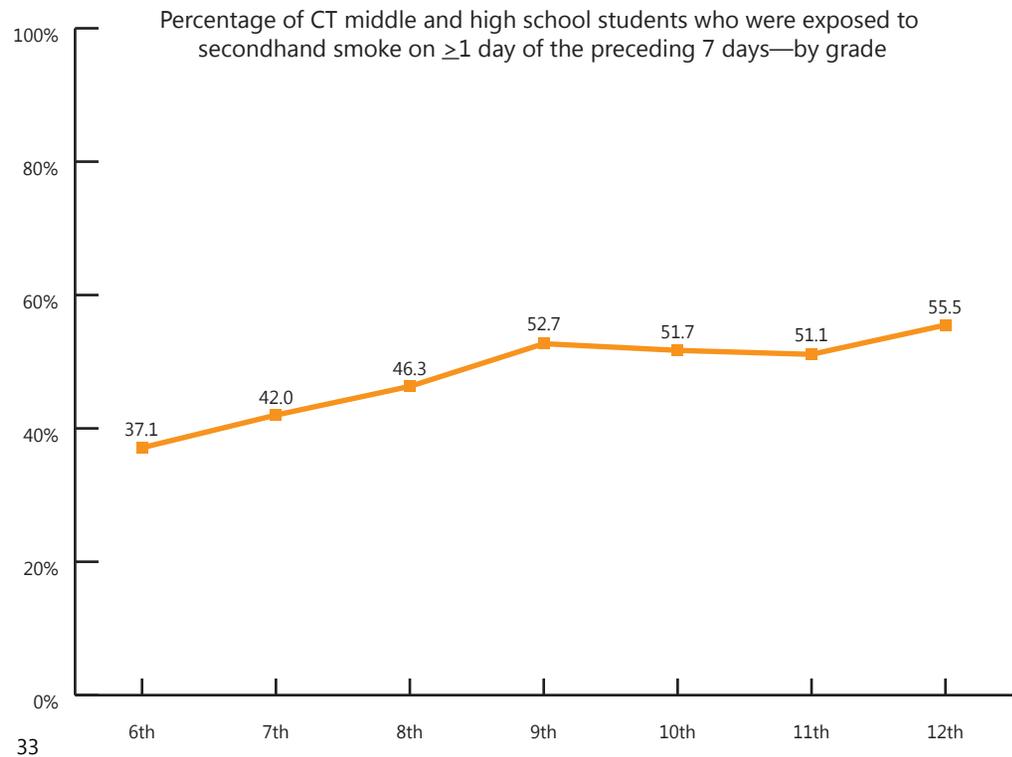
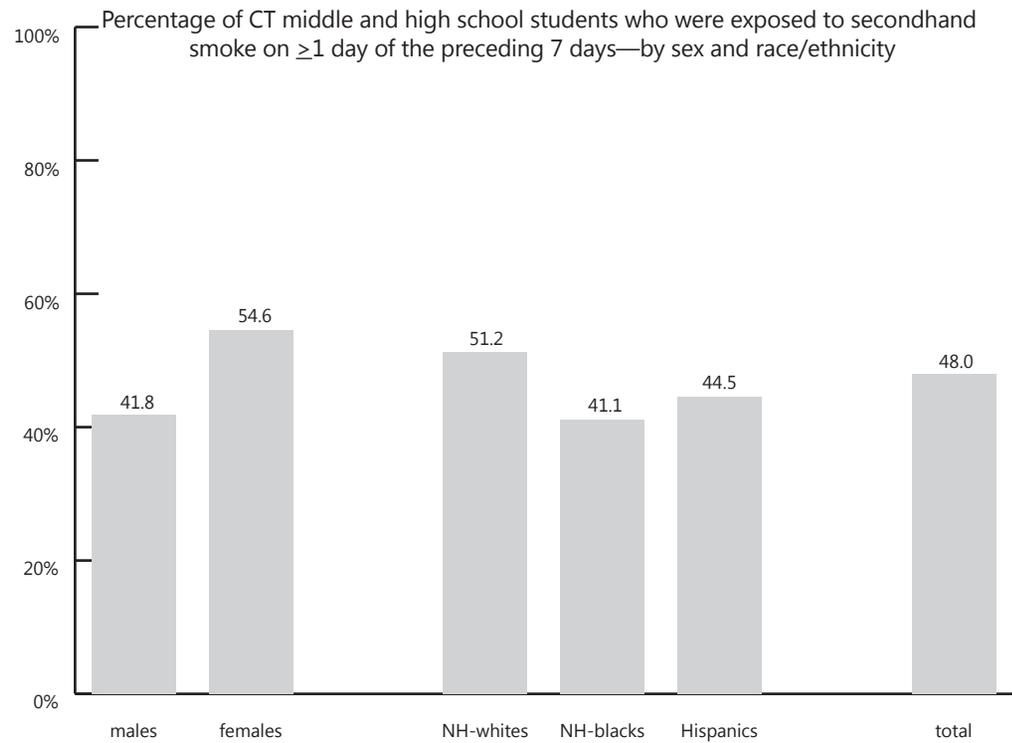
- In Connecticut, about one-third (33.2%) of high school ever cigarette smokers last smoked a cigarette, even one or two puffs, more than a year ago
- Among ever cigarette smokers in high school, about one in five (21.7%) last smoked a cigarette sometime during the seven days prior to the survey
- Among current cigarette smokers in high school, 38.1% smoked a cigarette earlier in the day on the day of the survey



Secondhand Smoke Exposure

Recent Secondhand Smoke Exposure*

- In Connecticut, 48.0% of middle and high school students breathed the smoke from someone else's tobacco product on ≥ 1 day of the preceding 7 days (i.e., recent SHS exposure)
- Overall for middle and high school students, the prevalence of recent SHS exposure:
 - Is significantly higher among females (54.6%) than among males (41.8%)
 - Is significantly higher among non-Hispanic whites (51.2%) than among non-Hispanic blacks (41.1%)
 - Is significantly higher in grades 9 (52.7%), 10 (51.7%), 11 (51.1%) and 12 (55.5%) than in grade 6 (37.1%); and significantly higher in grades 10 (51.7%) and 12 (55.5%) than in grade 7 (42.0%)
- For middle and high school youth (following data not shown on graphs):
 - 15.9% were at home when someone smoked a tobacco product[†]
 - 17.4% rode in a vehicle where someone was smoking a tobacco product[†]
 - 17.1% breathed the smoke from someone who was smoking a tobacco product at their school[†]
 - 30.5% breathed the smoke from someone who was smoking a tobacco product at the place where they work^{†‡}
 - 36.0% breathed the smoke from someone who was smoking a tobacco product at an indoor or outdoor public place[†]



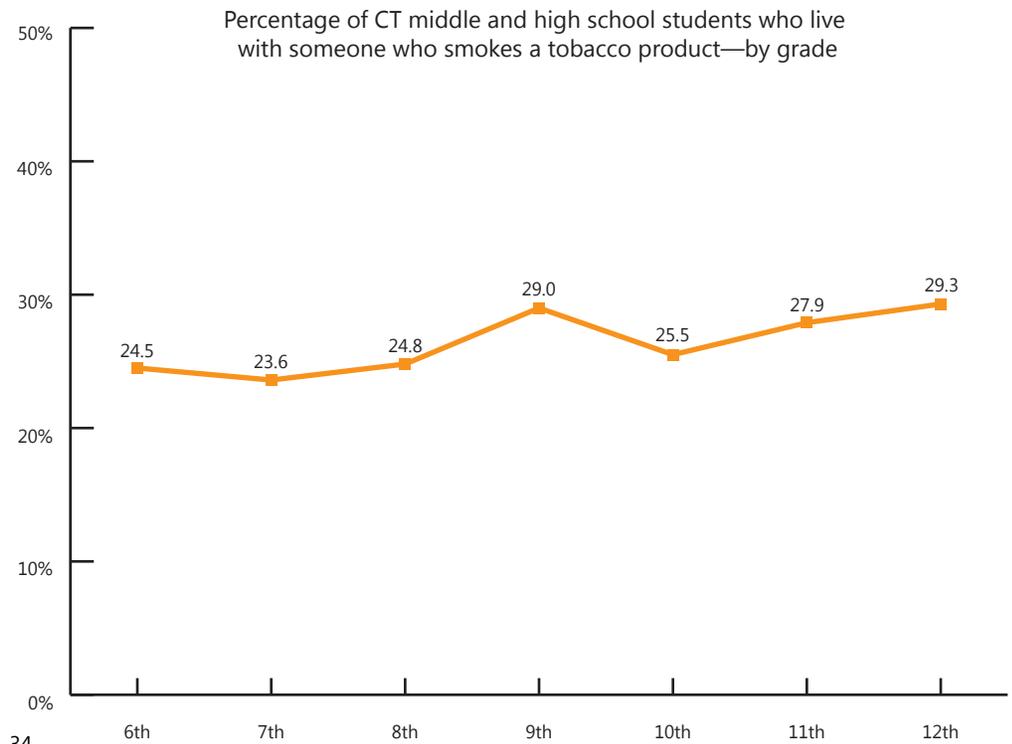
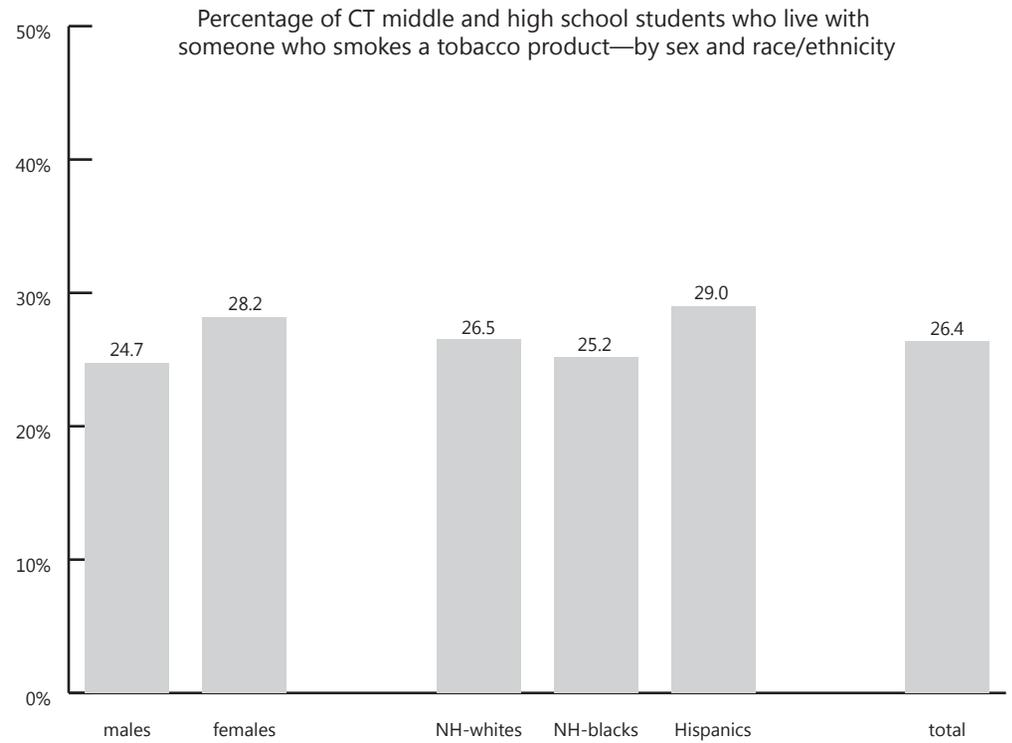
*Defined as having breathed the smoke from someone else's tobacco product at home, in a vehicle, at school, in an indoor or outdoor public place, or at work (only includes students who have a job and worked in the past 7 days) on ≥ 1 day of the preceding 7 days.

