2006 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control
A Message From the Bureau of Community Health and Chronic Disease Prevention and Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control

The Bureau of Community Health and Chronic Disease Prevention and its Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control are proud to present the results of the Youth Tobacco Survey (SCYTS) for the state of South Carolina. This survey provides data on tobacco use - including cigarette smoking, smokeless tobacco use, cigars, bidis, and kreteks - for both middle and high school students across the state and allows for keen insight into planning prevention and cessation initiatives for youth that coincide with their knowledge, attitudes and beliefs.

Key findings in this report include critical data showing the cigarette use rates of middle and high school students. The report is significant in that it charts the progress made since 2005, which was the first year YTS data was published in our state. The current report shows us that:

- 19.1% of high school students smoke cigarettes;
- 9.0% of middle school students smoke cigarettes;
- 20.5% of middle school students, who have ever tried smoking, smoke their first cigarette before age 11;
- The most frequent way of obtaining cigarettes for current smokers in middle school is borrowing or "bumming," but for high school students, it is giving someone money to buy cigarettes for them;
- Approximately 3 in 4 current smokers, 77.9% in middle school and 79.2% in high school, think they would be able to quit if they wanted to; and
- Almost three fourths of middle school students (73.8%) and the majority of high school students (89.7%) knew about the existence of a smoke-free rule at their school. However, the majority of high school students (79.7%) and 36% of middle school students reported having seen other students break the rule.

These important findings provide an opportunity for advocates to focus on both the prevalence of tobacco use among our state's young people and the most effective ways to address this important public health concern. We must seize this opportunity for the benefit of the future of South Carolina's children.

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**Bidis** - small, brown, hand-rolled cigarettes, primarily made in India and other Southeast Asian countries. Often flavored.

**CDC** - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Tobacco Prevention and Control** - a division of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Community Health and Chronic Disease Prevention. The division’s mission is to decrease initiation of tobacco use, to reduce exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, and to increase cessation among S.C. residents.

**Current use** - use of a tobacco product on one or more days of the past 30 days.

**Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS)** - mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette, pipe, or cigar; and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of a smoker.

**Ever use** - use of a tobacco product during the course of one's lifetime.

**Frequent use** - use of a tobacco product on 20 or more days of the past 30 days.

**Healthy People 2010 (HP 2010)** - A Department of Health and Human Services national strategy for improving the health of Americans. *HP2010* includes 21 objectives related to reducing illness, disability and death related to tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

**High school students** - public school students who were in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades at the time of the survey.

**Kretteks** - cigarettes which combine shredded clove buds and tobacco, primarily manufactured in Indonesia.

**Middle school students** - public school students who were in 6th, 7th or 8th grades at the time of the survey.

**Never cigarette smokers** - students who have never tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs.

**South Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (SCYRBS)** - population-based survey designed to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability and social problems among youth in South Carolina.

**National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)** - conducted by CDC throughout United States.

**Significant differences** - are noted throughout the report and reflect a statistical probability of p=0.05 that the difference seen between two categories is due to chance. Conversely, the term "no significant difference" is used when the 95% confidence intervals around the point estimates overlap making it impossible to tell whether a true difference exists.
Introduction

Tobacco use is the single leading preventable cause of death in the nation and in South Carolina, annually killing more people than alcohol, car accidents, AIDS, murder, suicide, and illegal drugs combined. Each year in South Carolina an estimated 5,900 adults die from their own smoking, and about 580 to 1,030 adults, children and infants die from others' smoking (secondhand smoke and pregnancy smoking)\(^1\). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 80% of tobacco users initiate use before they are 18. In South Carolina, more than 6,500 youth under age 18 become new daily smokers each year\(^2\). If current smoking patterns are not reduced, an estimated 103,000 S.C. children who are living today will die prematurely as adults from a smoking-related illness. Tobacco use costs South Carolina more than $1 billion in direct health care expenses per year. Smoking creates another $1.83 billion in lost productivity annually in the Palmetto State\(^1\). Therefore, preventing youth initiation of tobacco use is critical for reducing tobacco-related health and economic burdens over time.

The 2006 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey (SCYTS) is a comprehensive survey designed to evaluate prevalence of tobacco use, age of initiation and access to tobacco products. It also includes data on school curriculum, knowledge and attitudes, attitudes toward cessation and readiness to quit, mass media influences, and environmental tobacco smoke. The report, the second of its kind produced in South Carolina, provides important data to guide and evaluate youth tobacco prevention programs within the state. As a surveillance tool, SCYTS monitors key behaviors and attitudes toward tobacco. As an evaluation tool, the survey is intended to document the Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control's progress over time, to recognize groups at risk and to identify areas to strengthen in the Division's activities and strategies. Comparisons are made with previous SCYTS data (2005), the 1999 South Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey (1999 SCYRBS), 2005 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NTYS) and Healthy People 2010.

The SCYTS was first conducted in our state in 2005. The 2006 SCTYS was administered to 2,748 middle and high school students in 80 schools during the spring of 2006 by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control in partnership with the S.C. Department of Education. Details on the methodology of the report are found in the Technical Notes section. Findings in SCYTS show that tobacco use is a critical public health problem among S.C. middle and high school students, regardless of age, gender or race/ethnicity. Unless prevention efforts are continued, these youth will become victims of tobacco-related diseases such as lung cancer, heart disease and emphysema.

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\(^2\) http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/statehi/pdf_2002/03HealthyPeople.pdf
\(^3\) CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, April 1, 2005. MMWR 2005; 54 (12): 297-301.
Executive Summary

Prevalence of Tobacco Use

Approximately 1 in 6 middle school students and 1 in 3 high school students in South Carolina have used some form of tobacco during the past 30 days (current tobacco users). Cigarettes were the most commonly used tobacco product (9.0% of middle school students and 19.1% of high school students were current cigarette smokers), followed by cigars (6.7% in middle school and 14.2% in high school), smokeless tobacco (4.9% in middle school and 10.9% in high school), bidis (3.7% in middle school and 4.9% in high school), and pipes (2.9% in middle school and 4.4% in high school). Tobacco use among S.C. high school students exceeded Healthy People 2010 objectives (HP2010) for all forms of tobacco. The rates of various forms of tobacco products used in South Carolina roughly matched the national averages, except smokeless tobacco use, which was significantly higher than the national average in both middle (4.9% vs. 2.9%) and high school (10.9% vs. 6.0%). Also, the rate of bidi smoking among high school students was higher in South Carolina than in the nation (4.9% vs. 2.6%).

Initiation

Findings revealed that among ever cigarette smokers, 20.5% of middle school students and 12.4% of high school students smoked their first whole cigarette before age 11, with no significant gender or racial/ethnic differences in either middle or high school. The percentages of ever cigar users and of ever smokeless tobacco users who started using cigars, respectively before age 11 were even higher.

Access to Cigarettes

More than half of current youth smokers in South Carolina received their cigarettes from "social sources," specifically borrowing them from somebody or giving someone else money to buy cigarettes for them. Gas stations and convenience stores were the most common places to buy cigarettes for both middle and high school students. However, almost 1 in 2 middle school smokers (47.5%) and more than 1 in 4 high school smokers (28.1%) reported buying their last pack of cigarettes at some other place. This indicates the need for further research on where students purchase cigarettes.

When students younger than 18, who were current smokers, tried to buy cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days, 67.7% of middle school and 62.2% of high school students were not asked to show proof of age. Also, 63.3% of middle school and 68.6% of high school underage current smokers were not refused sale of cigarettes in a store.

