

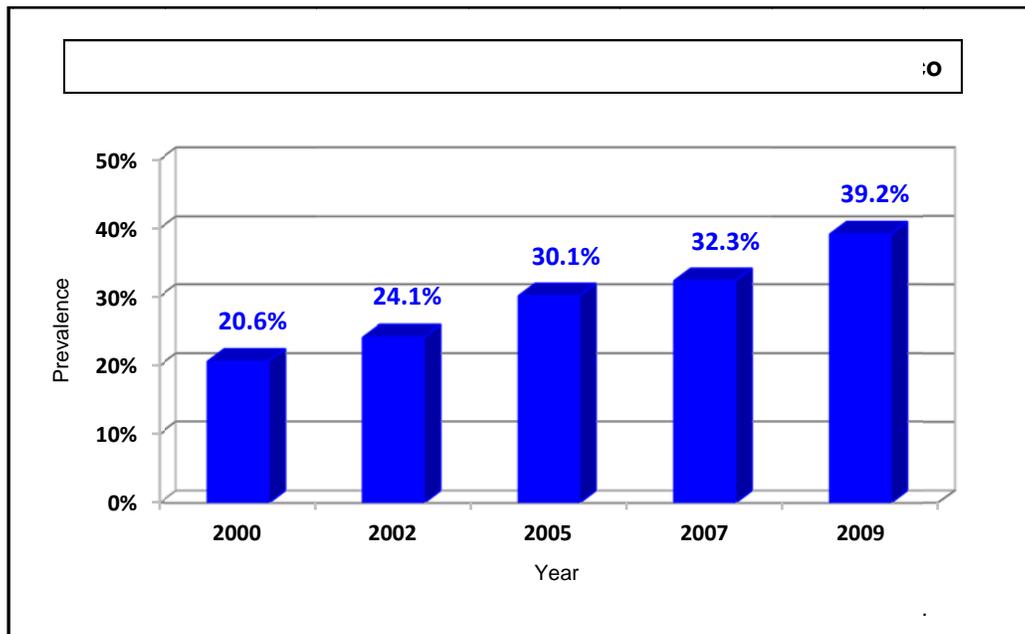
A Report on Tobacco Use Rates for West Virginia Youth Summary of 2007 & 2009 Youth Tobacco Survey Report September 2011

The West Virginia Division of Tobacco Prevention (DTP) collaborates with state and federal partners to promote tobacco use prevention, cessation, and smoke-free air in West Virginia schools, businesses, health care settings, and communities. In recent years, successes have been achieved in reducing smoking among youth and implementing clean indoor air policies across the state. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sustained investments in comprehensive tobacco control programs can decrease smoking prevalence, prevent millions of premature deaths, and save billions of dollars. DTP and the West Virginia Health Statistics Center collaborated to publish the *2007 & 2009 Youth Tobacco Survey Report*, which outlines the prevalence of tobacco use from 2000 to 2009 among middle school and high school students in West Virginia. This summary presents key findings from the report, which can be accessed at websites listed at the end of this summary.

Tobacco Use

Experimenting with tobacco use has long been perceived as a rite of passage for the turbulent teenage years, but in West Virginia that is reversing. We are witnessing a new generation who are making the tobacco-free choice:

- Current tobacco use (use of any tobacco product within the last 30 days) has decreased significantly from 2000 to 2009 among both middle school students (a decline of 40%, from 24.8% to 15.0%) and high school students (a decline of 32%, from 47.7% to 32.6%).
- Never-tobacco use (students who have *never tried or used* cigarettes, smokeless tobacco or cigars) has increased significantly during 2000 to 2009 for both middle school students (an increase of 47%, from 46.0% to 67.4%), and high school students (an increase of 90%, from 20.6% to 39.2%).