[†]on ≥ 1 day of the past 7 days

[‡]among students who have a job and worked during the past 7 days

Live with a Tobacco Smoker

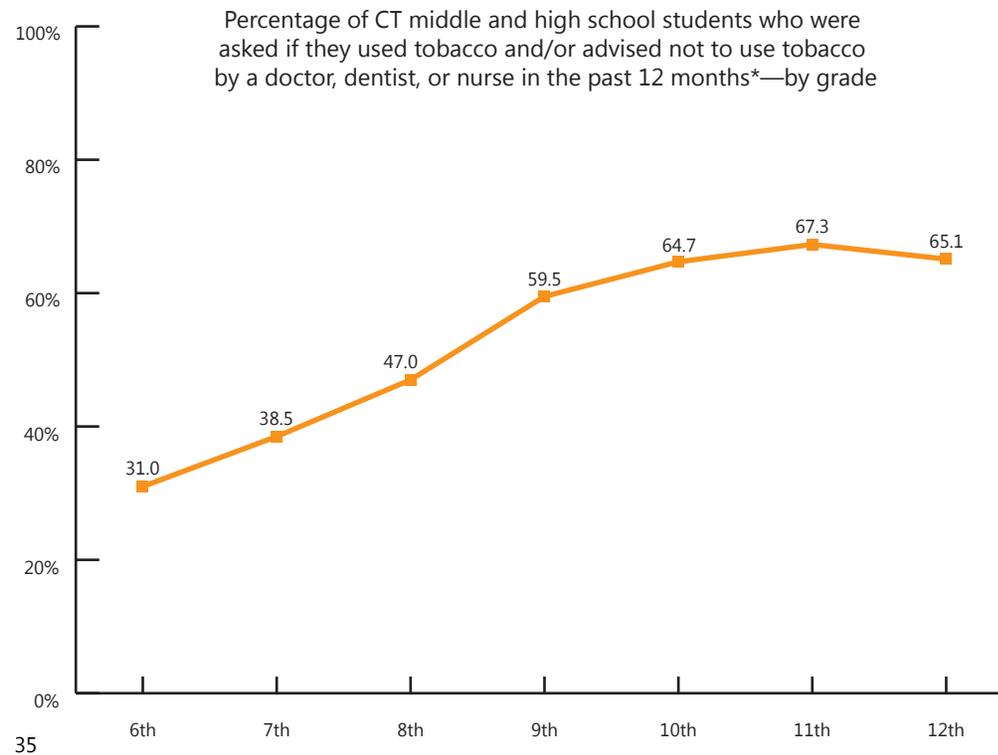
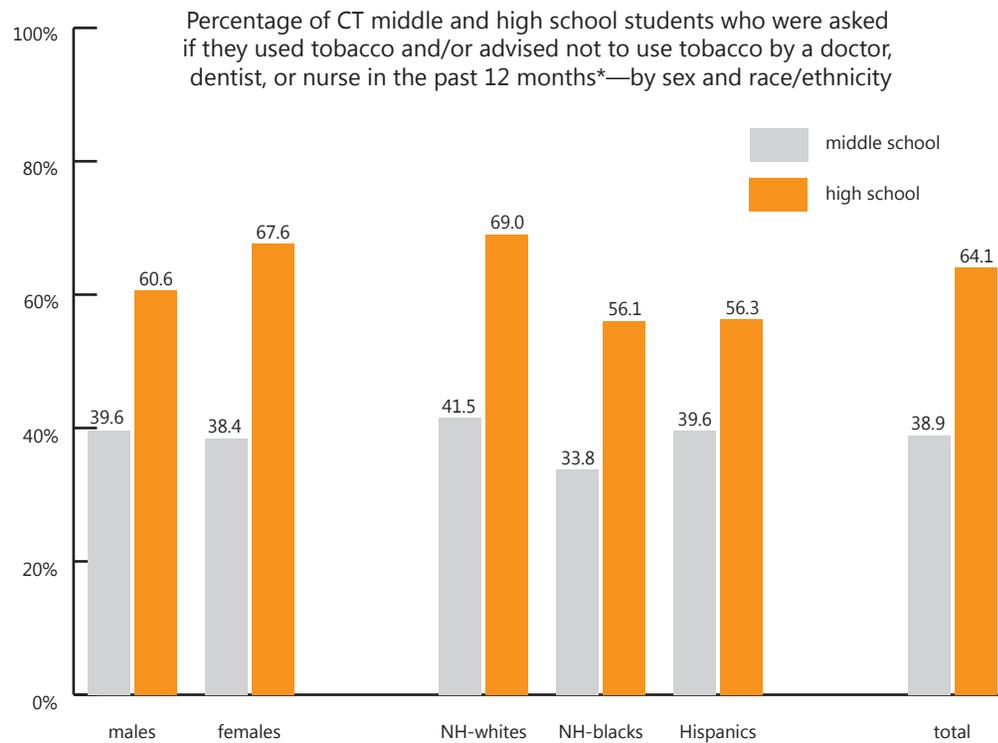
- In Connecticut, 26.4% of middle and high school students live with someone who smokes a tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, hookahs (water pipes), pipes (other than water pipes), and bidis
- Overall for middle and high school students, the prevalence of living with a tobacco smoker does not vary significantly by sex, race/ethnicity, or grade
- Among middle and high school youth, the prevalence of living with someone who smokes cigarettes is 23.1%—Data not shown on graphs



Knowledge & Attitudes

Inquiry and Advisement About Tobacco Use

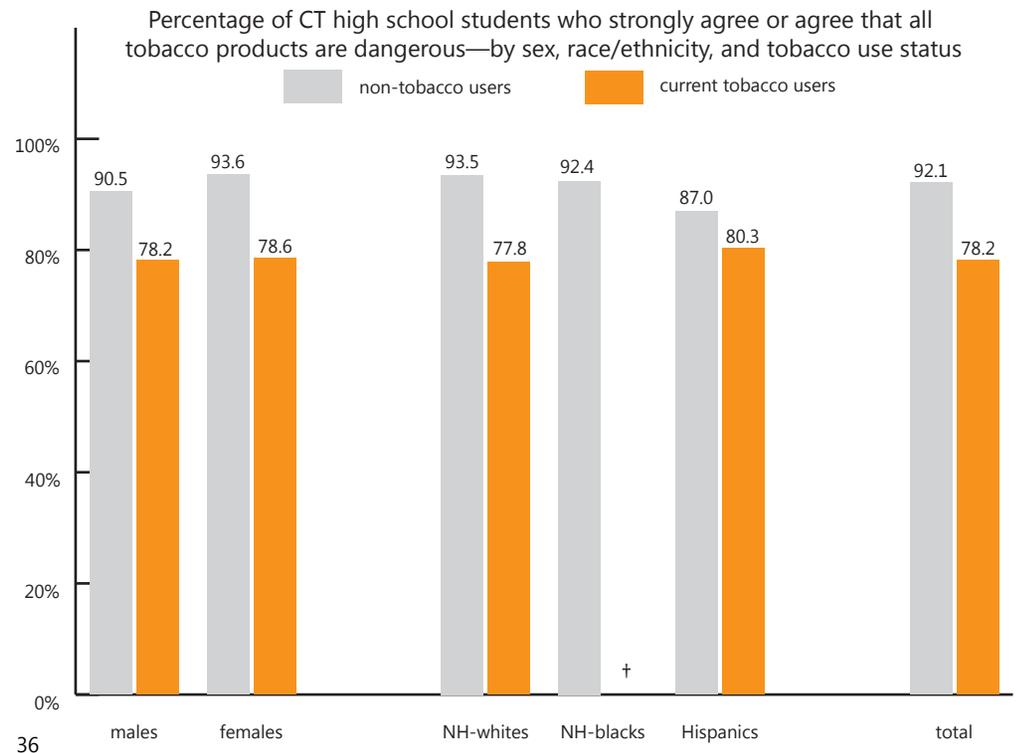
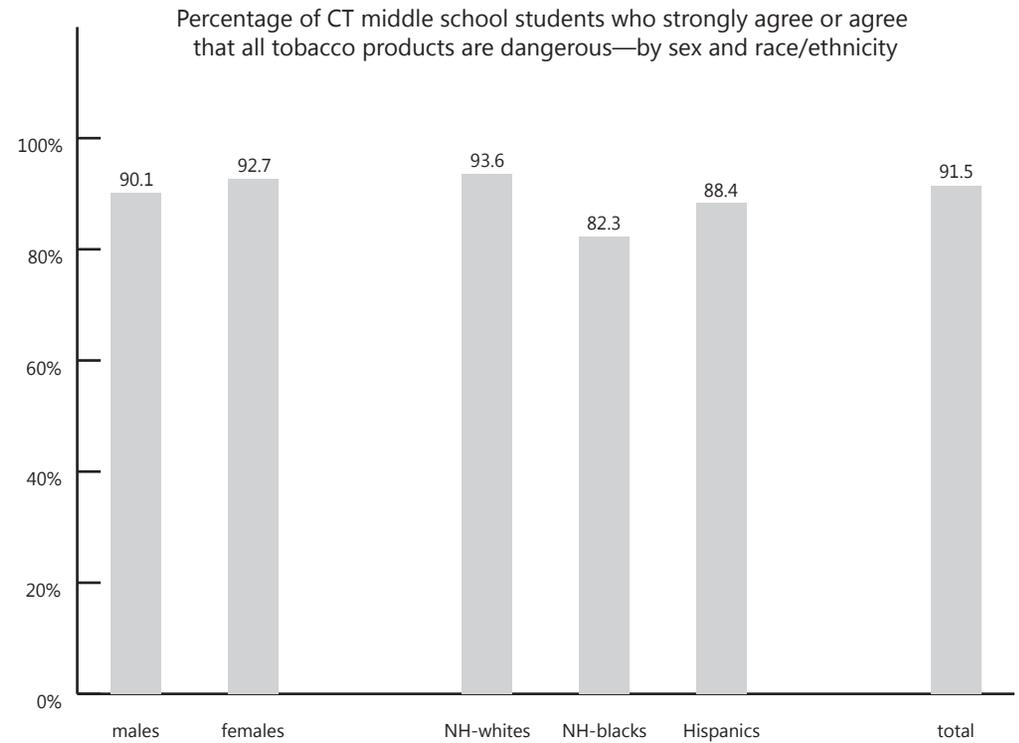
- In Connecticut, 38.9% of middle and 64.1% of high school students report that they were asked if they used tobacco of any kind and/or advised not to use tobacco of any kind by a doctor, dentist, or nurse in the past 12 months*
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of being asked about tobacco use and/or advised not to use tobacco:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
 - Is significantly higher in grade 8 (47.0%) than in grade 6 (31.0%)
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of being asked about tobacco use and/or advised not to use tobacco:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or grade
 - Is significantly higher among non-Hispanic whites (69.0%) than among non-Hispanic blacks (56.1%) and Hispanics (56.3%)