Smoking on School Property and School Curricula

During the 30 days preceding the survey, 3.1% of middle school and 7.4% of high school students smoked on school property. The proportion of students who learned about the dangers of tobacco use as well as of those who practiced refusal skills in class during the past year was significantly lower in high school than in middle school. As school grade increased, the rate of practicing refusal dropped from 39.8% in 6th grade to 17.1% in 12th grade. This is alarming because at the same time, current tobacco use increased from 8.6% in 6th grade to 33.3% in 12th grade.
Smoke-Free Policies at School

Overall, 73.8% of middle school and 89.7% of high school students knew about the existence of a no smoking rule at their school. However, 36.0% of middle school students and a significantly higher percentage of high school students (79.7%) have seen other students break the school smoking policy. Also, about 40% of middle and high school students have seen adults break the school smoking policy.

Cessation

S.C. youth smokers were very confident in their ability to quit smoking. Approximately 3 in 4 current smokers thought they would be able to quit if they wanted to; about half of current smokers (48.8% in middle school and 54.7% in high school) reported that they wanted to quit smoking now. In 2006, 61.6% of middle school current smokers and 58.9% of high school current smokers have tried to quit smoking at least once in the past 12 months. However, more than a third of them (43.1% of middle and 45.2% of high school students) were unable to stay off cigarettes for at least 30 days during their last attempt to quit. Also, 16.6% of middle school and 8.4% of high school students who have ever used tobacco have participated in a program to help them quit. The reason for this low rate of participation in cessation programs - whether it's a lack of youth cessation services or barriers to participate - must be determined. The cessation attempts among high school students in South Carolina are below the HP 2010 objectives.

Knowledge and Attitudes

Overall, S.C. students had sound knowledge of the harmful effects of smoking. About 8 in 10 current smokers and 9 in 10 never smokers recognized the addictiveness of tobacco. A similar proportion of students considered that smoking 1 to 5 cigarettes per day is harmful. Approximately a 1 in 3 middle school current smokers and 1 in 4 high school current smokers believed that short-term smoking, for one or two years, is safe. In every grade, current smokers were significantly more likely than never smokers to believe that short-term smoking is safe. Positive social perceptions of smoking differed significantly between current and never smokers. Current smokers were significantly more likely than never smokers to believe that smokers have more friends and that smoking makes people look cool or fit in.

Influence of Family and Friends

Peer pressure plays an important role in youth behaviors. In both middle and high school, students who were current smokers were more likely than non-smokers to report that one of their four closest friends smoked. Approximately 9 in 10 current smokers and less than 3 in 10 never smokers reported that one of their four closest friends smoked. Living with a smoker also increases students' likelihood of smoking. Two thirds of current smokers, compared with only one third of never smokers, reported living with a smoker. Discussing with a parent the dangers of tobacco use did not seem to decrease the likelihood of smoking. There was no significant difference between the proportion of smokers and nonsmokers who have discussed the dangers of tobacco with their parents during the past year. Approximately 1 in 4 S.C. students who never smoked before were susceptible to start smoking (answered that they may try a cigarette soon, or in the next year, and/or would smoke a cigarette if offered by a best friend).

Mass Media Influence

S.C. students received various tobacco-related messages from mass media. Media exposure to tobacco advertising was significantly higher compared to media exposure to anti-smoking messages, among both middle and high school, and within each gender or race group,
except Hispanic middle and high school students. While approximately 90% of students have seen ads for tobacco products on TV, movies or on the Internet, 61.3% of middle school and 72.8% of high school students reported seeing or hearing anti-smoking media messages. Middle and high school students were equally likely to be exposed to tobacco advertising in the media; however, middle school students were significantly less likely than high school students to report seeing or hearing anti-smoking media messages.

Students who were tobacco users were much more receptive to tobacco advertising than never users. More than 35% of tobacco users have bought or received a tobacco company product, and more than half reported they would wear or use such a promotional item.

**Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)**

Overall, almost 9 in 10 students believed that ETS is harmful to them. However, more than half of S.C. students (58.6% of all middle school and 65.9% of all high school students) reported having been exposed to others’ tobacco smoke in a room or in a car during the 7 days preceding the survey. Approximately half of the students who have never smoked (49.7% of middle school and 53.6% of high school never smokers) reported having been recently exposed to ETS. Also, more than 1 in 3 students reported having been recently exposed to ETS at home.

**Smoke-Free Policies at Home and in Cars**

In 2006, 62.0% of middle school and 65.6% of high school students reported living in smoke-free homes. Similarly, 56.5% of middle school and 59.6% of high school students reported that smoking was not allowed in the car they drive or ride the most. Current smokers were nearly two times less likely than never smokers to live in smoke-free homes as well as to drive or ride smoke-free vehicles.

**Participation in Rage Against the Haze**

Roughly 1 in 10 S.C. students have heard about the statewide youth-led anti-tobacco use movement Rage Against the Haze (8.4% in middle school and 15.2% in high school) and less than 5% have ever participated in a Rage group or event.
Survey Results
**Lifetime Use of Tobacco**

Students were asked whether they had ever tried cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco (SLT), bidis or kreteks. Students were considered to be lifetime or ever tobacco users if they have ever used any of these products.

- Overall, 41.0% of middle school students and 61.2% of high school students reported ever use of any tobacco product.
- High school students were significantly more likely than middle school students to have ever tried tobacco.
- In middle school, Black students (47.9%) were more likely than White (36.1%) and Hispanic students (28.0%) to have ever used tobacco.
- In high school, males (67.6%) were more likely than females (54.7%) to have ever used tobacco.
- As grade increased, rates of lifetime tobacco use increased, from 33.0% in 6th grade to 71.8% in 12th grade.
- Cigarettes were the most commonly used product among S.C. youths (32.6% in middle school and 53.9% in high school), followed by cigars, SLT, bidis and kreteks.

Some gender and race differences existed for various types of tobacco products:

- In middle school, males were more likely than females to have ever used cigars, SLT and bidis; White and Black students were more likely than Hispanic students to have ever used SLT, while Black students were more likely than White students to have ever smoked bidis.
- In high school, males were more likely than females to have ever used cigars, SLT and bidis; White students were more likely than Black and Hispanic students to have ever used SLT, and more likely than Black students to have used cigars.

- Lifetime use of tobacco among S.C. students has not changed significantly since 2005 except for ever cigarette use among high school students, which decreased from 63.3% in 2005 to 53.9% in 2006.
**Current Use of Tobacco**

Current use of tobacco is defined as having used any tobacco product (i.e. cigarettes, cigars, SLT, pipes and bidis) on one or more days during the 30 days preceding the survey.

- Overall, 15.3% of middle school students and 28.8% of high school students in South Carolina reported using some form of tobacco in the 30 days preceding the survey.
- High school students were almost twice as likely as middle school students to use tobacco.
- Cigarettes were the most commonly used product, followed by cigars, SLT, bidis, and pipes, for both middle and high school students.
- Among middle school students, there were no significant gender or racial/ethnic differences in current use of a tobacco product.
- Among high school students, males were more likely than females (37.2% vs. 20.6%), and White students were more likely than Black students (35.2% vs. 19.9%) to use tobacco.

- Current use of tobacco among S.C. students has not changed significantly since 2005 (from 16.8% in middle school and 33.6% in high school).
- The percentages of middle and high school students in South Carolina who were current tobacco users roughly matched the national averages of 11.8% in middle school and 27.4% in high school.
- The Healthy People 2010 objective for tobacco use is to reduce use among high school students to less than 21%. In South Carolina, tobacco use in high school ranged between 26.4% and 33.3%. 

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![Current tobacco use by gender, race/ethnicity and school type](image-url)
Current Cigarette Smoking

Students were considered current cigarette smokers if they had smoked cigarettes on at least one of the 30 days prior to the survey.

- Overall, 9.0% of middle school students and 19.1% of high school students in South Carolina reported smoking a cigarette on one or more of the 30 days preceding the survey.
- Rates of current cigarette smoking more than doubled between middle school and high school.
- Boys and girls were equally likely to smoke cigarettes in both middle school (9.4% vs. 8.5%) and high school (22.2% vs. 16.3%).
- In middle school there were no statistically significant differences in the rate of current cigarette smoking by race/ethnicity.
- In high school, the rate of cigarette smoking was significantly higher for White than for Black students (24.7% vs. 10.9%). The rate among Hispanic students (18.3%) was between those of the other two groups, but did not differ significantly from either one.
- Current cigarette use varied by grade and ranged between 4.3% in 6th grade and 25.0% in 12th grade.

