

Background

- Smoking and smokeless tobacco use are usually initiated during adolescence; more than 90% of adult smokers began smoking before 18 years of age. Additionally, adolescent smokeless tobacco users are more likely than non-users to become adult cigarette smokers.^{1,2,3}
- Each year in Connecticut, 2,500 people under age 18 become new daily smokers.⁴
- An estimated 56,000 children alive in Connecticut today will ultimately die prematurely from smoking-related diseases.⁴
- In 2013, 3.1% of middle school and 19.5% of high school students currently used tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes, bidis, kreteks, hookahs, and electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).⁵
- Current cigarette smoking among middle and high school students declined significantly between 2000 and 2013.⁶
- It is estimated that Connecticut kids smoke 8.1 million packs of cigarettes every year.⁴

Key Points:

- About 3% of CT middle school and 20% of high school students used some form of tobacco in the past 30 days.
- Cigarettes and cigars are the two most prevalent types of tobacco used by CT youth.
- Concurrent use of tobacco products is prevalent among CT students.



- From 2011-2013, current e-cigarette use more than doubled among high school students and hookah smoking increased.⁷
- Current use of smokeless tobacco (i.e., chewing tobacco, snuff, and dip) among middle school students has decreased since 2000 but has increased among high school students.⁶ Smokeless tobacco use remains mostly male behavior.
- Data from the 2013 Connecticut Youth Tobacco Survey suggest that concurrent use of tobacco products is prevalent among youth. Among high school students who report currently using tobacco, 41.0% of females and 56.0% of males report using more than one tobacco product in the past 30 days.

2013 Connecticut Estimates of Current Tobacco Use Among Youth⁵

Current Tobacco Use Among High School Students

| Tobacco Product | Overall | Males | Females |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Any tobacco product* | 19.5% | 24.6% | 14.0% |
| Cigarettes | 8.9% | 10.4% | 7.3% |
| Cigars | 9.0% | 13.8% | 3.8% |
| Chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip | 4.9% | 8.4% | 1.1% ** |
| Pipes (other than water pipes) | 4.8% | 5.6% | 3.8% |
| Bidis | 1.8% | 2.4% | 0.9% |
| Kreteks | 2.2% | 2.6% | 1.4% |
| Hookahs (water pipes) | 4.7% | 5.2% | 4.1% |
| Electronic cigarettes | 5.3% | 6.9% | 3.7% |

*including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks (clove cigarettes), hookahs (water pipes), and electronic cigarettes

**Data are statistically unreliable because sample size <35 or relative standard error >30%. These estimates are subject to high sampling error and should be interpreted with caution.

Current Tobacco Use Among Middle School Students

| Tobacco Product | Overall | Males | Females |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Any tobacco product* | 3.1% | 4.1% | 1.9% |
| Cigarettes | 1.4% | 1.8%** | 1.0%** |
| Cigars | 1.3% | 2.2%** | 0.3%** |
| Chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip | 0.7%** | 1.2%** | 0.1%** |
| Pipes (other than water pipes) | 0.9%** | 1.4%** | 0.3%** |
| Bidis | 0.5%** | 0.8%** | 0.1%** |
| Kreteks | 0.6%** | 1.0%** | 0.1%** |
| Hookahs (water pipes) | 0.6% | 0.8%** | 0.1%** |
| Electronic cigarettes | 0.8% | 1.1%** | 0.5%** |

*including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, pipes (other than water pipes), bidis, kreteks (clove cigarettes), hookahs (water pipes), and electronic cigarettes

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For Further Information

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References

1. US DHHS. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: US DHHS, CDC, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.
2. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Path to Smoking Addiction Starts at Very Young Ages. Washington: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, 2009.
3. CDC. Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students-US, 2000-2009. MMWR 2010;59(33):1063-8.
4. Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/Connecticut.
5. Results from the Connecticut Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS); 2013.
6. Results from the CT YTS; 2000 and 2013.
7. Results from the CT YTS; 2011 and 2013.

Note:

Current use is defined as using a product on ≥ 1 day during the past 30 days.