*among students who saw a doctor, dentist, or nurse in the past 12 months

Beliefs About Dangers of Tobacco

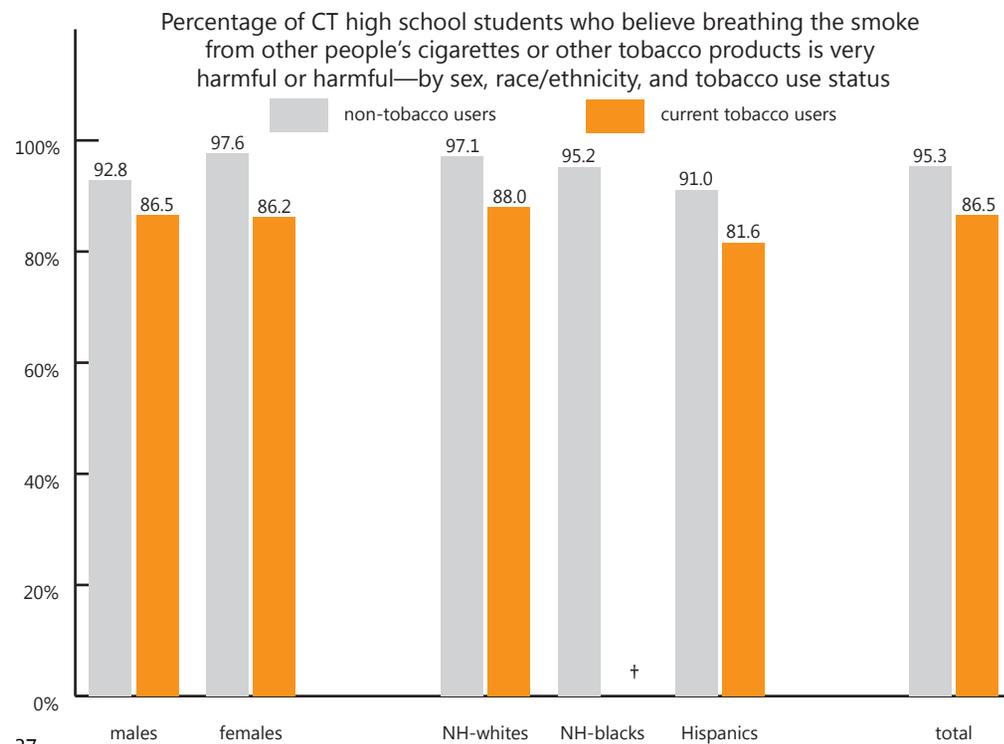
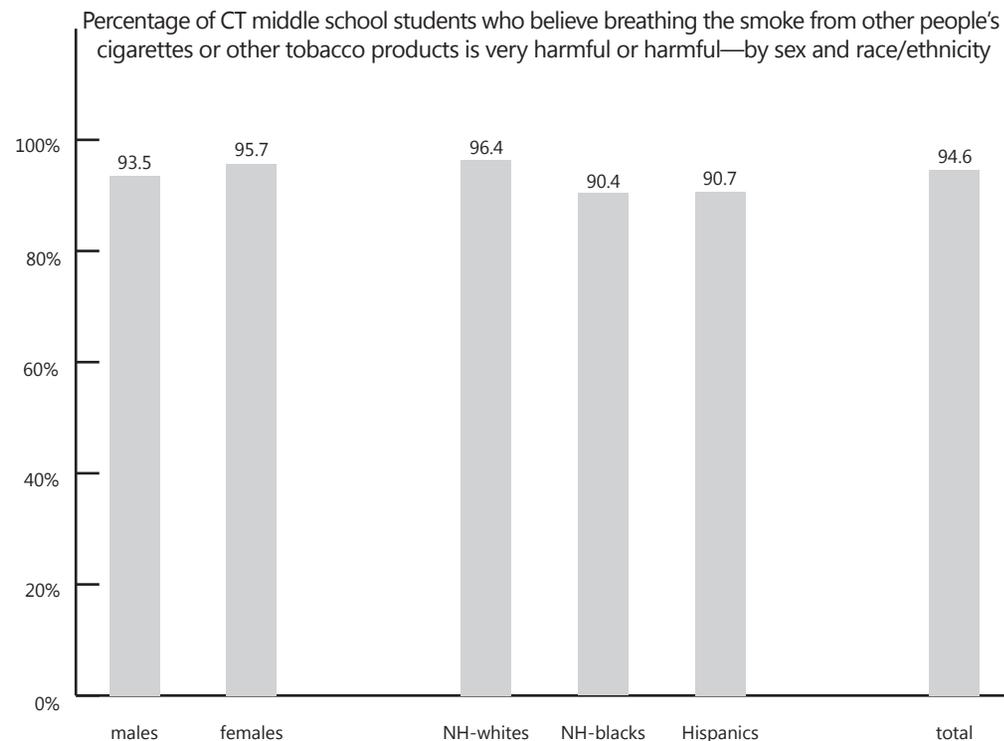
- In Connecticut, 91.5% of middle school students strongly agree or agree that all tobacco products are dangerous
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of strongly agreeing or agreeing that all tobacco products are dangerous:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex
 - Is significantly lower among non-Hispanic blacks (82.3%) and Hispanics (88.4%) than among non-Hispanic whites (93.6%)
- Among CT high school youth, 92.1% of non-tobacco users strongly agree or agree that all tobacco products are dangerous. The prevalence is significantly lower among current tobacco users (78.2%)
- Among non-tobacco users in high school, the prevalence of strongly agreeing or agreeing that all tobacco products are dangerous:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex
 - Is significantly lower among Hispanics (87.0%) than among non-Hispanic whites (93.5%)
- Among current tobacco users in high school, the prevalence of strongly agreeing or agreeing that all tobacco products are dangerous does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
- Overall in high school, the prevalence of strongly agreeing or agreeing that all tobacco products are dangerous:
 - Is significantly lower among males (78.2%) and females (78.6%) who currently use tobacco than among their counterparts who are non-tobacco users (90.5% and 93.6%, respectively)
 - Is significantly lower among non-Hispanic white current tobacco users (77.8%) than among non-Hispanic white non-tobacco users (93.5%)



†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was >30% or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Beliefs About Tobacco Smoke Harm

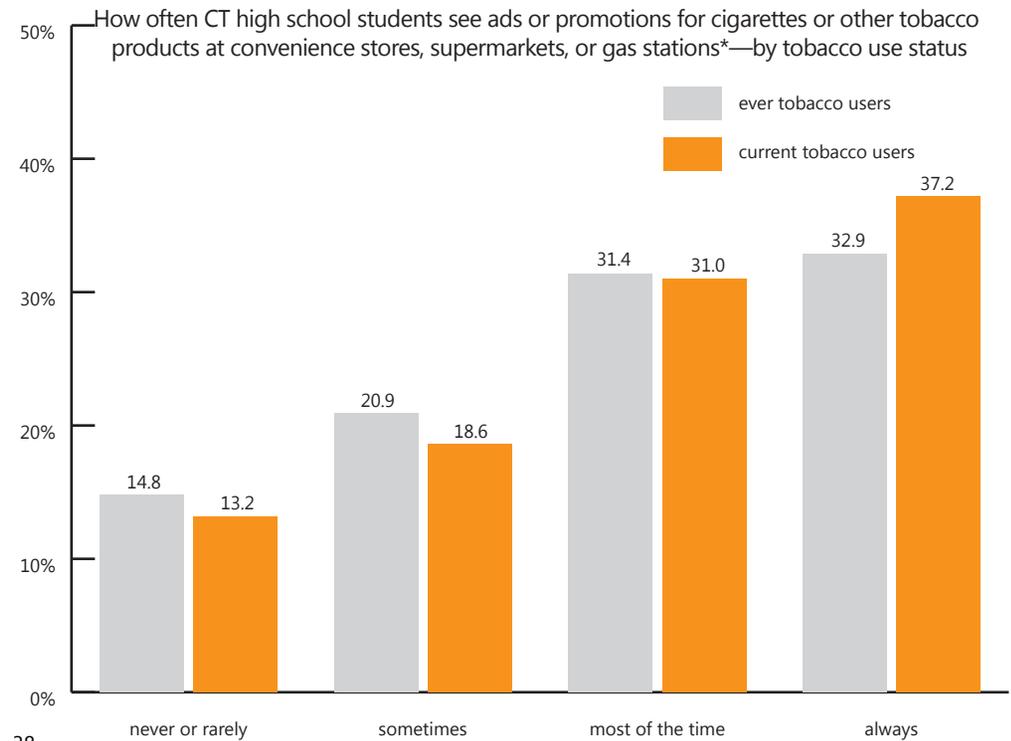
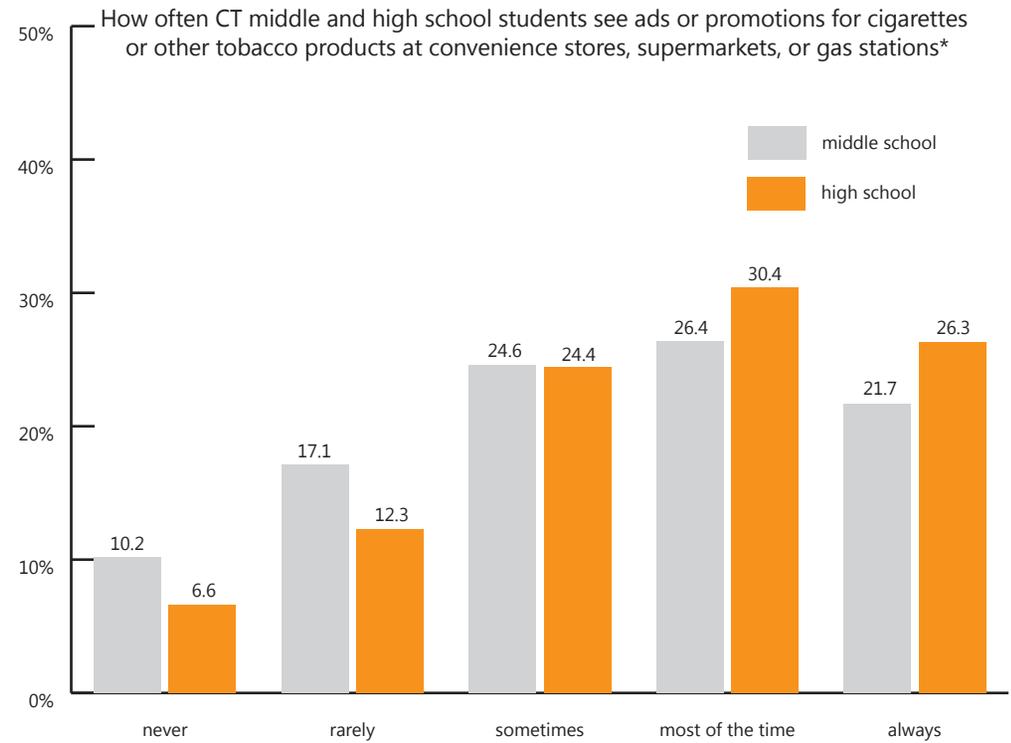
- In Connecticut, 94.6% of middle school students think that breathing the smoke from other people’s cigarettes or other tobacco products is very harmful or harmful to one’s health
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of believing breathing tobacco smoke is very harmful or harmful:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex
 - Is significantly lower among non-Hispanic blacks (90.4%) and Hispanics (90.7%) than among non-Hispanic whites (96.4%)
- Among CT high school youth, 95.3% of non-tobacco users think breathing tobacco smoke is very harmful or harmful to one’s health. The prevalence is significantly lower among current tobacco users (86.5%)
- Among non-tobacco users in high school, the prevalence of believing breathing tobacco smoke is very harmful or harmful:
 - Is significantly lower among males (92.8%) than among females (97.6%)
 - Does not vary significantly by race/ethnicity
- Among current tobacco users in high school, the prevalence of believing breathing tobacco smoke is very harmful or harmful does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
- Overall in high school, the prevalence of believing breathing tobacco smoke is very harmful or harmful:
 - Is significantly lower among females who currently use tobacco (86.2%) than among their counterparts who are non-tobacco users (97.6%)
 - Is significantly lower among non-Hispanic white current tobacco users (88.0%) than among non-Hispanic white non-tobacco users (97.1%)



