

Youth Tobacco Use in Georgia: 2014 Data Summary

Approximately 90 percent of smokers begin smoking before age 18 years¹.

Current Tobacco Use

- About 8 percent (27,000) of middle school students and 19 percent (79,000) of high school students in Georgia currently use tobacco (cigarettes, smokeless tobacco or cigars)².
- The prevalence of current cigarette (4 percent; 14,000), cigar/ cigarillo (5 percent; 18,000) and smokeless tobacco (4 percent; 13,000) use among Georgia middle school students was similar (Figure 1)².





- Georgia high school (HS) students were more likely to smoke cigars/cigarillos (14 percent; 61,000), followed by cigarettes (13 percent; 53,000) and smokeless tobacco (9 percent; 42,000) (Figure 1)^{2.3}.
- The use of cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco and bidis decreased from 2011 to 2013 among Georgia middle school (MS) and HS students, while the use of pipes and hookahs increased 1 percent among HS students from 2011 (5 percent for pipes and 7 percent for hookahs) to 2013 (6 percent for pipes and 8 percent for hookahs) (Figure 1)^{2,3}.

- Use of pipes and hookahs decreased among MS students from 2011 (4 percent for pipes and 4 percent for hookahs) to 2013 (3 percent for pipes and 3 percent for hookahs)^{2,3}.
- Georgia HS students are as likely to smoke e-cigarettes as smokeless tobacco at 9 percent (Figure 1)^{2,3}.
- Approximately 39 percent (22,800) of MS and 16 percent (24,000) of HS students first tried smoking cigarettes before the age of 11 years³.
- Among HS students, the overall cigarette smoking prevalence decreased by 4 percent (from 17 percent to 13 percent) between 2011 and 2013, while it decreased by 2 percent points for MS students (from 6 percent to 4 percent) between 2011 and 2013 (Figure 2)^{2,5}.



Figure 2. Percent of youth who currently smoke cigarettes, Georgia, 2003-2013

Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)

 The use of cigar/cigarillos increased to a peak of 18 percent for HS and 6 percent for MS students in 2011 and then decreased in 2013 to 14 percent for HS and 5 percent for MS students in Georgia (Figure 3)^{2,3}.

Figure 3. Percent of youth who currently smoke cigars/cigarillos, Georgia, 2003-2013



 Smokeless tobaccco use decreased slightly among both MS and HS in Georgia in 2013 (Figure 4)².





Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)

Current Tobacco Use by Demographics

- Male MS (5 percent; 10,000) and HS (16 percent; 35,000) students in Georgia were significantly more likely to use smokeless tobacco than female MS (2 percent; 4,000) and HS (3 percent; 6,000) students (Figure 5)².
- NH White MS (5 percent; 8,000) and HS (12 percent; 25,000) students were more likely to use smokeless tobacco than NH Black MS (2 percent; 3,000) and HS (4 percent; 7,000) students².
- NH White (19 percent; 36,000) and Hispanic (13 percent; 5,000) HS students were significantly more likely to smoke cigarettes than NH Black (5 percent; 8,000) HS students (Figure 6)².
- Prevalence of smoking cigarettes increased with grade level.





Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)

Figure 6. Percent of youth who currently smoke cigarettes, by school type, and race/ethnicity, Georgia, 2013

NH White NH Black Hispanic







Data Source: Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)

Figure 5. Percent of youth who use smokeless tobacco, by school type, and sex, Georgia, 2013

- Significantly more NH Black (7 percent; 10,000) and Hispanic (7 percent; 3,000) MS students smoked cigars than NH White (3 percent; 5,000) MS students².
- Among HS students, cigar use was the highest among 12th graders (17 percent; 16,000) when compared to the rest of the graders (Figure7)².

E-Cigarettes²

- Approximately 8 percent (32,000) of Georgia MS and 16 percent (73,000) of HS students have tried ecigarettes.
- Approximately 42 percent (5,000) of MS and 53 percent (28,000) of HS students who are current smokers also tried e-cigarettes, yet only 7 percent
 (25,000) of MS and 9 percent (36,000) of HS students who do not smoke have tried e-cigarettes.
- 36 percent (4,000) of MS and 31 percent (16,000) of HS students both currently smoke cigarettes and use e-cigarettes.
- Yet only 2 percent (8,000) of MS and 4 percent (16,000) of HS who are not current smokers use e-cigarettes.

Smoking Behavior³

- 59 percent of both MS (6,000) and HS (27,000) students who currently smoke cigarettes tried to quit during the past year.
- HS students (33 percent; 151,000) were more likely than MS students (12 percent; 46,000) to have smoked or know someone who smoked on school property.
- HS students (35 percent, 160,000) were also much more likely to use smokeless tobacco on school property or knew of someone who did than to MS students (12 percent; 43,000).
- Approximately 80 percent (4,000) of MS students and 62 percent (10,000) of HS students who currently smoke were *not* refused cigarettes when attempting to buy them, even though they were under 18 years of age.

Secondhand Smoke and Asthma³

 HS students (33 percent; 155,000) were more likely to have been exposed to secondhand smoke at home or in a car in the past seven days than MS students (25percent;94,000).



Figure 8. Percent of youth who were exposed to secondhand smoke in the past week, by location,

Data Source: Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

- HS students were exposed to secondhand smoke at home, in a car, at school or in a public place in the past seven days (Figure 8).
- NH White (31 percent; 51,000) MS students were significantly more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke in a public place in the past seven days than NH Black (21 percent; 30,000) MS students (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Percent of middle school students who were exposed to secondhand smoke by location and race/ethnicity, Georgia, 2013 NH Black NH White Hispanic



NH White (33 percent; 67,000 vehicle and 28 percent; 57,000 home) HS students were significantly more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke inside a vehicle or at home, in the past seven days than NH Black (21 percent; 36,000 vehicle and 18 percent; 31,000 home) HS students (Figure 10).

- NH White (37 percent; 77,000) and Hispanic (39 percent; 19,000) HS students were more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke in a public place compared to NH Black (24 percent; 42,000) HS students (Figure 10).
- Approximately (13 percent; 38,000) of MS students and (14 percent; 50,400) of HS students had asthma.
- About (41 percent; 16,000) of MS students and (54 percent; 27,000) of HS students who had asthma were exposed to secondhand smoke in the past seven days.

Figure 10. Percent of high school students who were exposed to secondhand smoke by location and race/ethnicity, Georgia, 2013 NH Black NH White Hispanic



Rules and Policies³

- Percent of students who reported attending a school with a tobacco-free policy increased from 84 percent (289,000) in 2011 among MS students to 90 percent (263,000) in 2013, and from 87 percent (321,000) to 89 percent (387,000) among HS students.³
- MS (66 percent; 8,000) and HS (35 percent; 7,000) smokers are more likely to live in a home where smoking is allowed when compared to MS (18 percent; 62,000) and HS (19 percent; 37,000) students who do not smoke.



Figure 11. Percent of youth who live with a smoker, by smoking status, Georgia, 2013



- About 31 percent (116,000) of MS students and 29 percent (135,000) of HS students live with someone who smokes cigarettes.
- About 59 percent (7,000) of current MS smokers live with a smoker and 43 percent (22,000) of HS smokers live with a smoker, versus only 30 percent (105,000) of nonsmoking MS students and 28 percent (107,000) of non-smoking HS students (Figure 11).

Data Sources:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Preventing Tobacco Use among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.
- 2. 2011 and 2013 Georgia Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)
- 3. 2011 and 2013 Georgia Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)