

Data Bullets for Fact Sheet: Youth Tobacco Use in West Virginia

(Note: All Youth data is from WV Youth Tobacco Survey. HS=grades 9-12; MS=grades 6-8) updated 10-18-13

General Facts: Cigarettes

- **Current Smoking:** Current smoking (any days in the past 30 days) among WV high school students was 18.6% (estimated 14,411 HS smokers) in 2013. For middle school students, 7.5% (estimated 4,552 MS smokers) were current smokers in 2013. Compare this to current smoking among WV Adults (age 18 and older) of 28.6% (estimated 417,107 smokers), WV BRFSS 2011*.
- **Change over Time:** The prevalence of current smoking among high school students has significantly decreased 52%, from 38.5% (2000) to 18.6% (2013). For middle school students, there has been a 59% decline in current smoking, from 18.1% (2000) to 7.5% (2013). While these declines for WV are a great success, no significant declines have been seen among the WV adults in current smoking.
- **By Gender:** There was no significant difference between the prevalence of current smoking comparing high school males (20.0%) and females (16.8%), nor for middle school males (7.8%) and females (7.2%) in 2013.
- **Age of Onset:** There has been a decrease, although not significant, in the prevalence of high school students who had ever smoked, who said they had their first cigarette or puff at age 12 or younger, from 40.5% (2000) to 35.4% (2013**).
- **Trying to Quit:** Among established high school smokers (those who have smoked 100+ cigarettes in their lifetime), 8.1% have become ex-smokers (not smoking in the past 30 days), or about 969 high school ex-smokers (2011). While not significant, there appears to be a decrease among high school smokers who have quit smoking in the past 30 days (15.7% in 2000, to 8.1% in 2011).
- **Never Smokers:** The prevalence of never smoking (never smoked a cigarette, not even 1-2 puffs) among WV high school students increased 107%, from 25.7% (2000) to 53.2% (2013). Among middle school students, the prevalence of never smoking increased 44%, from 53.1% (2000) to 76.5% (2013). Compare this to WV adults: 47.9% were never smokers (having smoked less than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime), WV BRFSS 2011*.
- **General Trends:** As students progress through middle school and high school, the prevalence of current smoking increases with each grade level.

Smokeless Tobacco (SLT)

- **Current SLT Use among Males:** In 2013, 25.0% of high school males (estimated 10,016 users) used SLT in the past 30 days. For middle school males in 2013, the prevalence was 12.7% (estimated 3,942 users).

- Change over Time: There appears to be no decreasing trend for high school males, nor for middle school males during the years 2000 to 2013.
- By Gender: There is a significant difference between males and females: female current SLT use is less than 4% across all years of data for high school and middle school females.
- Dual Use: Among high school males who currently smoked cigarettes, about 60.1% (estimated 4,686 smokers) also currently used SLT products in 2013, compared to 43.3% in 2000, which is a 39% increase.
- Never Use of SLT: There has been a 14% increase among middle school males in never use, from 68.3% (2000) to 77.9% (2013), but there appears to be no significant change among high school males over this period.

Tobacco Use in Any Form

- Current Tobacco Use: Current tobacco use (any use of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars or pipes in the past 30 days) has decreased 38% among high school students, from 47.7% (2000) to 29.5% (2013), and has decreased 45% among middle school students, from 24.8% (2000) to 13.6% (2013). There is a significant difference in prevalence of “tobacco use of any kind” among high school males (37.7%) compared to females (20.3%), and also middle school males (17.4%) compared to females (9.8%), due to the greater prevalence of smokeless tobacco, cigar and pipe use among males.
- Never Tobacco Use: Among high school students, there has been an increase of 124% in prevalence of never tobacco use, from 20.6% (2000) to 46.1% (2013), and a 53% increase of never tobacco use among middle school students, from 46.0% (2000) to 70.2% (2013). There was a significant difference in prevalence comparing high school males (41.4%) and females (51.3%), but the difference between middle school males (65.5%) and females (75.0%) was not significant (2013).

*In 2011 there were changes made to the BRFSS weighting methodology and the addition of the cell phone sampling frame, therefore 2011 prevalence data should not be directly comparable to previous years of BRFSS data.

**In 2013 the YTS “age of onset” question changed slightly and this may result in higher positive responses.