†These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was >30% or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Exposure to Tobacco Advertising

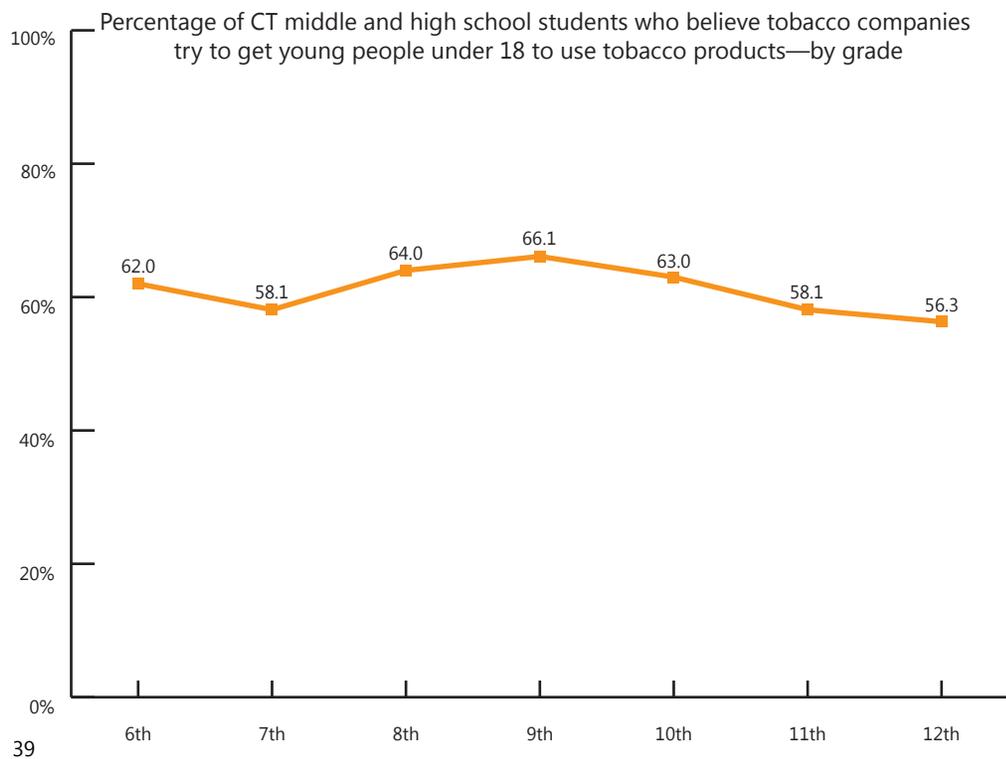
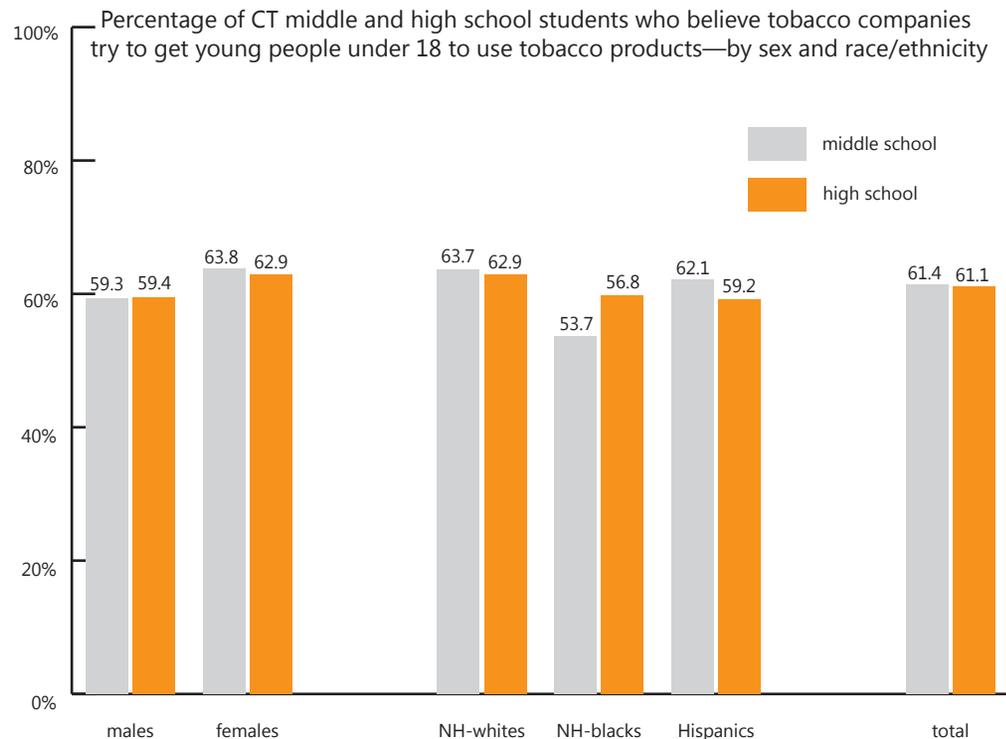
- In Connecticut, 48.1% of middle school and 56.7% of high school students report most of the time or always seeing ads or promotions for cigarettes or other tobacco products when they go to convenience stores, supermarkets, or gas stations*
- Middle school students (27.3%) are significantly more likely than high school students (18.9%) to say that they never or rarely see ads or promotions for tobacco products
- In high school, 64.3% of ever tobacco users and 68.2% of current tobacco users report most of the time or always seeing ads or promotions for tobacco products



*Students who answered that they do not go to convenience stores, supermarkets, or gas stations were excluded from this analysis.
2015 Connecticut Youth Tobacco Surveillance

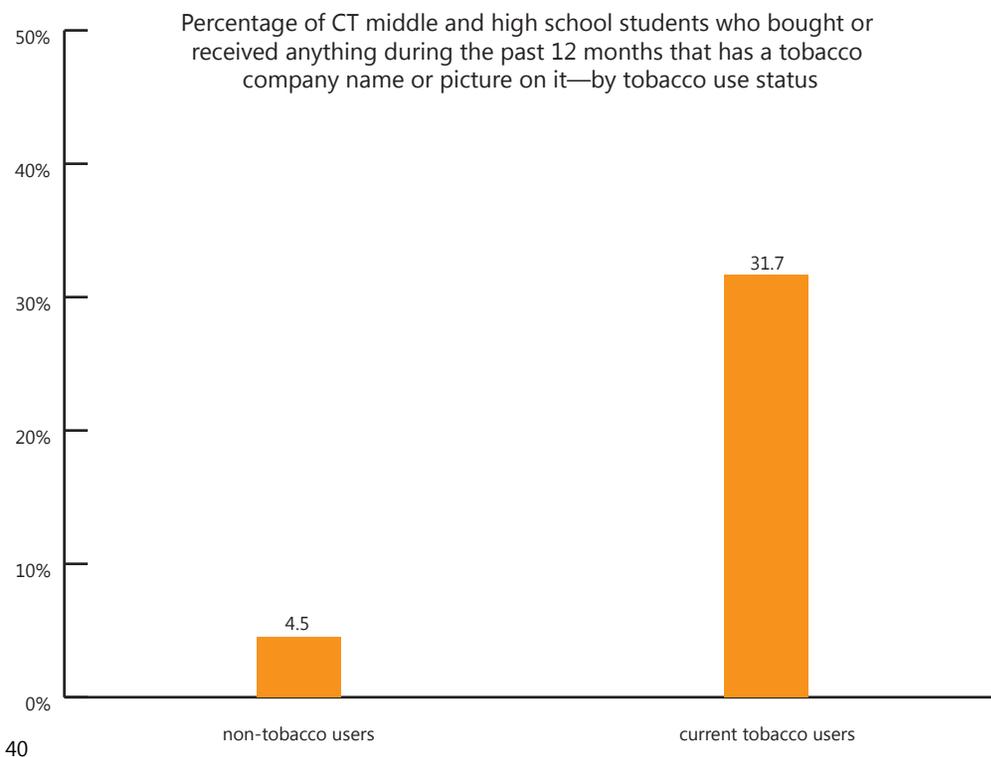
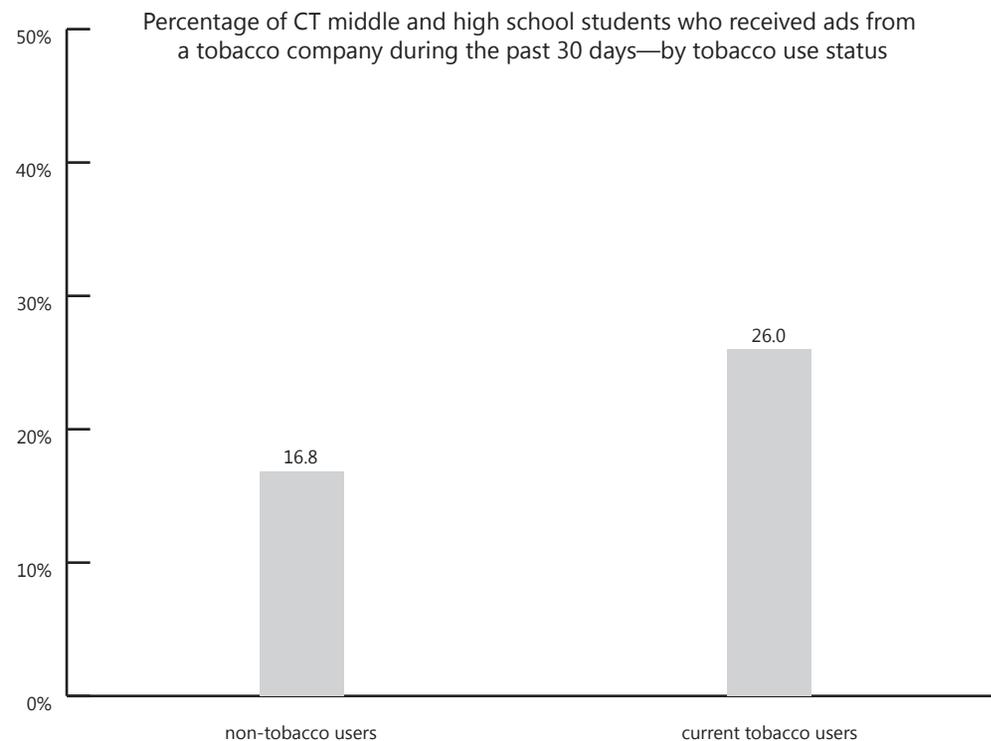
Beliefs About Tobacco Companies