- Current cigarette smoking among South Carolina high school students declined significantly between 1999 and 2006 (from 36.0% to 19.1%). The rates of current cigarette smoking declined also between 2005 and 2006 (from 11.2% in middle school and from 24.4% in high school) but this decrease was not statistically significant.
- Rates of current cigarette smoking in South Carolina were similar to the national averages (19.1% vs. 21.7% in high school and 9.0% vs. 8.4% in middle school).
- The Healthy People 2010 objective for cigarette smoking is to reduce use among high school students to 16%. In South Carolina, cigarette use in high school ranged from 17.4% to 25.0%.
**Current Cigar Smoking**

Students were considered current cigar smokers if they had smoked cigars on at least one of the 30 days prior to the survey.

- Among S.C. youth, cigars were the second most prevalent tobacco product used after cigarettes.
- Overall, 6.7% of middle school students and 14.2% of high school students in South Carolina reported smoking a cigar in the past 30 days.
- High school students were twice as likely as middle school students to smoke cigars.
- Boys were more likely than girls to smoke cigars in both middle school (9.4% vs. 3.7%) and high school (20.0% vs. 8.5%). There were no statistically significant racial/ethnic differences regarding current cigar smoking among middle or high school students.

- Current cigar use among high school students significantly declined from 21.6% in 1999 to 14.2% in 2006. The decline since 2005 was not statistically significant for either middle school students (from 7.4%) or for high school students (from 15.6%).
- Rates of cigar smoking in South Carolina were similar to the national averages (5.2% in middle school and 12.8% in high school).
- The Healthy People 2010 objective for cigar smoking is to reduce use among high school students to less than 8%. In South Carolina, cigar use in high school ranged from 12.8% to 15.8%.
Current Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) Use

Students were considered current SLT users if they had used SLT on at least one of the 30 days prior to the survey.

- Overall, 4.9% of middle school students and 10.9% of high school students in South Carolina reported using SLT in the past 30 days preceding the survey.
- High school students were twice as likely as middle school students to use SLT, and this difference was largely attributable to high school boys.
- Males were more likely than females to use SLT in both middle (7.9% vs. 1.6%) and high school (18.8% vs. 3.2%).
- In middle school, the rates of current SLT use were significantly higher for White students (5.8%) than for Hispanic students (1.5%).
- In high school, the rates of current SLT use were significantly higher for White students (16.7%) than for Black students (3.1%).

- From 1999 to 2006 there was no significant change in the use of SLT among high school students. The rates increased slightly since 2005 among both middle and high school students, but the changes were not statistically significant.
- Rates of SLT use in South Carolina were higher than the national averages in both middle school (4.9% vs. 2.9%) and in high school (10.9% vs. 6.0%).
- The Healthy People 2010 objective for SLT is to reduce use among high school students to less than 1%. In South Carolina, SLT use in high school varied by grade and ranged between 9.9% and 12.0%.
Current Bidi Smoking

Bidis are small, brown, hand-rolled cigarettes primarily made in India and other Southeast Asian countries. Students were considered current bidi users if they had smoked bidis on at least one of the 30 days prior to the survey.

- In 2006, 3.7% of middle school and 4.9% of high school students reported smoking bidis in the past 30 days preceding the survey. There were no significant differences regarding bidi smoking between middle and high school students.
- While there were no significant gender differences in middle school, male high school students (7.0%) reported significantly higher rates of bidi smoking than female high school students (3.0%).
- No significant racial/ethnic differences existed in middle or high school.

- The rates of bidi use slightly declined since 2005, but the decline was not statistically significant (from 4.0% to 3.7% in middle school and from 6.4% to 4.9% in high school).
- The percentage of S.C. middle school students who smoked bidis was similar to the national average of 2.3%. However, the percentage of high school students in South Carolina who smoked bidis was significantly above the national average of 2.6%.
- There are no Healthy People 2010 objectives specifically addressing bidis, but it is important to monitor bidi use because they are an emerging form of tobacco used among youth. Bidis are often perceived as being safer than cigarettes, less expensive, and easier to buy. However, research shows that bidis produce higher levels of carbon monoxide, nicotine, and tar than cigarettes*.

* MMWR, "Bidi Use Among Urban Youth -- Massachusetts, March-April 1999" 48 (36); 796-99
Current Pipe Smoking

Students were considered current pipe smokers if they had smoked a pipe on at least one of the 30 days prior to the survey.

- Among S.C. youth, pipes were the least prevalent tobacco product used.
- In 2006, 2.9% of middle school students and 4.4% of high school students in South Carolina reported smoking pipes in the past 30 days preceding the survey.
- Overall, the difference in pipe smoking between middle and high school students was not statistically significant.
- While there were no significant gender differences in middle school, male high school students (6.3%) were significantly more likely than female high school students (2.5%) to smoke pipes.
- There were no statistically significant racial/ethnic differences in pipe smoking rates in middle or high school.

- The pipe smoking rates remained very similar to the 2005 rates.
- The rates of pipe smoking in South Carolina were similar to the national averages of 2.7% in middle school and 3.2% in high school.
- There are no Healthy People 2010 objectives specifically addressing pipe use.
Frequent Cigarette Smoking

The current use of cigarettes measure includes experimenters (who may have just tried their first cigarette), occasional users (who smoke cigarettes sporadically), and regular users of cigarettes. Frequent cigarette smoking, defined as smoking cigarettes on 20 or more days of the 30 days preceding the survey, provides greater detail on youth smoking.

- In 2006, 2.2% of middle school students and 8.5% of high school students in South Carolina were frequent cigarette smokers.
- High school students were almost four times as likely as middle school students to smoke cigarettes frequently. This difference was seen at all gender and racial/ethnic levels.
- There were no statistically significant differences in frequent cigarette use by gender among either middle or high school students.
- There was little variation by race/ethnicity in frequent use of cigarettes among middle school students. However, in high school, the percentage of White students who reported frequent cigarette use was significantly higher as compared to Black students (12.5% vs. 2.6%).
- Prevalence of frequent cigarette smoking increased with grade, from 0.5% in 6th grade to 14.4% in 12th grade. Moreover, with nearly each grade level, frequent smokers made up an increasing proportion of current smokers.

- The rates of frequent cigarette smoking stayed almost the same from 2005 (1.8% in middle school and 8.9% in high school) to 2006.
Ever-Daily Cigarette Smoking

Ever-daily smoking, defined as smoking at least one cigarette per day for 30 days at some point in life, is another measure used to assess smoking patterns.

- Overall, 5.3% of middle school students and 14.1% of high school students in South Carolina have ever smoked cigarettes daily.
- High school students were almost three times as likely as middle school students to have ever smoked daily.
- There were no significant gender differences in ever-daily cigarette smoking among either middle or high school students.
- In middle school, no racial/ethnic differences existed, while in high school, White students were significantly more likely than Black students to have ever smoked cigarettes daily (20.2% vs. 5.5%).
- Prevalence of ever-daily cigarette smoking increased from 3.1% in 6th grade to 19.8% in 12th grade. The change by grade of the proportion of students who reported ever-daily smoking parallels that of the proportion of frequent smokers.

- The decrease in the rates of ever-daily cigarette smoking since 2005 (6.2% in middle school and 16.3% in high school) was not statistically significant.
Cigarette Brand Preference

Promotion and advertising play an important role in determining which brands students typically smoke. Students who were current smokers were asked about their cigarette brand preference - the brand of cigarettes they usually smoked in the past 30 days. Students were also asked if they usually smoked menthol cigarettes.

- Overall, 89.9% of middle school and 91.1% of high school students had a preferred brand.

