Youth and Tobacco Use in Connecticut
Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program — August 2014

Background

◆ Smoking and smokeless tobacco use are usually initiated during adolescence; more than 90% of adult smokers began smoking before 18 years of age. Additionally, adolescent smokeless tobacco users are more likely than non-users to become adult cigarette smokers.[1,2,3]

◆ Each year in Connecticut, 2,500 people under age 18 become new daily smokers.[4]

◆ An estimated 56,000 children alive in Connecticut today will ultimately die prematurely from smoking-related diseases.[4]

◆ In 2013, 3.1% of middle school and 19.5% of high school students currently used tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes, bidis, kreteks, hookahs, and electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).[5]

◆ Current cigarette smoking among middle and high school students declined significantly between 2000 and 2013.[6]

◆ It is estimated that Connecticut kids smoke 8.1 million packs of cigarettes every year.[4]

◆ From 2011-2013, current e-cigarette use more than doubled among high school students and hookah smoking increased.[7]

◆ Current use of smokeless tobacco (i.e., chewing tobacco, snuff, and dip) among middle school students has decreased since 2000 but has increased among high school students.[6] Smokeless tobacco use remains mostly male behavior.

Key Points:

◆ About 3% of CT middle school and 20% of high school students used some form of tobacco in the past 30 days.

◆ Cigarettes and cigars are the two most prevalent types of tobacco used by CT youth.

◆ Concurrent use of tobacco products is prevalent among CT students.

◆ Data from the 2013 Connecticut Youth Tobacco Survey suggest that concurrent use of tobacco products is prevalent among youth. Among high school students who report currently using tobacco, 41.0% of females and 56.0% of males report using more than one tobacco product in the past 30 days.

2013 Connecticut Estimates of Current Tobacco Use Among Youth[5]

Current Tobacco Use Among High School Students			
Tobacco Product	**Overall**	**Males**	**Females**
Any tobacco product*	19.5%	24.6%	14.0%
Cigarettes	8.9%	10.4%	7.3%
Cigars	9.0%	13.8%	3.8%
Chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip	4.9%	8.4%	1.1%**
Pipes (other than water pipes)	4.8%	5.6%	3.8%
Bidis	1.8%	2.4%	0.9%
Kreteks	2.2%	2.6%	1.4%
Hookahs (water pipes)	4.7%	5.2%	4.1%
Electronic cigarettes	5.3%	6.9%	3.7%

Current Tobacco Use Among Middle School Students			
Tobacco Product	**Overall**	**Males**	**Females**
Any tobacco product*	3.1%	4.1%	1.9%
Cigarettes	1.4%	1.8%**	1.0%**
Cigars	1.3%	2.2%**	0.3%**
Chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip	0.7%**	1.2%**	0.1%**
Pipes (other than water pipes)	0.9%**	1.4%**	0.3%**
Bidis	0.5%**	0.8%**	0.1%**
Kreteks	0.6%**	1.0%**	0.1%**
Hookahs (water pipes)	0.6%	0.8%**	0.1%**
Electronic cigarettes	0.8%	1.1%**	0.5%**

*including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks (clove cigarettes), hookahs (water pipes), and electronic cigarettes
**Data are statistically unreliable because sample size <35 or relative standard error >30%. These estimates are subject to high sampling error and should be interpreted with caution.

For Further Information

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References

[1]US DHHS. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General.* Atlanta: US DHHS, CDC, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.

[2]Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. *The Path to Smoking Addiction Starts at Very Young Ages.* Washington: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, 2009.

[3]CDC. *Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students*-US, 2000-2009. MMWR 2010;59(33):1063-8.

[4]Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/Connecticut.

[5]Results from the Connecticut Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS); 2013.

[6]Results from the CT YTS; 2000 and 2013.

[7]Results from the CT YTS; 2011 and 2013.

Note: Current use is defined as using a product on ≥1 day during the past 30 days.

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