- In Connecticut, 61.4% of middle school and 61.1% of high school students believe that tobacco companies try to get young people under 18 to use tobacco products
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of believing tobacco companies try to get young people to use tobacco does not vary significantly by sex, race/ethnicity, or grade
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of believing tobacco companies try to get young people to use tobacco does not vary significantly by sex, race/ethnicity, or grade
- Among current tobacco users, the prevalence of believing that tobacco companies try to get young people to use tobacco is 57.7% in middle school and 60.3% in high school (Data not shown on graphs)



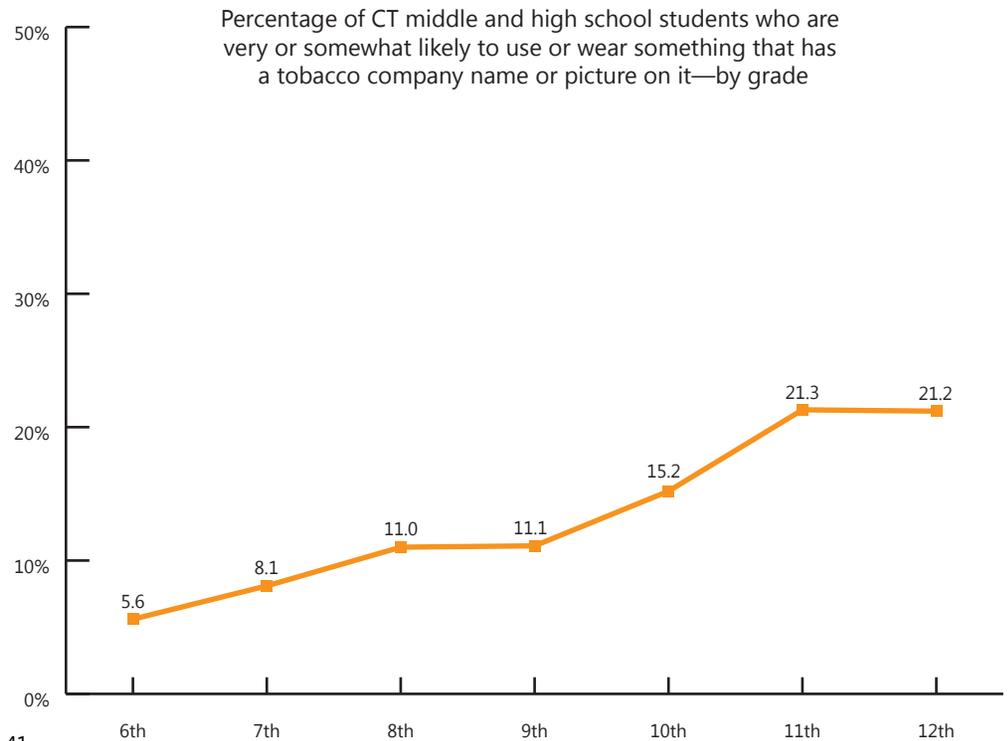
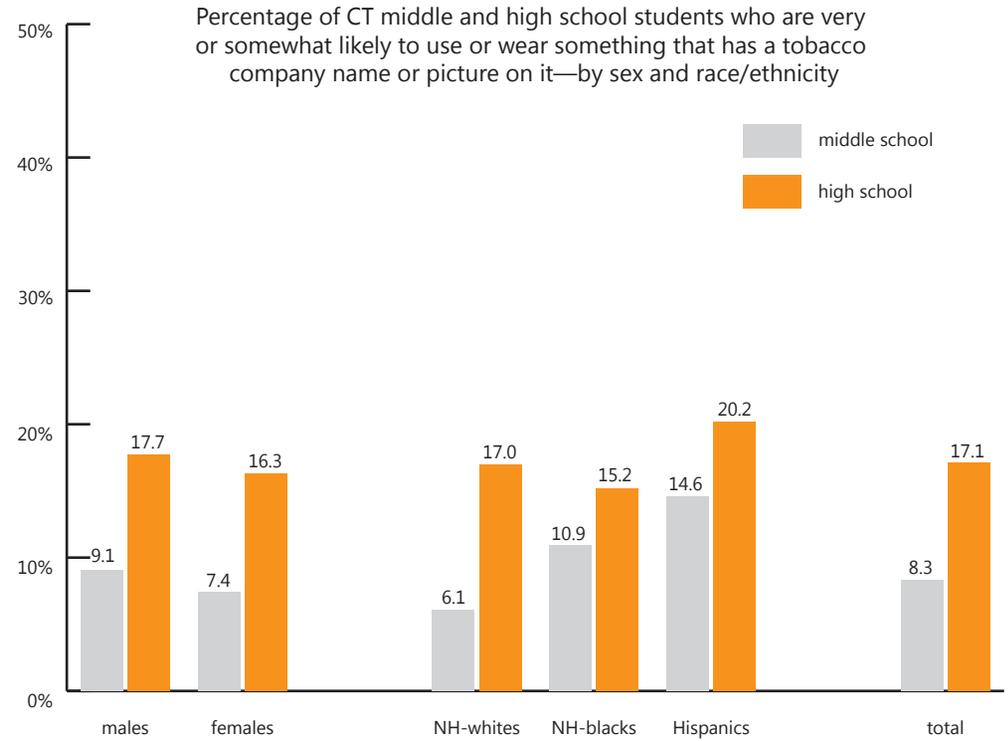
Receiving Tobacco Company Ads and Merchandise

- In Connecticut, the percentage of current tobacco users in middle and high school who received ads from a tobacco company during the past 30 days through the mail, an e-mail, the Internet, a text message, or social media is significantly higher than among their counterparts who do not use tobacco (26.0% and 16.8%, respectively)
- Current tobacco users (31.7%) in middle and high school are significantly more likely than non-tobacco users (4.5%) to have bought or received anything during the past 12 months that has a tobacco company name or picture on it



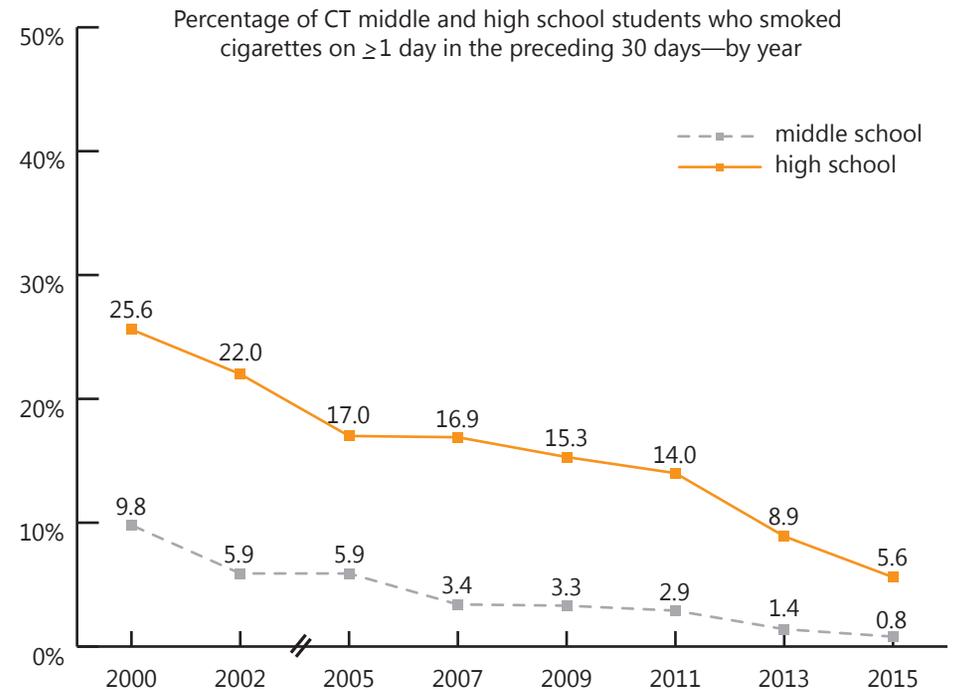
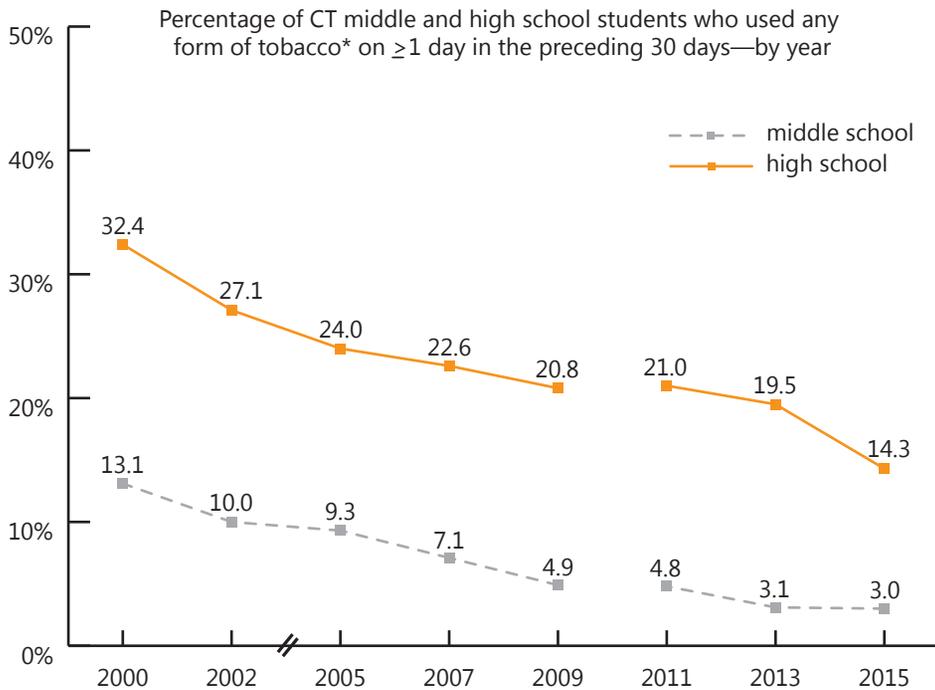
Using or Wearing Tobacco Company Promotional Items