- More than three thirds of the S.C. youth (77.1% in middle school and 79.7% in high school) reported usually smoking one of the most heavily advertised brands, Marlboro or Newport.

- In both middle and high school, White students were significantly more likely than Black students to smoke Marlboro, while Black students were more likely than White students to smoke Newport.

- More than half of middle and high school current smokers usually smoked menthol cigarettes (55.7% in middle school and 65.5% in high school).

- There were no gender or racial/ethnic differences in the percentage of current smokers who usually smoked menthol cigarettes in either middle or high school.
Age of Initiation of Tobacco Use

Students were asked how old they were when they smoked a whole cigarette for the first time, when they smoked their first cigar, and when they first used smokeless tobacco. The indicators of early use are: proportion of students who smoked a whole cigarette before age 11 (among ever cigarette smokers); proportion of students who smoked a whole cigar before age 11 (among ever cigar smokers); and proportion of students who started using SLT before age 11 (among ever SLT users).

- Among ever cigarette smokers, 20.5% of middle school and 12.4% of high school students smoked their first cigarette before age 11.
- Among ever cigar smokers, 40.1% of middle school and 13.3% of high school students smoked their first cigar before age 11.
- Among ever SLT users, 42.8% of middle school and 19.8% of high school students used SLT for the first time before age 11.
- High school males (17.4%) were significantly more likely than high school females (6.6%) to report smoking their first cigarette before age 11 years. No other significant differences by gender or race/ethnicity regarding early initiation of cigarette, cigar, or SLT use were found in either middle or high school.

- In 2006, the percentages of students who reported starting using cigarettes, cigars or SLT before age 11 years did not differ significantly from the 2005 percentages.
- Healthy People 2010 objectives are to reduce initiation of tobacco use among children and adolescents and to increase the average age of first use of tobacco products, but the measures are not directly comparable to the questions in this survey.
Usual Source of Cigarettes

Students were asked to identify the most common sources for obtaining cigarettes. Options included direct purchase, social sources, and other sources. The results displayed here are for current smokers under 18 years of age.

- More then half of current smokers in middle and high school obtained their cigarettes from "social sources."
- Borrowing or "bumming" was the most frequent way of obtaining cigarettes for current smokers in middle school (21.2%), followed by giving someone else money to buy them (19.4%), and taking them from a store or family members (17.7%).
- The most frequent way of obtaining cigarettes for current smokers in high school was giving someone else money to buy for them (31.6%), borrowing or "bumming" (21.8%), and buying them in a store (21.5%).
- High school students (21.5%) were significantly more likely than middle school students (9.0%) to get their cigarettes by buying them in a store, while middle school students (17.7%) were significantly more likely than high school students (4.3%) to take cigarettes from a store or family member.
- No significant differences in usual source of cigarettes were found between gender or racial/ethnic groups, among either middle or high school smokers, regarding usual source of cigarettes.
Place of Cigarette Purchase

Students were asked where they bought their last pack of cigarettes during the past 30 days. The results displayed are for current smokers under 18.

- Gas stations and convenience stores were the most common places to buy cigarettes for middle school (27.7% and 17.0%) and for high school (48.0% and 13.5%) smokers.

- Almost 1 in 2 middle school smokers (47.5%) and more than 1 in 4 high school smokers (28.1%) reported buying their last pack of cigarettes at some other place. This indicates the need for further research on where students purchase cigarettes.
ID Request and Refusal to Sell to Minors

Sale of tobacco products to minors is illegal in South Carolina. Students were asked if they ever had to show proof of age when they tried to buy cigarettes in a store in the past 30 days. They were also asked if, during the past 30 days, anyone refused to sell them cigarettes because of their age. Results displayed here are for current smokers under 18, who tried to buy cigarettes in a store in the past 30 days.

- 67.7% of underage middle school current smokers and 62.2% of underage high school current smokers in South Carolina were not asked to show proof of age when buying cigarettes in the past 30 days. The difference between middle and high school was not statistically significant.

- 63.3% underage middle school current smokers and 68.6% underage high school current smokers were not refused sale of cigarettes during the past 30 days. The difference between middle school and high school was not significant.

- Because the number of respondents in each gender and racial/ethnic group was too small, the information by gender or by race/ethnicity was not available.
Cigarette Smoking on School Property

Tobacco use on school property can be used to indicate the level of enforcement of a smoke-free policy in schools. Students were asked on how many days during the past 30 days they smoked on school property. The results displayed here are for all students.

- 3.1% of middle school and 7.4% of high school students reported smoking on school property during the 30 days preceding the survey.
- High school students were significantly more likely than middle school students to report smoking on school property.
- High school males (9.7%) were more likely than high school females (5.3%) to report smoking on school property. No other significant gender or racial/ethnic differences existed in either middle or high school.
- A Healthy People 2010 objective is to increase smoke-free and tobacco-free schools to 100%. While this survey did not evaluate the proportion of schools with smoke-free and tobacco-free policies in South Carolina, the actual cigarette smoking by students on school property varied by grade and ranged between 1.5% and 7.5%.
Practicing Tobacco Refusal Skills in Class

Schools can promote prevention of tobacco use among students by teaching them about the dangers of tobacco and by offering opportunities to practice refusal skills in class. Students were asked if they were taught about the dangers of tobacco use and if they had practiced ways to say "no" to tobacco in any of their classes during the past school year. The results displayed here are for all students.

- 63.1% of middle school and 40.8% of high school students reported being taught about the dangers of tobacco use at school.
- 38.3% of middle school and 22.7% of high school students practiced ways to say "no" to tobacco during the past year.
- The proportion of students who reported learning about the dangers of tobacco use as well as of those who practiced refusal skills during the past year was significantly lower in high school than in middle school.
- In middle school, Hispanic students were less likely than Black students to report having practiced ways to say "no" to tobacco.
- In high school, White students were less likely than Black students to report both having practiced ways to say "no" to tobacco and being taught about the dangers of tobacco use.
- As school grade increases, the rates of practicing refusal drop from 39.8% in 6th grade to 17.1% in 12th grade. Similarly, the rates of learning about dangers of tobacco drop from 68.5% in 7th grade to 28.1% in 12th grade. At the same time, tobacco use rates increase from 8.6% in 6th grade to 33.3% in 12th grade.
Smoke-Free Policy at School

To assess students' knowledge about the existence of smoke-free policies at school, students were asked if there was any rule at their school preventing cigarette smoking in the school building or on the school yard. Results are displayed for all students and for current and never smokers.

- Overall, 73.8% of middle school students and 89.7% of high school students knew about the existence of a smoke-free rule at their school.

- High school students were significantly more likely than middle school students to report the existence of a smoking policy at school.

- Among high school students, White students (94.0%) were significantly more likely than Black (85.8%) and Hispanic students (72.3%) to report knowing about this rule.

- No significant differences were seen between current and never smoking in either middle or high school.
Enforcement of Smoke-Free Policy at School

Students were asked if they have seen any other students or adults breaking the school smoking rule. This can be utilized as another indicator of the level of enforcement of the smoke-free policy. Results are displayed for all students and for current and never smokers.

- Overall, 36.0% of middle school students and 79.7% of high school students reported having seen other students break the smoking rule at school.

- High school students were more likely than middle school students to report seeing other students break the smoking rule.

- In both middle and high school, current smokers were significantly more likely than never smokers to report seeing other students break the rule (60.2% vs. 29.0% in middle school and 87.3% vs. 75.8% in high school).

- Overall, 37.0% of middle school students and 43.0% of high school students reported having seen adults break the smoking rule at school.

- Middle school students were as likely as high school students to report seeing adults break the smoking rule.