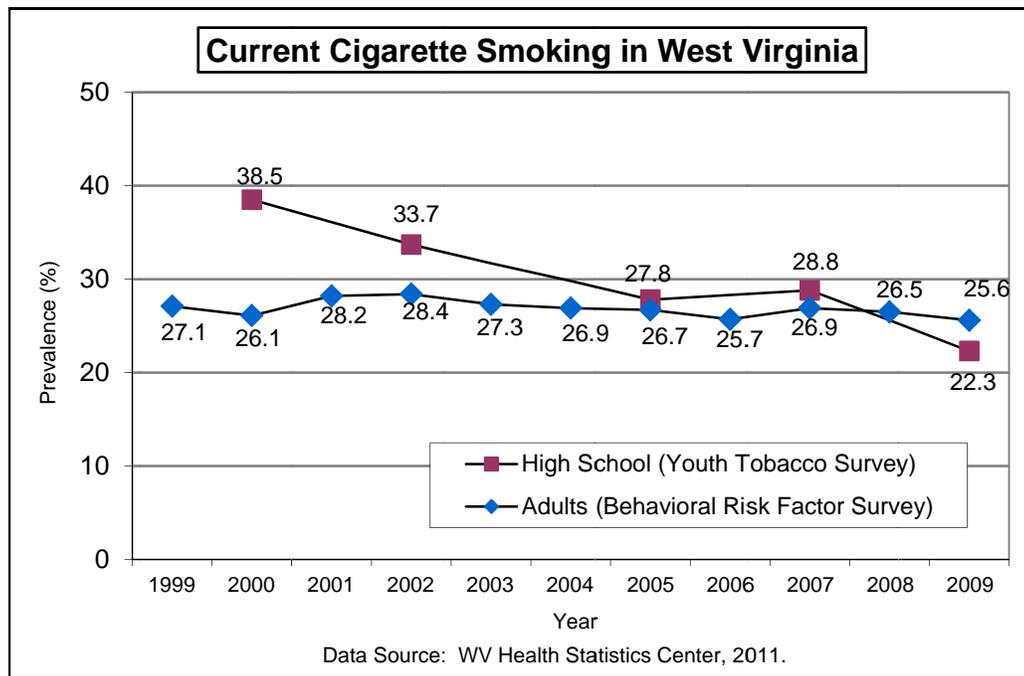
Cigarette Smoking

The declines in current cigarette smoking among WV middle school and high school students have been significant during 2000 to 2009. The WV high school decline in cigarette smoking has been slightly greater than what we have witnessed for the U.S. average during this time frame. While current cigarette smoking among youth has significantly decreased, there has been no significant decrease in current smoking among the WV adult population (18+ years) from 2000 to 2009.

- Current cigarette smoking has decreased significantly from 2000 to 2009 among both middle school students (a decline of 51%, from 18.1% to 8.9%) and high school students (a decline of 42%, from 38.5% to

22.3%). Significant decreases were also seen during this time frame in the prevalence of frequent smoking (20+ days per month) and daily smoking among high school students.

- Never-cigarette smokers (students who have *never* tried or used cigarettes) has increased significantly during 2000 to 2009 for both middle school students (an increase of 38%, from 53.1% to 73.1%), and high school students (an increase of 86%, from 25.7% to 47.8%).



Smokeless Tobacco Use among Males

From 2000 to 2009 there was a significant increase among males in middle school who had never tried smokeless tobacco (an increase of 16%, from 68.3% to 78.9%). However, no significant improvements were seen for high school males. The prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use among middle school males and high school males did not change during this period.

Cigar and Pipe Smoking

From 2000 to 2009 there were significant increases in the prevalence of never-cigar smokers among both middle school students (15% increase, from 74.8% to 86.3%) and high school students (36% increase, from 47.8% to 64.9%). There appear to be no significant changes in current cigar smoking, although the prevalence is well below the prevalence of both cigarette smoking and male smokeless tobacco use. Current smoking of tobacco in a pipe was extremely low, at 2.1% for middle school and 3.1% for high school students in 2009.

Access the full *2007 & 2009 West Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey Report* at the websites below under *Publications*. Additional analysis of YTS data will be done in the near future and will be posted on the websites as it becomes available.



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