- In Connecticut, 8.3% of middle school and 17.1% of high school students report that they are very or somewhat likely to ever use or wear something, such as a lighter, T-shirt, hat, or sunglasses, that has a tobacco company name or picture on it
- Overall for middle school students, the prevalence of using or wearing a tobacco company promotional item:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex
 - Is significantly higher among Hispanics (14.6%) than among non-Hispanic whites (6.1%)
 - Is significantly higher in grade 8 (11.0%) than in grade 6 (5.6%)
- In middle school, the prevalence of using or wearing a tobacco company promotional item is significantly higher among current tobacco users (41.7%) than among non-tobacco users (7.2%)—Data not shown on graphs
- Overall for high school students, the prevalence of using or wearing a tobacco company promotional item:
 - Does not vary significantly by sex or race/ethnicity
 - Is significantly higher in grades 11 (21.3%) and 12 (21.2%) than in grade 9 (11.1%)
- In high school, the prevalence of using or wearing a tobacco company promotional item is significantly higher among current tobacco users (46.1%) than among non-tobacco users (12.2%)



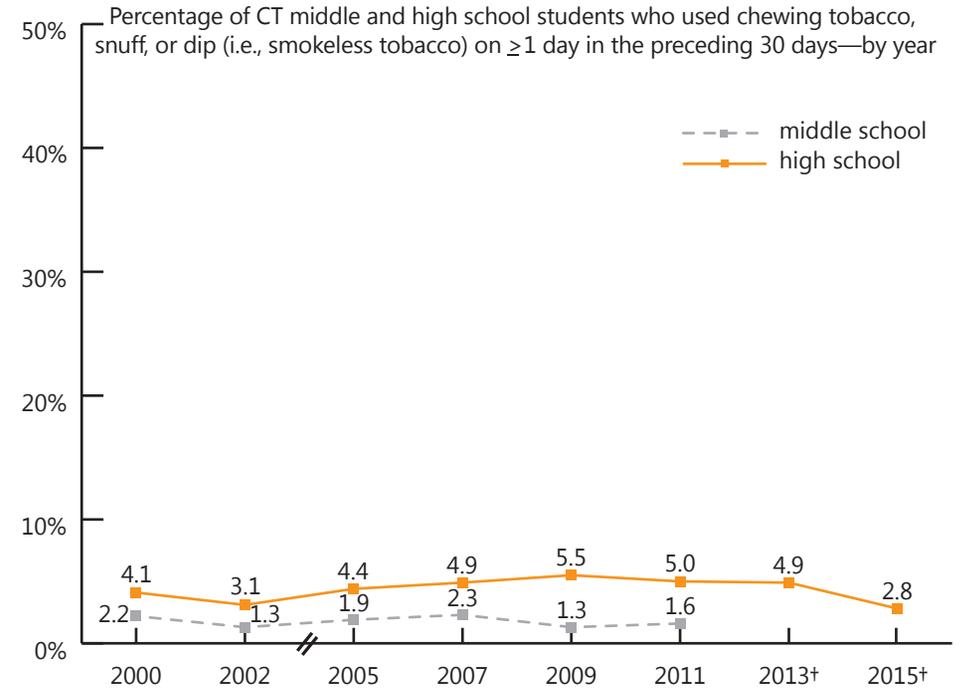
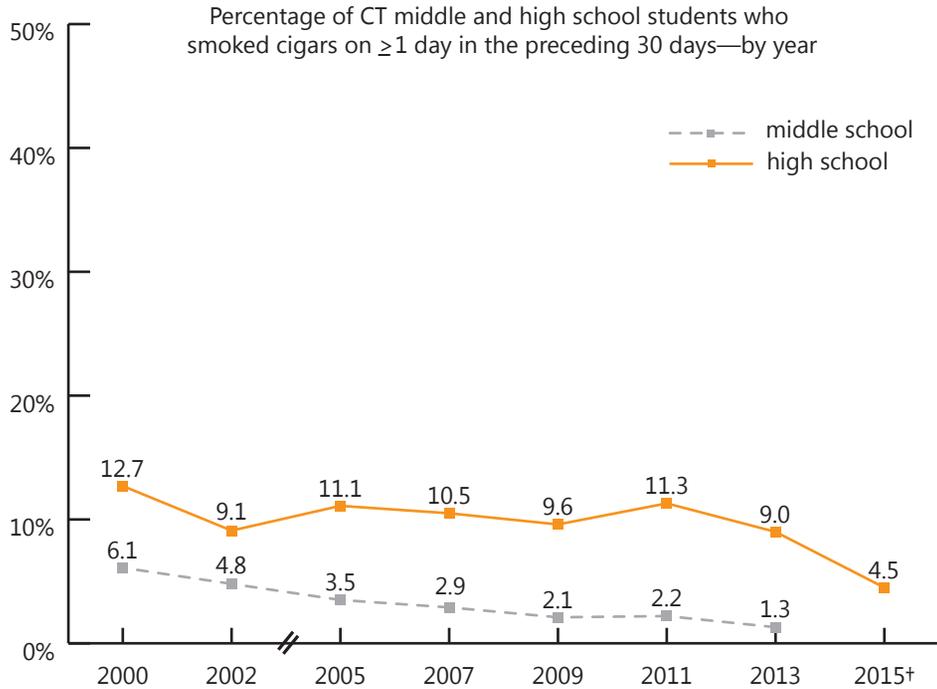
Trends

Trends: Current Tobacco Use



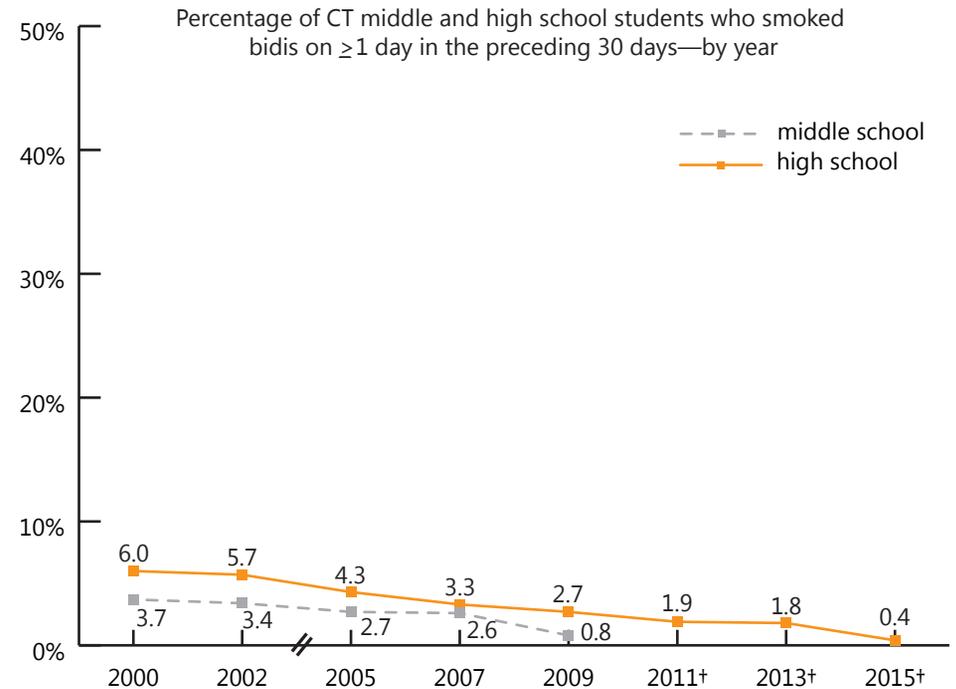
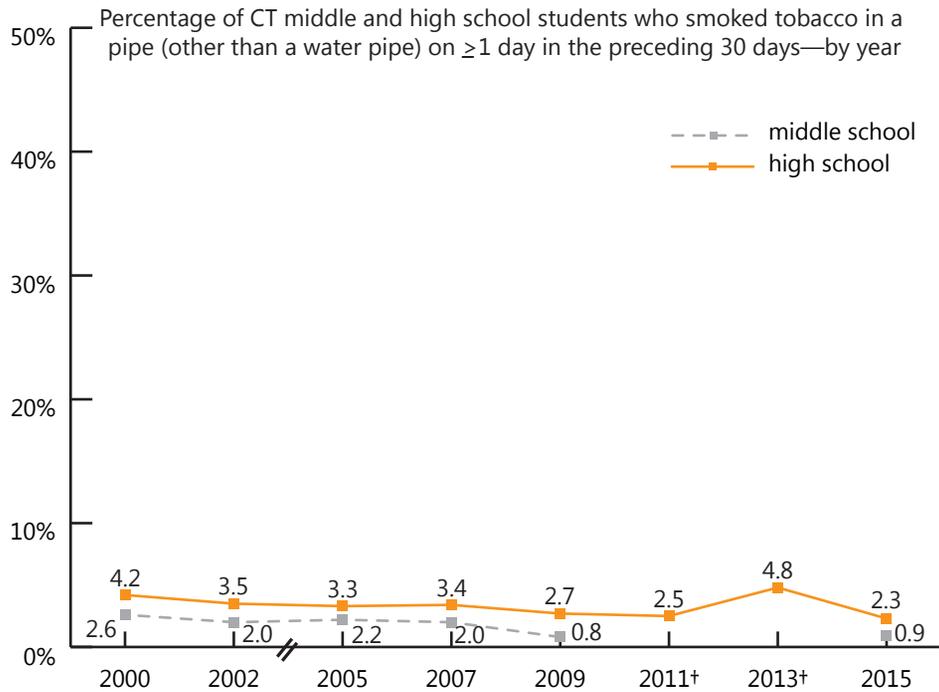
*From 2000-2009, the definition of “any form of tobacco” included cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), and bidis. Starting in 2011, three more tobacco products were added to the definition—kreteks (clove cigarettes), hookahs (water pipes), and e-cigarettes. Because of these additions, data users are advised to begin new trend lines for “any form of tobacco use” starting with 2011.