- While in middle school, current smokers (46.4%) were more likely than never smokers (31.1%) to report seeing adults break the smoking rule at school, in high school, the difference between current and never smokers was not statistically significant (49.1% vs. 38.3%).
Cessation Beliefs

Quitting smoking might be a difficult and lengthy process even among smokers who would like to quit. To assess the readiness to quit smoking, students were asked if they thought they would be able to quit smoking cigarettes now if they wanted to and if they want to quit smoking now. The results displayed are for current smokers.

- Students’ self confidence in being able to quit smoking was high; approximately 3 in 4 current smokers (70.1% in middle school and 74.1% in high school) thought they would be able to quit if they wanted to.

- There were no statistically significant gender or racial/ethnic differences in students' confidence in being able to quit smoking in either middle or high school.

- About half of current smokers (48.8% in middle school and 54.7% in high school) reported they wanted to quit smoking. Current smokers' desire to quit smoking did not differ between middle and high school.

- There were no statistically significant gender or racial/ethnic differences in students' desire to quit, in either middle or high school.

- While the proportion of students who thought they would be able to quit if they wanted to stayed approximately the same from 2005 to 2006, the proportion of those who wanted to quit smoking increased from 38.6% to 48.8% in middle school and from 39.2% to 54.7% in high school. However the confidence intervals around the point estimates were large and the increase was not statistically significant.
Quit Attempts and Length of Last Quit Attempt Among Current Smokers

Students were asked how many times during the past 12 months they have stopped smoking one day or longer in an attempt to quit smoking. The results displayed are for students who were current smokers. They were also asked how long they stayed off cigarettes the last time they tried to quit. Length of last quit attempt can be used as an indicator of the degree of addiction and the probability of relapse. The results displayed are for current smokers who have tried to quit smoking.

- In 2006, more than half of current smoker students (61.6% of middle school and 58.9% of high school students) have tried to quit smoking at least once in the past 12 months.
- There were no statistically significant gender or racial/ethnic differences regarding the quit attempts among either middle or high school students.
- More than a third of current smokers, (43.1% of middle school and 45.2% of high school students) were unable to stay off cigarettes for at least 30 days during their last attempt to quit.
- The percentage of students who have made at least one quit attempt during the 12 months preceding the survey increased from 2005 to 2006 (from 53.9% to 61.6% in middle school and from 54.4% to 58.9% in high school), but the increase was not statistically significant.
- The Healthy People 2010 objective for cessation is to increase cessation attempts among high school students to 84%. In South Carolina, the percentage of high school current smokers who have tried to quit during the past 12 months varies by grade and ranges between 47.3% and 66.3%.
Participation in Cessation Programs

To assess participation in cessation programs, students were asked if they had ever participated in a program to help them quit using tobacco. The results presented are for students who have ever used any form of tobacco (ever tobacco users) and for those who were current smokers.

- Overall, 16.6% of middle school students and 8.4% of high school students who have ever used tobacco reported they have participated in a program to help them quit. Middle school students were more likely than high school students to report having participated in a cessation program.

- The percentage of ever tobacco users who have participated in a cessation program varied by grade and ranged between 3.5% and 20.2%.

- There were no significant differences in participation in a cessation program by gender or race/ethnicity among middle or high school students.

- Overall, current smokers did not differ significantly from ever tobacco users in their participation in cessation programs (15.8% middle school and 5.8% high school).

- Among middle school current smokers, a higher percentage of boys than girls (24.1% vs. 7.4%) reported participation. However, the confidence intervals were large and the differences were not statistically significant.

- The percentage of current smokers who have participated in a cessation program varied by grade and ranged between 2.1% and 18.3%.
Health Beliefs About Tobacco Use

Students were asked several questions concerning their perception of the harmful effects of smoking. The questions asked if people could become addicted to tobacco just like cocaine and heroin and if young people who smoke 1 to 5 cigarettes a day risk harming themselves. The results displayed are for current and never smokers who responded "definitely" or "probably yes."

- Overall, students in middle and high school had sound knowledge of the harmful effects of smoking.

- About 8 in 10 current smokers and 9 in 10 never smokers recognized the addictiveness of tobacco use.

- While in middle school there was no significant difference between current smokers or never smokers, high school never smokers (90.3 percent) were significantly more likely than high school current smokers (81.6 percent) to believe that tobacco is addictive.

- Among middle school never smokers, Black students (83.7%) were less likely than White students (92.9%) to believe that tobacco is addictive. No other significant differences existed in either middle or high school regarding students' beliefs about tobacco addictiveness.

- Overall, about 8 in 10 current smokers and 9 in 10 never smokers considered that smoking 1 to 5 cigarettes per day is harmful.

- In both middle and high school, current smokers were significantly less likely than never smokers to believe that smoking 1 to 5 cigarettes per day is harmful (75.9% vs. 88.1% in middle school and 82.1% vs. 91.4% in high school).

- Among middle school never smokers, Black students (79.9%) were significantly less likely than White students (92.7%) to believe that smoking 1 to 5 cigarettes per day is risky. No other significant gender or race/ethnicity differences existed in either middle or high school.
Health Beliefs About Short-term Smoking

To assess their perception about the health risks associated with smoking for a short duration, students were asked if it was safe for a person to smoke for a year or two, as long as they quit after that. The results displayed are for current and never smokers who responded "definitely" or "probably yes."

- While less than 1 in 10 never smoker students believed that short-term smoking is safe, approximately 1 in 3 middle school current smokers and 1 in 4 high school current smokers believed this.

- In middle school, current smokers were 5 times more likely than never smokers to believe that short-term smoking is safe (37.3% vs. 7.2%). In high school, current smokers were 3 times more likely than never smokers to believe that short-term smoking is safe (24.4% vs. 8.1%).

- There were no significant differences between middle and high school students within the same smoking status category.

- Among high school current smokers, boys were significantly more likely than girls to believe that short-term smoking is safe (34.0% vs. 11.5%).

- In every grade, current smokers were significantly more likely than never smokers to believe that short-term smoking is safe.

- The belief that short-term smoking is safe remained almost constant by grade among never smokers; this belief declined among current smokers from 47.7% in 6th grade to 18.2% in 12th grade.
Social Beliefs About Smoking

Perception of smoking as a socially acceptable phenomenon can influence future behavior patterns. To assess students’ perceptions about social benefits of smoking, they were asked if young people who smoke have more friends and if smoking makes people look "cool or fit in." Results displayed are for current and never smokers who responded "definitely" or "probably yes."

- Students who smoked cigarettes were significantly more likely than never smokers to believe that smokers have more friends (51.9% vs. 20.0% in middle school; 39.5% vs. 21.1% in high school).

- There were no significant differences between middle and high school students within the same smoking status category.

- In middle school, Black nonsmoker students (29.1%) were significantly more likely than their White (14.7%) and Hispanic (14.4%) counterparts to believe that smokers have more friends. No gender differences were seen in middle school.

- In high school, Black nonsmoker students (29.1%) were significantly more likely than their White counterparts (15.3%) to believe that smokers have more friends. No other gender or racial/ethnic differences were seen in high school.

- Students who smoked cigarettes were also significantly more likely than students who have never smoked to believe that smoking makes people look "cool or fit in" (42.9% vs. 12.1% in middle school; 27.2% vs. 10.8% in high school).

- Middle school current smokers (42.9%) were more likely than high school current smokers (27.2%) to believe that smoking makes people look "cool or fit in."

- Among middle school never smokers, males (16.0%) were more likely than females (8.5%) and Black students (16.7%) were more likely than Hispanic students (3.9%) to believe that smoking makes people look "cool or fit in".

- Among high school never smokers, Black students (16.0%) were more likely than White students (7.0%) to believe that smoking makes people look "cool or fit in."

Knowledge and Attitudes

Students who think people who smoke cigarettes have more friends by school type and smoking status

Students who think that smoking makes young people look cool or fit in by school type and smoking status
Tobacco Use Among Family and Friends

Having friends or family members who use tobacco is strongly associated with tobacco use among students. Smokers tend to associate with other smokers, and non-smokers tend to associate with other non-smokers. To assess tobacco use practices among family and among peer groups, students were asked how many of their four closest friends smoked cigarettes or used smokeless tobacco (SLT). They were also asked if they lived with someone who smoked or used SLT. Results displayed are for current and never smokers and for current and never SLT users respectively.

