

Middle School Partnership Youth Tobacco Survey 2005

Five middle schools from each of four categories (City of Cleveland, Inner Ring Suburban, Outer Ring Suburban, and Private) were asked to participate. Cleveland Municipal School Districts represent the City of Cleveland. Inner Ring Suburban cities are in Cuyahoga County and share at least one border with the city of Cleveland. Outer Ring Suburban cities are in Cuyahoga County, are not the city of Cleveland and do not share at least one border with the city of Cleveland. Private schools are distributed county-wide. Fifteen middle schools agreed to participate and the PYTS was administered to students from November 2004 through April of 2005.

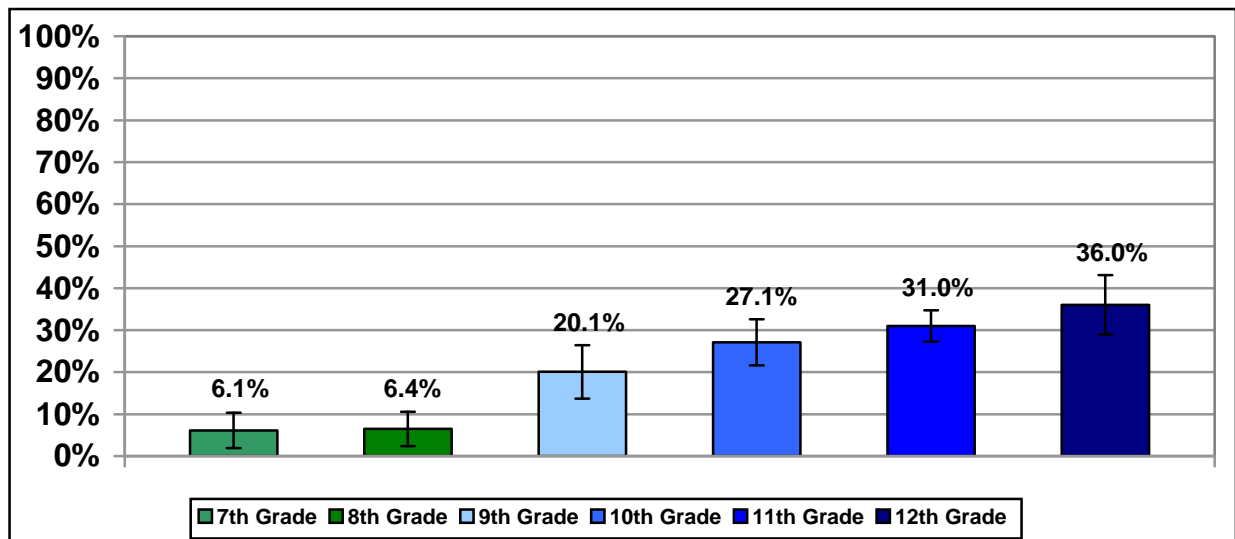
All seventh and eighth grade students attending participating schools were asked to complete the survey. Student participation was both anonymous and voluntary. Passive permission slips containing background information about the PYTS were sent home to the parents of each student, giving parents the option of excluding their child from participating in the survey.

A total of 3,860 students were randomly selected for participation. Of these, 1020 students did not complete the survey (due to absence from school, parental exclusion, or personal choice) and 99 surveys were disqualified due to excessive incomplete or inconsistent answers. A total of 2,741 valid surveys were received, resulting in a student participation rate of 71%.

To further insure accurate results, all prevalences were weighted to reflect the probability of participation and the race/age distribution of the county's adolescent population.

Key Findings

- **Grade Level Comparison of Current Tobacco Use** - Middle school students reported significantly lower rates of current use of any tobacco product than did high school students. Rates of current use are similar for seventh and eighth grade students. Current use rates increase significantly between eighth and ninth grade with gradual increases reported at each subsequent grade level. Reported rates of current tobacco use are six times higher for 12th grade students than for 7th grade students.



- Current cigarette (3.7% \pm 2.1) and current cigar use (4.8% \pm 2.8) did not differ *significantly* and were the two most popular tobacco products. Current smokeless tobacco use was *significantly lower* (0.5% \pm 0.4) than current cigarette and current cigar use as well as at the state level.

<u>Seventh Grade</u>		<u>Eighth Grade</u>	
<u>Cuyahoga County</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>Cuyahoga County</u>	<u>Ohio</u>
0.2% (\pm 0.3)	4.7% (\pm 2.5)	0.6% (\pm 0.6)	4.7% (\pm 2.7)

Further, fewer than ten students in many demographics (gender, race, socioeconomic status, or grade level) reported early onset, current use, and current use on school property.

- Socioeconomic status (SES) was determined by reported level of parental education. Low SES was defined as a family in which neither parent attended college, Middle SES was defined as a family where at least one parent attended college, but had no graduate education, High SES was defined as a family in which at least one parent attended graduate school. **Low SES students were *significantly more* likely to report higher rates of all measures of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke than high SES students. Low SES students reported *significantly more* often that they lived with someone who smokes, have been in the same room with someone who was smoking in the seven days preceding the survey, have been in the same car with someone who was smoking in the seven days preceding the survey, and that one or more of their four closest friends smoke than high SES students.**