Trends: Current Tobacco Use



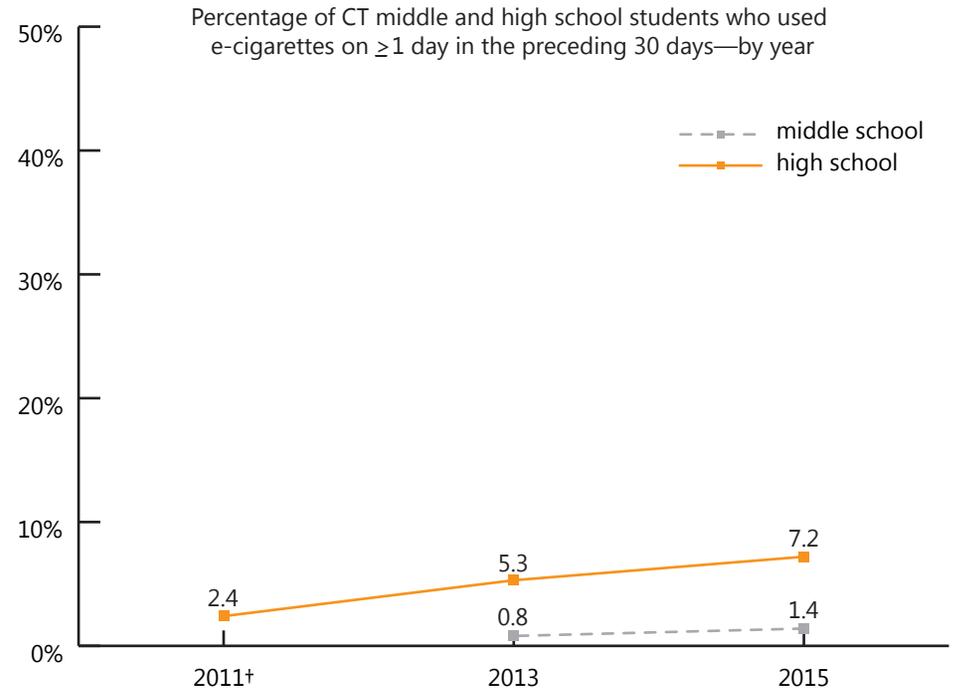
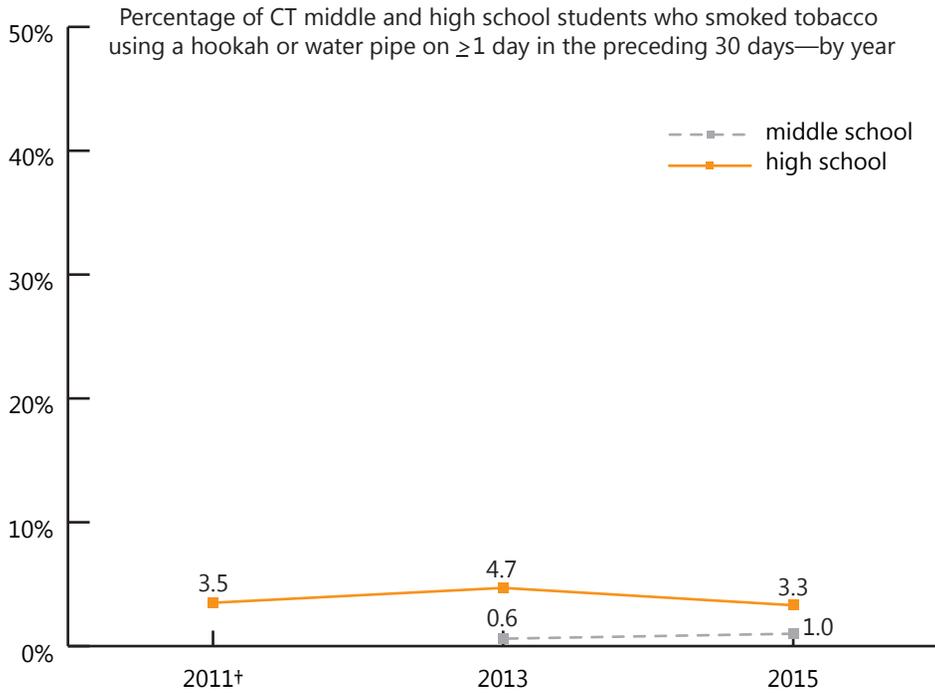
†Middle school estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Trends: Current Tobacco Use



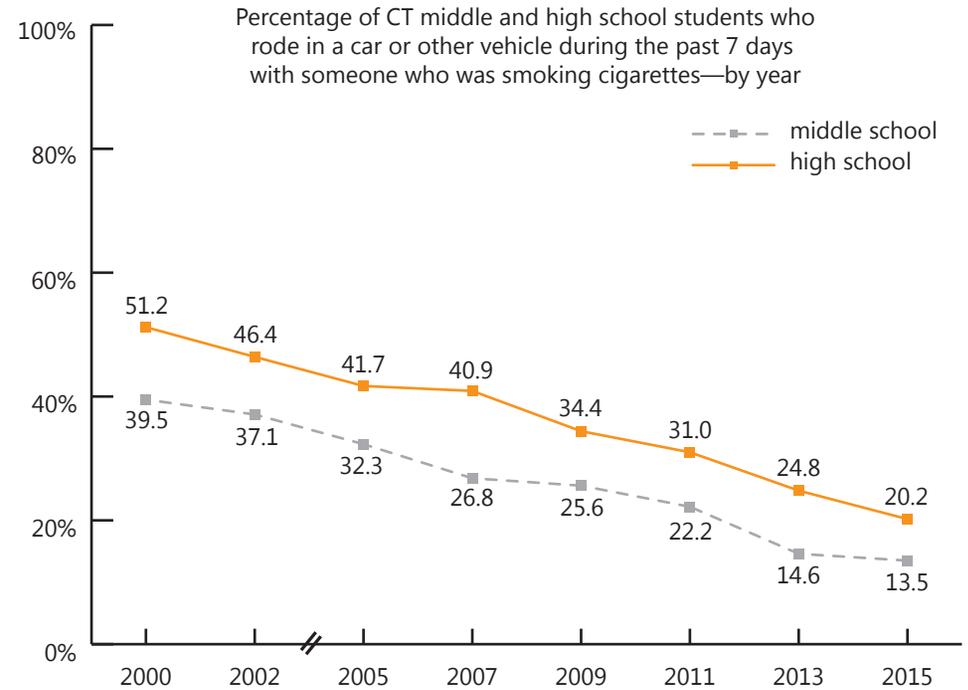
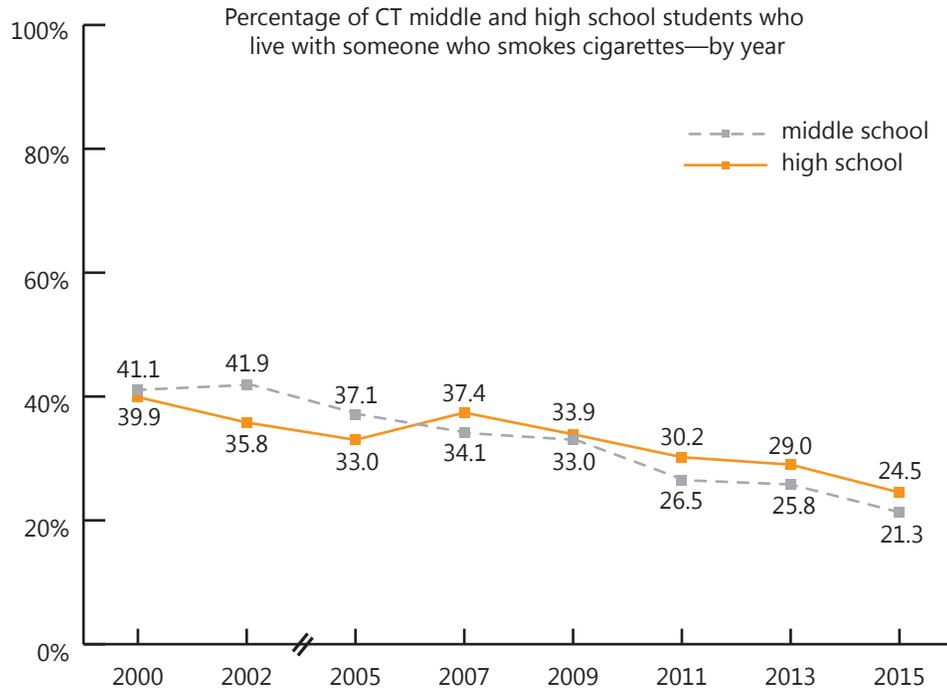
†Middle school estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Trends: Current Tobacco Use

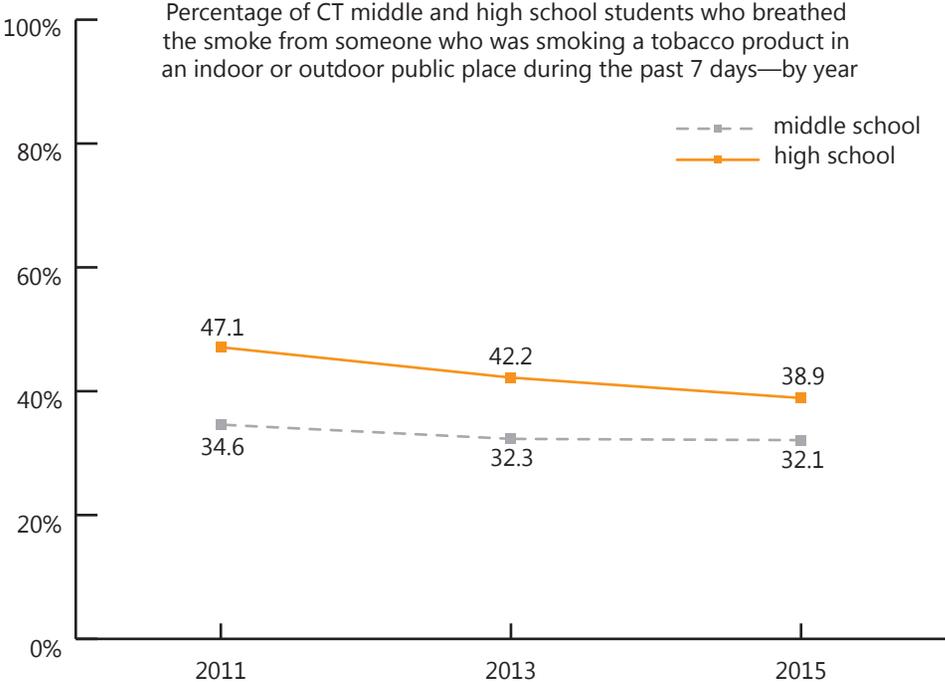


†Middle school estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was $>30\%$ or the sample size was <35). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Trends: Secondhand Smoke Exposure