- Overall, about 9 in 10 students who were current cigarette smokers had at least one smoker among their four closest friends compared with less than 3 in 10 never smoker students.

- In middle school, current smokers were 4 times more likely than never smokers to have one or more smokers among their four closest friends (85.0% vs. 22.6%).

- In high school, current smokers were 3 times more likely than never smokers to have one or more smokers among their four closest friends (89.3% vs. 32.3%). White high school smokers (94.0%) were more likely than Black smokers (72.1%) to report having at least one friend who smoked.

- The differences between current and never smokers were significant at each grade level and within each gender or racial/ethnic group in both middle and high school.

- Overall, about 1 in 8 students who used SLT had at least one SLT user among their four closest friends compared with 1 in 2 students who have never used SLT.

- Living with a smoker increases students' likelihood of being smokers. More than half of middle and high school current smokers reported living with a smoker (65.3% of middle and 58.4% of high school students). In comparison, only one-third of never smokers reported living with a smoker (36.3% of middle and 30.4% of high school students).
Adult Counsel on Tobacco Use

To assess adult counsel on the dangers of tobacco use, students were asked how often during the past 12 months their parents or guardians have discussed the dangers of tobacco use with them. The results displayed are for current and never smokers.

- Among middle school students, 70.4% of current smokers and 69.3% of never smokers have discussed the dangers of tobacco use with their parents.
- Among high school students, 69.5% of current smokers and 58.4% of never smokers have discussed the dangers of tobacco use with their parents.
- There were no significant differences between middle and high school students or between smokers and non-smokers overall or by gender, race/ethnicity or grade.
Susceptibility to Start Smoking

A combination of measures was used to assess susceptibility to start cigarette smoking among students who have not yet smoked. Students who answered that they may try a cigarette soon or in the next year, and/or who would smoke a cigarette if offered by a best friend were considered susceptible to start smoking. The results displayed are for never smokers.

- Approximately 1 in 4 students (25.9% in middle school and 23.4% in high school) who did not smoke were susceptible to start smoking.
- There were no gender or racial/ethnic discrepancies among either middle or high school students.
- The percentage of students who were susceptible to start smoking varied by grade and ranged between 18.2% and 29.2%.
- 6.5% of middle school and 4.4% of high school never smokers believed they will try a cigarette soon.
- 16.5% of middle school and 15.5% of high school never smokers believed they will try a cigarette during the next year.
- 16.5% of middle school and 16.2% of high school never smokers said they would accept a cigarette from a friend.
Exposure to Tobacco Messages in the Media

Tobacco advertising can increase the risk of youth consumption. To assess students' exposure to tobacco ads, students were asked how often they see actors or athletes using tobacco on TV or in movies, and how often they see Internet ads for tobacco products. Students' exposure to anti-smoking media messages was assessed by asking them how often they see or hear commercials about the dangers of cigarette smoking on TV, radio, or Internet. The results are for students who reported watching TV, going to the movies and/or using the Internet.

- Overall, 87.0% of middle school students and 91.1% of high school students who use the Internet, watch TV, or go to movies have seen ads for tobacco products (most or some of the time).
- Middle and high school students were equally exposed to tobacco advertising in the media.
- There were no statistically significant gender or racial/ethnic differences regarding students' exposure to tobacco ads in the media in either middle or high school.
- Overall, 61.3% of middle school and 72.8% of high school students reported seeing or hearing anti-smoking messages on TV, radio, or Internet (most or some of the time).
- High school students were significantly more likely than middle school students to report seeing or hearing anti-smoking media messages.
- There were no statistically significant gender or racial/ethnic differences regarding students' exposure to anti-smoking commercials in the media in either middle or high school.
- Media exposure to tobacco advertising was significantly higher compared to media exposure to anti-smoking messages, among both middle and high school students, and within each gender or racial/ethnic group, except Hispanic middle and high school students.
Receptivity to Tobacco Advertising

To assess their receptivity to tobacco advertising, students were asked if during the past 12 months they had bought or received anything with a tobacco company name or picture on it, and if they would definitely or probably wear or use a product with a tobacco company name or picture on it. The results displayed are for current and never tobacco users.

- In 2006, 35.9% of middle school and 42.0% of high school students who used tobacco reported buying or receiving something with a tobacco company name or picture on it during the past 12 months.

- Compared to tobacco users, a significantly lower proportion of never tobacco users bought or received these promotional items (10.4% of middle school and 9.8% of high school students).

- Among middle school students who used tobacco, White students were more likely than Black students to buy or receive promotional items.

- More than half of current tobacco users reported they would wear or use a product with a tobacco company name or picture on it (53.0% of middle school and 61.3% of high school students).

- Compared to tobacco users, only 16.0% of middle and 14.0% of high school students never users would wear or use such a product. The difference between current and never tobacco users was statistically significant.

- Among current tobacco users in both middle and high school, White students were more likely than Black students to report that they would wear or use promotional items.

- In 2006, 22.1% of middle school students and 33.7% of high school students tobacco users were receptive to tobacco advertising, compared to only 4.7% of middle and 3.3% of high school never tobacco users (they bought or received anything with a tobacco company name or picture on it and would wear or use such an item). White middle school tobacco users were 6 times more receptive to tobacco advertising than their Black counterparts.
Health Beliefs About ETS

Environmental tobacco smoke, or secondhand smoke, is a known human carcinogen and negatively impacts children's health. To assess students' knowledge about the dangers associated with ETS exposure, students were asked if they thought that smoke from other people's cigarettes was harmful to them. Results are displayed for current and never smokers who thought that ETS is definitely or probably harmful.

- Overall, almost 9 in 10 middle and high school students believe that ETS is definitely or probably harmful to them.

- In middle school, current smokers were significantly less aware of the harmful effect of ETS than never smokers (77.6% vs. 91.1%).

- Overall, White students were more likely than Black students to believe that ETS is harmful (92.7% vs. 82.0% in middle school and 94.8% vs. 87.5% in high school). This racial difference was seen among never smokers, but not among current smokers.
Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)

To assess students’ exposure to ETS, students were asked if they were in the same room or if they rode in a car with someone who was smoking cigarettes during the past 7 days. Students who reported being in the same room or in the same car with someone who was smoking cigarettes on 1 or more of the past 7 days were considered to be recently exposed.

- Overall, more than half of all South Carolina students (58.6% of all middle school and 65.9% of all high school students) reported having been exposed to ETS in a room or in a car during the 7 days preceding the survey. About half of students who have never smoked (49.7% of middle school and 53.6% of high school students) reported having been exposed to ETS.

- In both middle and high school, current smokers were nearly two times more likely than never smokers to have been recently exposed to ETS in a room (84.7% vs. 43.0% in middle school and 92.6% vs. 48.0% in high school).

- Among current smokers, White students were significantly more likely than Black students to have been recently exposed to ETS in a room, in both middle and high school.

- In both middle and high school, current smokers were significantly more likely than never smokers to have recently ridden in a car with someone who was smoking (80.5% vs. 34.0% in middle school and 81.2% vs. 31.6% in high school).

- Among current smokers, Whites were significantly more likely than Blacks to have been recently exposed to ETS in a car, in both middle and high school.
Exposure to ETS at Home

To assess students' exposure to ETS at home, students were asked if they were in the same room at home with someone who was smoking cigarettes during the past 7 days. Students who reported being in the same room at home with someone who was smoking cigarettes on 1 or more of the past 7 days were considered to be recently exposed at home.

- In 2006, 37.0% of middle school students and 35.2% of high school students reported having been exposed to ETS at home during the 7 days preceding the survey.

