Ever Tried Tobacco*: any form

Half of middle school students and three-fourths of high school students have tried some form of tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, smokeless, and pipe). Rates increase from 36% among 6th graders to 73% among 12th graders. Boys are more likely than girls to have tried tobacco. Nearly 80% of high school boys report they have tried tobacco. Rates among racial/ethnic groups in middle school range from 42% among African Americans to 59% among American Indians. Rates among high school youth are more similar and range from 73% to 78%.

*CALCULATED VARIABLE
Current Tobacco Users*: any form in last 30 days

Twenty-one percent of middle school (MS) students and 42% of high school (HS) students are current (within the last 30 days) users of tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, smokeless or pipes). Rates increase from 12% among 6th graders to 45% among 12th graders. Rates are higher for boys than for girls. Nearly half of HS boys report they are current users of at least one form of tobacco. Rates among racial/ethnic groups in MS range from 13% among African Americans to 26% among American Indians. Rates among racial/ethnic groups in HS range from 38% among African Americans to 50% among American Indians.

*CALCULATED VARIABLE
Q: Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?

Nearly half (46%) of middle school (MS) students and two-thirds (69%) of high school (HS) students report they have tried smoking cigarettes. The rate more than doubles between 6th grade and 12th grade, increasing from 31% to 68% respectively. Boys are more likely than girls to have tried cigarettes. Among MS students, African American youth are least likely to report they have tried smoking (37%), whereas Hispanic youth are most likely (55%). Among HS students, groups vary less and range from 66% among African American youth to 74% among Hispanic youth.
More students are experimenting with cigarettes at early ages now than even a few years ago. Fifteen percent of middle school students and 11% of high school students report they smoked a whole cigarette before they turned 11 years old. Nearly 18% of boys and 12% of girls in middle school reported they smoked a cigarette before age 11 compared to 12% and 9% respectively among high school youth.
As school grade increases, the proportion of students who have never smoked or who have smoked 1 or fewer cigarettes decreases and the proportion of students who have smoked 5+ packs of cigarettes in their lifetime increases. Rates of smoking 5+ packs increases from 6% among MS students to 25 among HS students. One in four White, Hispanic and American Indian HS youth have smoked 5+ packs in their lifetime compared to 1 in 10 African American youth.
Q: Have you ever smoked cigarettes daily, that is at least one cigarette every day for 30 days?

As school grade increases, students are more likely to currently report they are a daily smoker or have been one in the past. Among students who have tried smoking, 1 in 4 MS students reports he/she smoke(d) daily for at least 30 days. Among HS students, that increases to more than 1 in 3. Unlike other groups, rates of ever smoking daily among African American youth do not increase in HS but remain at 21%.
Q: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?

One in six MS students and 1 in 3 HS students report they are current cigarette smokers (1 or more cigarettes during the past 30 days). The proportion of students who smoke daily (30 days per month) increases from less than 1% in 6th grade to 13% in 12th. As school grade increases, more current smokers become daily smokers. Boys and girls are equally likely to be current smokers. African American youth are least likely to report they are current smokers compared to other youth.
Q: During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?

Among current smokers, 15% of middle school students and 34% of high school students are smoking 6 or more cigarettes per day on those days they smoke. As grade increases so does the rate of current smokers who smoke 6+ cigarettes per day. Rates are higher for boys than girls in middle school, however that disparity disappears among high school youth. The rate of smoking 2+ cigarettes per day increases from MS to HS similarly for all racial/ethnic groups of youth.
Q: During the past 30 days, what brand of cigarettes did you usually smoke?

The cigarette brand of choice among both middle and high school students is Marlboro. Three of 5 middle school smokers and 3 of 4 high school smokers usually smoke Marlboro. In middle school, boys are more likely to report usual use of Marlboro; however in high school, Marlboro brand is smoked at a higher rate by girls. White youth are more likely to report usually smoking the Marlboro brand than Hispanic and American Indian youth.
Q: When was the last time you smoked a cigarette, even one or two puffs?

As student grade increases, the proportion of students who smoked a cigarette within the past 30 days increases from 7% to 32%. Additionally, as grade increases, students are more likely to have already smoked a cigarette that day. (Note: All questionnaires were distributed during the 2nd hour classes.) Rates for having smoked ‘today’ increased from 1% among 6th graders to 15% among 12th graders.
Q: Have you ever used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits or Copenhagen?

One in 5 middle school students and 1 in 3 high school students have used spit tobacco at some time. Rates increase from 12% among 6th graders and peak at 35% among 10th graders. Approximately 30% of MS boys and half of HS boys report they have used spit tobacco. Although girls are less likely than boys to report using SLT, 1 in 8 HS girls report they have also used SLT at some time.
Q: How old were you when you used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip for the first time?

By age 11, 13% of boys have used spit tobacco. African American boys have the lowest rates of early use (5%). One in 4 (26%) American Indian boys in HS report they used spit tobacco before they were 11 years of age.
Among boys, 1 in 10 middle school students and 1 in 4 high school students report they are currently using spit tobacco (1 or more days of the past 30 days). The proportion of students who report using spit tobacco daily increases from 1% among 6th graders to 12% among 12th graders. Among boys, African Americans are least likely to report current use of spit tobacco with rates that are half those of White, Hispanic and American Indian youth.

**Q: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff or dip?**
Q: Have you ever tried smoking cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, even one or two puffs?

28% of middle school students and 52% of high school students have tried cigars at some time. Rates of ever smoking a cigar more than triples from 16% among 6th graders to 57% among 12th graders. Rates for boys are approximately twice that of girls. African American youth have the lowest rates (23%) in MS but the highest rate in HS (59%). Rates are over 50% for all race/ethnic groups in HS.
Q: How old were you when you smoked a whole cigar, cigarillo or little cigar for the first time?

More youth are now smoking cigars at younger ages than in the recent past. Seven percent of middle school students tried cigars before they were 11 years old compared to 4% of high school students. Many wait until they are in high school (13 or older) with the majority of high school students not beginning until age 15 or later. Boys are more likely than girls to have tried cigars before age 11.
Q: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke a cigar, cigarillo or little cigar?

Nine percent of middle school students and 20% of high school students are current cigar smokers (smoked a cigar on 1 or more days of the 30 days prior to the survey). Very few report they smoke daily. As student grade increases, students are more likely to be current cigar smokers. Boys are twice as likely as girls. Among high school youth, African Americans have the highest rate of current cigar use (29%) and American Indians have the lowest rate (16%).
Q: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke tobacco in a pipe?

Approximately 5% of students report they are current pipe smokers (smoked a pipe on 1+ of the 30 days prior to the survey). One percent or less report smoking daily. Boys are more likely than girls. Hispanic youth overall have the highest rates of current pipe tobacco use (9% middle school, 11% high school). Rates among African American youth double from 4% in MS to 8% in HS. White youth have the lowest rates of current pipe tobacco use (4%).