Trends: Secondhand Smoke Exposure



Tables

Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among CT and US Middle School Students—2015												
Demographic Characteristics	Current Tobacco Use*				Current Cigarette Smoking				Current Cigar Smoking			
	Connecticut		United States		Connecticut		United States		Connecticut		United States	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
TOTAL	3.0	(2.0-4.0)	7.4	(6.3-8.7)	0.8	(0.4-1.2)	2.3	(1.7-3.0)	—**	—	1.6	(1.2-2.1)
Sex												
male	2.7	(1.6-3.8)	8.3	(6.7-10.3)	—	—	2.3	(1.7-3.1)	—	—	1.8	(1.3-2.5)
female	3.2	(2.1-4.4)	6.4	(5.4-7.6)	1.0	(0.4-1.5)	2.2	(1.6-3.1)	—	—	1.4	(1.0-2.0)
Race/Ethnicity												
NH-white	2.0	(1.0-3.0)	6.3	(4.8-8.2)	—	—	2.1	(1.4-3.3)	—	—	1.2	(0.7-1.9)
NH-black	—	—	6.6	(5.3-8.1)	—	—	1.0	(0.6-1.6)	—	—	2.0	(1.4-2.8)
Hispanic	5.2	(3.5-6.8)	10.6	(9.0-12.4)	1.8	(0.7-2.9)	2.8	(2.0-4.0)	—	—	2.2	(1.5-3.1)
NH-other	—	—	5.6	(3.7-8.5)	—	—	2.7	(1.5-4.8)	—	—	—	—

Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among CT and US Middle School Students—2015												
Demographic Characteristics	Current Smokeless Tobacco Use				Current Pipe Smoking				Current Hookah Smoking			
	Connecticut		United States [†]		Connecticut		United States		Connecticut		United States	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
TOTAL	—**	—	1.8	(1.1-2.8)	0.9	(0.5-1.4)	0.4	(0.3-0.6)	1.0	(0.5-1.6)	2.0	(1.5-2.6)
Sex												
male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.9	(1.4-2.6)
female	—	—	1.1	(0.8-1.7)	1.1	(0.4-1.7)	—	—	—	—	2.0	(1.4-2.9)
Race/Ethnicity												
NH-white	—	—	—	—	0.5	(0.2-0.8)	—	—	—	—	1.6	(1.0-2.5)
NH-black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	2.7	(1.8-4.0)	—	—	—	—	2.5	(1.1-3.9)	3.2	(2.3-4.4)
NH-other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; NH = non-Hispanic

Notes: Current use is defined as using a product on 1 or more of the past 30 days.

*including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks (clove cigarettes)-not included in US calculation, hookahs (water pipes), and e-cigarettes

**These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was >30% or the sample size was <35 for CT or <50 for the US). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

†The definition of smokeless tobacco for the 2015 cycle of the NYTS includes chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, snus, and dissolvable tobacco because of limited sample sizes. In previous years of the NYTS, the definition of smokeless tobacco included only chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, whereas snus and dissolvable tobacco were reported as separate products. The definition of smokeless tobacco for the 2015 CT YTS does not include snus and dissolvable tobacco. Therefore, 2015 prevalence rates for CT and nationwide are not directly comparable.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among CT and US Middle School Students—2015								
Demographic Characteristics	Current E-Cigarette Use				Current Bidi Smoking			
	Connecticut		United States*		Connecticut		United States	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1.4	(0.7-2.0)	5.3	(4.6-6.2)	—**	—	0.2	(0.1-0.4)
Sex								
male	1.2	(0.6-2.4)	5.9	(4.7-7.2)	—	—	—	—
female	1.6	(0.8-2.4)	4.8	(4.0-5.6)	—	—	—	—
Race/Ethnicity								
NH-white	1.3	(0.5-2.1)	4.4	(3.6-5.5)	—	—	—	—
NH-black	—	—	4.1	(3.1-5.3)	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	2.0	(0.8-3.2)	8.3	(6.8-10.0)	—	—	—	—
NH-other	—	—	4.6	(2.7-7.7)	—	—	—	—

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; NH = non-Hispanic

Notes: Current use is defined as using a product on 1 or more of the past 30 days.

*For the 2015 NYTS, current use of e-cigarettes was assessed using a question worded differently from the question asked on the 2015 CT YTS; therefore, US and CT estimates are not directly comparable.

**These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was >30% or the sample size was <35 for CT or <50 for the US). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among CT and US High School Students—2015												
Demographic Characteristics	Current Tobacco Use*				Current Cigarette Smoking				Current Cigar Smoking			
	Connecticut		United States		Connecticut		United States		Connecticut		United States	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
TOTAL	14.3	(11.3-17.3)	25.3	(23.1-27.6)	5.6	(3.5-7.8)	9.3	(7.8-10.9)	4.5	(3.3-5.8)	8.6	(7.6-9.8)
Sex												
male	16.3	(12.9-19.6)	30.0	(27.4-32.8)	5.6	(3.3-7.8)	10.7	(8.9-12.9)	6.5	(4.3-8.6)	11.5	(10.1-13.1)
female	12.1	(8.6-15.6)	20.3	(18.0-22.9)	5.6	(2.8-8.4)	7.7	(6.3-9.3)	2.5	(1.7-3.2)	5.6	(4.7-6.8)
Race/Ethnicity												
NH-white	16.4	(12.6-20.3)	26.2	(23.2-29.4)	6.0	(3.2-8.8)	10.2	(8.4-12.3)	5.3	(3.6-6.9)	8.4	(7.2-9.9)
NH-black	—**	—	21.9	(18.7-25.5)	—	—	5.7	(3.2-10.0)	—	—	12.8	(9.5-17.0)
Hispanic	14.6	(9.8-19.4)	25.4	(22.6-28.3)	5.6	(2.7-8.5)	9.0	(7.0-11.7)	3.7	(2.2-5.1)	7.3	(5.8-9.1)
NH-other	—	—	25.3	(16.9-36.1)	—	—	7.5	(5.0-10.9)	—	—	5.9	(3.8-9.1)

Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among CT and US High School Students—2015												
Demographic Characteristics	Current Smokeless Tobacco Use				Current Pipe Smoking				Current Hookah Smoking			
	Connecticut		United States [†]		Connecticut		United States		Connecticut		United States	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
TOTAL	2.8	(1.7-3.8)	6.0	(4.7-7.6)	2.3	(1.6-3.1)	1.0	(0.8-1.4)	3.3	(2.5-4.1)	7.2	(6.3-8.2)
Sex												
male	4.7	(3.1-6.3)	10.0	(8.0-12.5)	2.5	(1.5-3.4)	1.4	(0.9-2.0)	3.7	(2.7-4.7)	7.4	(6.5-8.5)
female	—**	—	1.8	(1.2-2.7)	2.2	(1.4-3.0)	0.7	(0.4-1.2)	2.9	(1.8-4.0)	6.9	(5.6-8.4)
Race/Ethnicity												
NH-white	3.7	(2.1-5.1)	7.8	(5.9-10.2)	1.9	(0.9-2.9)	1.0	(0.7-1.6)	3.5	(2.4-4.7)	6.9	(5.6-8.4)
NH-black	—	—	1.9	(1.1-3.4)	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.4	(4.8-8.5)
Hispanic	—	—	4.8	(3.8-6.1)	5.2	(0.8-6.9)	1.5	(1.1-2.2)	4.7	(2.4-7.0)	8.7	(7.5-10.1)
NH-other	—	—	2.7	(1.6-4.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.4	(4.6-8.9)

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; NH = non-Hispanic

Notes: Current use is defined as using a product on 1 or more of the past 30 days.

*including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks (clove cigarettes)-not included in US calculation, hookahs (water pipes), and e-cigarettes

**These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was >30% or the sample size was <35 for CT or <50 for the US). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

†The definition of smokeless tobacco for the 2015 cycle of the NYTS includes chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, snus, and dissolvable tobacco because of limited sample sizes. In previous years of the NYTS, the definition of smokeless tobacco included only chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, whereas snus and dissolvable tobacco were reported as separate products. The definition of smokeless tobacco for the 2015 CT YTS does not include snus and dissolvable tobacco. Therefore, 2015 prevalence rates for CT and nationwide are not directly comparable.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use Among CT and US High School Students—2015								
Demographic Characteristics	Current E-Cigarette Use				Current Bidi Smoking			
	Connecticut		United States*		Connecticut		United States	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
TOTAL	7.2	(4.7-9.7)	16.0	(14.1-18.0)	0.4	(0.2-0.7)	0.6	(0.4-0.9)
Sex								
male	8.3	(5.5-11.1)	19.0	(16.5-21.7)	—**	—	0.9	(0.6-1.4)
female	6.0	(3.2-8.9)	12.8	(11.0-15.0)	—	—	0.4	(0.2-0.6)
Race/Ethnicity								
NH-white	9.7	(6.3-13.0)	17.2	(14.7-19.9)	—	—	0.5	(0.3-0.9)
NH-black	—	—	8.9	(7.4-10.8)	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	5.4	(3.0-7.8)	16.4	(14.1-19.0)	—	—	—	—
NH-other	—	—	18.9	(10.3-32.2)	—	—	—	—

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; NH = non-Hispanic

Notes: Current use is defined as using a product on 1 or more of the past 30 days.

*For the 2015 NYTS, current use of e-cigarettes was assessed using a question worded differently from the question asked on the 2015 CT YTS; therefore, US and CT estimates are not directly comparable.

**These estimates are suppressed because the data are statistically unreliable (i.e., the relative standard error was >30% or the sample size was <35 for CT or <50 for the US). These data are below detectable levels or are non-reportable due to the possibility of misinterpretation.

Discussion

2015 YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

Connecticut Middle and High School Survey

Discussion

From 2011 to 2015, a substantial increase was observed in current e-cigarette use among Connecticut high school students, and from 2013 to 2015, the rate increased among middle school students, resulting in an overall estimated total of 13,800 e-cigarette youth users in 2015. A statistically significant decrease occurred in the use of cigarettes for both middle and high school students. Additionally, for high school students, current use of any tobacco product, cigars, and bidis decreased significantly. In 2015, 1 in 7 high school students and 1 in 30 middle school students used one or more tobacco products in the last 30 days. In 2015, for the first time, current e-cigarette use surpassed current use of every other tobacco product, including cigarettes.

CDC has drawn attention to the fact that these findings are subject to at least four limitations. First, data were collected only from youths who attended public schools and might not be generalizable to all middle and high school-aged youth in Connecticut, such as those who are in private school, being home-schooled, have dropped out of school, or are in detention centers. Second, data were self-reported, so the findings are subject to recall and response bias. Third, current tobacco use was estimated among students reporting their use status for at least one of the eight products included in Connecticut's survey definition, whereas students with missing responses were considered nonusers of that product, which would result in conservative estimates. Finally, changes in the wording and placement of survey questions about the use of certain products within the 2011-2015 period might have had an impact on reported use of these products; however, this possibility is difficult to assess because usage patterns were changing during this time. Despite these limitations, overall changes/trends in prevalence estimates are generally similar to the findings of the 2015 National Youth Tobacco Survey.

