Youth Tobacco Use Continues to Decline Across All Product Types in 2022, One in Five Youth Still Use Tobacco

In 2022, data from the New York Youth Tobacco Survey (NY-YTS) showed sustained declines in youth tobacco use across all tobacco product categories, with the youth cigarette smoking rate reaching an all-time low of 2.1%. Use of e-cigarettes, also known as vaping or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), declined from 22.5% in 2020 to 18.7% in 2022. As a result, overall tobacco use declined across all product categories from 25.6% to 20.8% between 2020 and 2022. Tobacco use at any age and in any form is not safe, but it is particularly dangerous for youth and young adults. Nicotine exposure during adolescence can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Strong and effective laws can protect youth from nicotine addiction by reducing access and exposure to tobacco products. In 2020, New York State ended the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies and implemented bans on the sale of flavored vapor products, the redemption of coupons and multi-pack discounts on tobacco and vapor products, and the exterior display of tobacco product ads near schools. According to data from the NY-YTS:

1. Any tobacco product use decreased among high school youth to 20.8% in 2022 – one in five currently use tobacco products.
2. Cigarette smoking among high school youth reached a new low – only 2.1% are current smokers, representing a 92% decrease in the youth smoking rate since 2000 when 27.1% of high school youth reported cigarette use.
3. E-cigarettes are still the most used tobacco product among youth, even though use declined from a peak of 27.4% in 2018 to 18.7% in 2022.
4. Other tobacco product use, including cigars, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, and hookah, also decreased among high school youth, from 6.1% in 2020 to 3.5% in 2022.

Continued surveillance of all tobacco product use among youth is important given the ever-changing tobacco landscape and ongoing tobacco control policy changes at the state and local levels. Monitoring the use of emergent products in the population is also critical to advance health equity.

Trends in Any Tobacco Product Use among High School Students in NYS, NY-YTS 2000-2022

Note: Based on methods developed by CDC, the YTS is a school-based survey of a representative sample of high school students in NYS. The average sample size of high school students in the YTS, for all years excluding 2008, 2020, and 2022, is 8,000. In 2008, a special study was conducted, and the sample was increased to 23,133. In 2020 and 2022 response rates were lower due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with sample sizes of 3,895 in 2020 and 4,600 in 2022. Non-response bias analyses confirmed data quality and representativeness were not impacted by reduced sample size.

2. “Any Tobacco Product” refers to the products that were asked about in the YTS year. Cigarettes, cigars, and smokeless tobacco have been monitored since 2000. Bidis and kretek were included from 2000 to 2010. Pipe was included from 2000 to 2008, and again in 2014. Hookah was included beginning in 2008 and ENDS were included beginning in 2014. “Other Tobacco Product” refers to any product other than cigarettes or ENDS. Current tobacco use is defined as use on one or more days in the past 30 days.

Source: New York State Youth Tobacco Survey 2000-2022. Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or send an e-mail to tcp@health.ny.gov. StatShots can be accessed online at: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/