- Among both middle and high school students, current smokers were more likely than never smokers to report exposure to ETS at home (72.8% vs. 27.6% in middle school and 59.4% vs. 24.1% in high school).
Smoke-Free Policies at Home and in Cars

Students were asked about the rules regarding smoking in their homes or in the cars they drove or rode in the most. Results are displayed for current and never smokers who reported living in houses or riding in cars completely smoke-free (smoking was not allowed anywhere/at all).

- Overall, 62.0% of middle school students and 65.6% of high school students in South Carolina reported that smoking was not allowed anywhere inside their homes. There were no gender or race/ethnicity differences in either middle or high school.

- In both middle and high school, current smokers were nearly two times less likely than never smokers to live in smoke-free homes (34.3% vs. 69.7% in middle school and 47.2% vs. 73.0% in high school).

- Overall, 56.5% of middle school students and 59.6% of high school students in South Carolina reported that smoking was not allowed at all in the car they drove or rode in the most. There were no gender or race/ethnicity differences in either middle or high school.

- In both middle and high school, current smokers were two times less likely than never smokers to drive or ride in smoke-free vehicles (30.0% vs. 64.5% in middle school and 35.2% vs. 70.3% in high school).
Participation in Rage Against the Haze

Survey questions were included in the 2006 SCYTS to collect data on students' awareness of the statewide youth-led anti-tobacco use movement Rage Against the Haze (RAGE). Students were asked if they had ever heard about Rage Against the Haze and if they had ever participated in a group event. Results are displayed for all students:

- Overall, 8.4% of middle school and 15.2% of high school students had heard about Rage Against the Haze.
- 4.1% of middle school and 4.8% of high school students reported ever participating in a RAGE group or event.
Asthma Prevalence

Several questions were used to monitor asthma prevalence among students. Students were asked if a doctor or other health care provider had ever written them a prescription for asthma, if they had an asthma attack or episode of asthma in the past 12 months, and if they missed school due to asthma in the past 12 months. Results are displayed for all students.

- Overall, 19.2% of middle school and 19.9% of high school students have received a prescription for asthma in their lifetime.
- 9.1% of middle school students and 9.7% of high school students reported having an asthma attack during the past 12 months.
- 7.0% of middle school students and 8.1% of high school students missed at least one day of school due to asthma during the past 12 months.
- The comparison of current and never smokers was not possible because the number of respondents in each group was too small.
Survey Instrument

The 2006 South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey (SCYTS) instrument, designed to meet the specific needs of the South Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, used 65 core questions developed by the CDC and 17 state-added questions. The instrument was used to collect demographic information about the students, tobacco use prevalence, age of initiation of tobacco use, access to tobacco products, smoking cessation, knowledge and attitudes about tobacco, tobacco prevention in school, exposure to tobacco advertising, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, participation in the S.C. youth movement Rage Against the Haze, and asthma surveillance.

Sampling Design

The SCYTS used a two-stage sample cluster design to select a representative sample of public middle and high school students in South Carolina. The first-stage sampling frame consisted of all regular public middle schools (containing any of grades 6-8) and high schools (containing any of grades 9-12). Schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. In all, 50 middle schools and 50 high schools were chosen. The second sampling stage consisted of a systematic equal probability sampling of approximately two classes from each school. All 2nd period classes in the selected schools were included in the sampling frame. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey. However, participation was voluntary and no individual identifying information was collected. A total of 1,391 middle school students from 40 schools and 1,357 high school students from 40 schools participated in the survey. The school response rate was 80% for both middle and high school. The student response rate was 83.7% for middle school and 84.3% for high school yielding an overall response rate (school rate x student rate) of 67.0% for middle school and 67.4% for high school.

The data from the 2006 SCYTS were weighted by the CDC Office on Smoking and Health to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and to reduce bias by compensating for differing patterns of nonresponse at school, classroom, and student levels. Therefore, the data in this report are representative of all regular public middle and high school students throughout South Carolina. The sampling design does not allow for analysis at school or district level.

Analysis

The CDC analyzed the data using SUDAAN software, which corrected for the complex sample design and provided sample weights, frequencies and 95% confidence intervals for each question. Differences between estimates were considered statistically significant at the p=0.05 level if the 95% confidence intervals did not overlap. Results are reported separately for middle and high school students.

Limitations

The findings in this report have several limitations. First, these data apply only to students who attended public middle or high school and are not representative for all persons in this age group. SCYTS did not include students in private or alternative schools, school dropouts, home-schooled youth, or youth in correctional facilities and treatment centers. Students who frequently miss school may not be included in the sample. Second, the SCYTS provides little information on family socio-economic status and other social and cultural factors that have been linked to tobacco use. Third, the data are based on self-response, possibly leading to under- or overreporting of behaviors.
## Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

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* Numbers represent unweighted sample sizes and weighted percents.

& Student gender, race, ethnicity and enrollment by grade were provided by the State Department of Education. Information was collected only for public school students eligible to participate in the SCYTS. Data for students in private or alternative schools, or in correctional facilities and treatment centers was not included.
### Prevalence of Current Tobacco Product Use Among S.C. Public School Students

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& 95% confidence interval
## Prevalence of Lifetime Tobacco Product Use Among S.C. Public School Students

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</table>

* 95% confidence interval
THE FIRST QUESTIONS ASK FOR SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF.

1. How old are you?
   a. 11 years old or younger
   b. 12 years old
   c. 13 years old
   d. 14 years old
   e. 15 years old
   f. 16 years old
   g. 17 years old
   h. 18 years old or older

2. What is your sex?
   a. Female
   b. Male

3. What grade are you in?
   a. 6th
   b. 7th
   c. 8th
   d. 9th
   e. 10th
   f. 11th
   g. 12th
   h. Ungraded or other grade

4. How do you describe yourself? (CHOOSE ONE ANSWER, or MORE THAN ONE)
   a. American Indian or Alaskan Native
   b. Asian
   c. Black or African American
   d. Hispanic or Latino
   e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   f. White

5. Which one of these groups BEST describes you? (CHOOSE ONLY ONE ANSWER)
   a. American Indian or Alaska Native  e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   b. Asian  f. White
   c. Black or African American
   d. Hispanic or Latino

6. How tall are you without your shoes on?
   Directions: Write your height in the shaded blank boxes on your answer sheet. Fill in the matching oval below each number.
   Example:
   Height
   Feet  Inches
   5 7
   3 0
   4 1
   ● 2
   6 3
   7 4
   5
   6
   ●
   8
   9
   10
   11

7. How much do you weigh without your shoes on?
   Directions: Write your weight in the shaded blank boxes on your answer sheet. Fill in the matching oval below each number.
   Example:
   Weight
   Pounds
   1 5
   0 0
   ● 1
   2 2
   ●
   3 3
   4 4
   ●
   5
   6
   7
   8
   9

2006 SC Youth Tobacco Survey
THE NEXT GROUP OF QUESTIONS ASKS ABOUT TOBACCO USE.

**Cigarette Smoking**

8. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?
   a. Yes
   b. No

9. How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?
   a. I have never smoked a whole cigarette.
   b. 8 years old or younger
   c. 9 or 10 years old
   d. 11 or 12 years old
   e. 13 or 14 years old
   f. 15 or 16 years old
   g. 17 years old or older

10. About how many cigarettes have you smoked in your entire life?
    a. None
    b. 1 or more puffs but never a whole cigarette
    c. 1 cigarette
    d. 2 to 5 cigarettes
    e. 6 to 15 cigarettes (about 1/2 a pack total)
    f. 16 to 25 cigarettes (about 1 pack total)
    g. 26 to 99 cigarettes (more than 1 pack, but less than 5 packs)
    h. 100 or more cigarettes (5 or more packs)

11. Have you ever smoked cigarettes daily, that is, at least one cigarette every day for 30 days?
    a. Yes
    b. No

12. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?
    a. 0 days
    b. 1 or 2 days
    c. 3 to 5 days
    d. 6 to 9 days
    e. 10 to 19 days
    f. 20 to 29 days
    g. All 30 days

