

High School Youth Tobacco Use Continues to Decline, One in Six Youth Still Use Tobacco

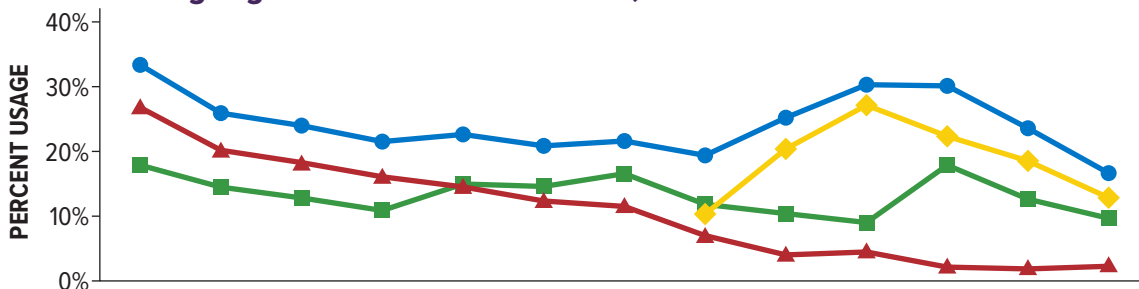


In 2024, data from the New York Youth Tobacco Survey (NY-YTS) revealed the lowest level of tobacco product use since 2000 at 17.0%, a 29% decrease from 2022. E-cigarette use, also known as vaping, decreased from 18.7% in 2022 to 13.1% in 2024. Cigarette use remained low at 2.4%. Key findings include:

- Any tobacco product use² decreased among high school youth to 17.0%, the lowest rate since the Department of Health started measuring youth tobacco use in 2000.
- Cigarette smoking among high school youth remained low—2.4% currently smoke, representing a 91% decrease in the youth smoking rate since 2000 when 27.1% smoked cigarettes.
- E-cigarettes remain the most used tobacco product among youth, although use declined from 27.4% in 2018 to 13.1% in 2024.
- Other tobacco product use, which includes cigars, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, hookah, blunts, and nicotine pouches, decreased from 12.8% in 2022 to 9.9% in 2024, a decrease of nearly 23%.
- While the use of other tobacco products decreased, nicotine pouch use increased from 1.5% to 3.0% (data not shown).

Tobacco and nicotine use carries health risks, but they are particularly dangerous for youth and young adults. Nicotine exposure during adolescence can cause addiction and harm the developing brain.¹ Strong and effective laws can protect youth from nicotine addiction by reducing access and exposure to tobacco products. In 2020, New York State (NYS) 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. Continued surveillance of all tobacco product use among youth is important to advance health equity and monitor the use of new products.

Current Tobacco Product Use² among High School Students in NYS, NY-YTS 2000-2024



	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022	2024
Any Tobacco Products ●	33.6%	26.2%	24.3%	21.8%	22.8%	21.2%	21.8%	19.5%	25.4%	30.6%	30.4%	23.9%	17.0%
Cigarettes ▲	27.1%	20.4%	18.5%	16.3%	14.7%	12.6%	11.9%	7.3%	4.3%	4.8%	2.4%	2.1%	2.4%
E-Cigarettes ◆								10.5%	20.6%	27.4%	22.5%	18.7%	13.1%
Other Tobacco Products ■	18.1%	14.6%	13.0%	11.0%	15.0%	14.8%	16.8%	12.0%	10.6%	9.2%	18.1%	12.8%	9.9%

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.

Footnotes: 1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. E-Cigarette 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 (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016. 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 kreteks were included from 2000 to 2010. Pipe was included from 2000 to 2008, and again in 2014. Hookah was included beginning in 2008, E-cigarettes/vapor products were included beginning in 2014. Nicotine pouches, heated tobacco products, and blunts were included beginning in 2020, with this report being the first time blunts have been incorporated into the estimate going back to 2020. “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, 2000-2024. 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: health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/.



Department of Health