



## Trends in the Prevalence of Tobacco Use

### National YRBS: 1991–2007

The national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The national YRBS is conducted every two years during the spring semester and provides data representative of 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States.

| 1991  | 1993                | 1995                | 1997                | 1999                | 2001                | 2003                | 2005                | 2007                | Changes from 1991–2007 <sup>1</sup>          | Change from 2005–2007 <sup>2</sup> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Lifetime cigarette use</b><br>(Ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs.)   |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 70.1<br>(67.8–72.3) <sup>3</sup>  | 69.5<br>(68.1–70.8) | 71.3<br>(69.5–73.0) | 70.2<br>(68.2–72.1) | 70.4<br>(67.3–73.3) | 63.9<br>(61.6–66.0) | 58.4<br>(55.1–61.6) | 54.3<br>(51.2–57.3) | 50.3<br>(47.2–53.5) | No change, 1991–1999<br>Decreased, 1999–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Current cigarette use</b><br>(Smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)                           |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 27.5<br>(24.8–30.3)   | 30.5<br>(28.6–32.4) | 34.8<br>(32.5–37.2) | 36.4<br>(34.1–38.7) | 34.8<br>(32.3–37.4) | 28.5<br>(26.4–30.6) | 21.9<br>(19.8–24.2) | 23.0<br>(20.7–25.5) | 20.0<br>(17.6–22.6) | Increased, 1991–1997<br>Decreased, 1997–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Current frequent cigarette use</b><br>(Smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey.)                 |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| 12.7<br>(10.6–15.3)   | 13.8<br>(12.1–15.5) | 16.1<br>(13.6–19.1) | 16.7<br>(14.8–18.7) | 16.8<br>(14.3–19.6) | 13.8<br>(12.3–15.5) | 9.7<br>(8.3–11.3)   | 9.4<br>(7.9–11.0)   | 8.1<br>(6.7–9.8)    | Increased, 1991–1999<br>Decreased, 1999–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Current smokeless tobacco use</b><br>(Used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.) |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| NA <sup>4</sup>   | NA                  | 11.4<br>(9.8–13.2)  | 9.3<br>(7.3–11.8)   | 7.8<br>(5.8–10.4)   | 8.2<br>(6.8–9.9)    | 6.7<br>(5.3–8.5)    | 8.0<br>(6.6–9.6)    | 7.9<br>(6.3–9.8)    | Decreased, 1995–2003<br>No Change, 2003–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Current cigar use</b><br>(Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.)     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| NA  | NA                  | NA                  | 22.0<br>(19.9–24.2) | 17.7<br>(16.1–19.5) | 15.2<br>(14.0–16.5) | 14.8<br>(13.2–16.7) | 14.0<br>(12.6–15.6) | 13.6<br>(12.1–15.2) | Decreased, 1997–2005<br>No Change, 2005–2007 | No change                          |
| <b>Current tobacco use</b><br>(Current cigarette use, current smokeless tobacco use, or current cigar use.)                           |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |  |                                    |
| NA  | NA                  | NA                  | 43.4<br>(41.0–45.8) | 40.2<br>(37.4–43.0) | 33.9<br>(31.8–36.1) | 27.5<br>(25.1–30.0) | 28.4<br>(25.7–31.3) | 25.7<br>(22.8–28.7) | Decreased, 1997–2007                         | No change                          |

<sup>1</sup> Based on trend analyses using a logistic regression model controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade.

<sup>2</sup> Based on t-test analyses, p < .05.

<sup>3</sup> 95% confidence interval.

<sup>4</sup> Not available.



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