13. During the past 30 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?
    a. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
    b. Less than 1 cigarette per day
    c. 1 cigarette per day
    d. 2 to 5 cigarettes per day
    e. 6 to 10 cigarettes per day
    f. 11 to 20 cigarettes per day
    g. More than 20 cigarettes per day

14. During the past 30 days, what brand of cigarettes did you usually smoke?
    (CHOOSE ONLY ONE ANSWER)
    a. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
    b. I do not have a usual brand
    c. Camel
    d. Marlboro
    e. Newport
    f. Virginia Slims
    g. GPC, Basic, or Doral
    h. Some other brand

15. Are the cigarettes you usually smoke menthol cigarettes?
    a. I do not smoke cigarettes
    b. Yes
    c. No

16. During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own cigarettes?
    (CHOOSE ONLY ONE ANSWER)
    a. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
    b. I bought them in a store such as a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station
    c. I bought them from a vending machine
    d. I gave someone else money to buy them for me
    e. I borrowed (or bummed) them from someone else
    f. A person 18 years old or older gave them to me
    g. I took them from a store or family member
    h. I got them some other way

17. During the past 30 days, where did you buy the last pack of cigarettes you bought?
    (CHOOSE ONLY ONE ANSWER)
    a. I did not buy a pack of cigarettes during the past 30 days
    b. A gas station
    c. A convenience store
    d. A grocery store
    e. A drugstore
    f. A vending machine
    g. I bought them over the Internet
    h. Other
18. When you bought or tried to buy cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days, were you ever asked to show proof of age?
   a. I did not try to buy cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days
   b. Yes, I was asked to show proof of age
   c. No, I was not asked to show proof of age

19. During the past 30 days, did anyone ever refuse to sell you cigarettes because of your age?
   a. I did not try to buy cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days
   b. Yes, someone refused to sell me cigarettes because of my age
   c. No, no one refused to sell me cigarettes because of my age

20. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes on school property?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 to 5 days
   d. 6 to 9 days
   e. 10 to 19 days
   f. 20 to 29 days
   g. All 30 days

21. Is there a rule at your school that no one is allowed to smoke cigarettes in the school building or on the school yard?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. I don't know/I'm not sure

22. Have you seen any students break that rule?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. My school does not have a no-smoking rule
   d. I don't know/I'm not sure

23. Have you seen adults break that rule?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. My school does not have a no-smoking rule
   d. I don't know/I'm not sure

24. When was the last time you smoked a cigarette, even one or two puffs?
   a. I have never smoked even one or two puffs
   b. Earlier today
   c. Not today but sometime during the past 7 days
   d. Not during the past 7 days but sometime during the past 30 days
   e. Not during the past 30 days but sometime during the past 6 months
   f. Not during the past 6 months but sometime during the past year
   g. 1 to 4 years ago
   h. 5 or more years ago

25. How long can you go without smoking before you feel like you need a cigarette?
   a. I have never smoked cigarettes
   b. I do not smoke now
   c. Less than an hour
   d. 1 to 3 hours
   e. More than 3 hours but less than a day
   f. A whole day
   g. Several days
   h. A week or more

26. Do you want to stop smoking cigarettes?
   a. I do not smoke now
   b. Yes
   c. No

27. During the past 12 months, did you ever try to quit smoking cigarettes?
   a. I did not smoke during the past 12 months
   b. Yes
   c. No

28. How many times during the past 12 months have you stopped smoking one day or longer because you were trying to quit smoking?
   a. I have not smoked in the past 12 months
   b. I have not tried to quit
   c. 1 time
   d. 2 times
   e. 3 to 5 times
   f. 6 to 9 times
   g. 10 or more times

29. When you last tried to quit, how long did you stay off cigarettes?
   a. I have never smoked cigarettes
   b. I have never tried to quit
   c. Less than a day
   d. 1 to 7 days
   e. More than 7 days but less than 30 days
   f. More than 30 days but less than 6 months
   g. More than 6 months but less than a year
   h. 1 year or more

Smokeless Tobacco: Chewing Tobacco, Snuff, or Dip

30. Have you ever used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip, such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, or Copenhagen?
   a. Yes
   b. No
31. How old were you when you used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip for the first time?
   a. I have never used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip
   b. 8 years old or younger
   c. 9 or 10 years old
   d. 11 or 12 years old
   e. 13 or 14 years old
   f. 15 or 16 years old
   g. 17 years old or older

32. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 to 5 days
   d. 6 to 9 days
   e. 10 to 19 days
   f. 20 to 29 days
   g. All 30 days

33. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on school property?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 to 5 days
   d. 6 to 9 days
   e. 10 to 19 days
   f. 20 to 29 days
   g. All 30 days

34. Is there a rule at your school that no one is allowed to use chewing tobacco or snuff in the school building or on the school yard?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. I don't know/I'm not sure

35. During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
   (CHOOSE ONLY ONE ANSWER)
   a. I did not use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip during the past 30 days
   b. I bought them in a store such as a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station
   c. I gave someone else money to buy them for me
   d. I borrowed (or bummed) them from someone else
   e. A person 18 years old or older gave them to me
   f. I took them from a store or family member
   g. I got them some other way

36. Have you ever tried smoking cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars, even one or two puffs?
   a. Yes
   b. No

37. How old were you when you smoked a cigar, cigarillo, or little cigar for the first time?
   a. I have never smoked a cigar, cigarillo or little cigar
   b. 8 years old or younger
   c. 9 or 10 years old
   d. 11 or 12 years old
   e. 13 or 14 years old
   f. 15 or 16 years old
   g. 17 years old or older

38. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 to 5 days
   d. 6 to 9 days
   e. 10 to 19 days
   f. 20 to 29 days
   g. All 30 days

39. During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars? (CHOOSE ONLY ONE ANSWER)
   a. I did not smoke cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days
   b. I bought them in a store such as a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station
   c. I gave someone else money to buy them for me
   d. I borrowed (or bummed) them from someone else
   e. A person 18 years old or older gave them to me
   f. I took them from a store or family member
   g. I got them some other way

Pipe

40. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke tobacco in a pipe?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 to 5 days
   d. 6 to 9 days
   e. 10 to 19 days
   f. 20 to 29 days
   g. All 30 days
Bidis and Kreteks

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT BIDIS (OR "BEEDIES") AND KRETEKS (ALSO CALLED "CLOVE CIGARETTES"). BIDIS ARE SMALL BROWN CIGARETTES FROM INDIA MADE OF TOBACCO WRAPPED IN A LEAF TIED WITH A THREAD. KRETEKS ARE CIGARETTES MADE OF TOBACCO AND CLOVE EXTRACT.

41. Have you ever tried smoking any of the following:
   a. Bidis
   b. Kreteks
   c. I have tried both bidis and kreteks
   d. I have never smoked bidis or kreteks

42. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke bidis?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 to 5 days
   d. 6 to 9 days
   e. 10 to 19 days
   f. 20 to 29 days
   g. All 30 days

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT TOBACCO.

43. Do you think that you will try a cigarette soon?
   a. I have already tried smoking cigarettes
   b. Yes
   c. No

44. Do you think you will smoke a cigarette at any time during the next year?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not

45. Do you think you will be smoking cigarettes 5 years from now?
   a. I definitely will
   b. I probably will
   c. I probably will not
   d. I definitely will not

46. If one of your best friends offered you a cigarette, would you smoke it?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not

47. In the past 12 months, how often have either your parents or guardians discussed the dangers of tobacco use with you?
   a. Never
   b. Rarely
   c. Sometimes
   d. Often
   e. Very often

48. Do you think people can get addicted to using tobacco just like they can get addicted to using cocaine or heroin?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not

49. Do you think young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not

50. Do you think smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool or fit in?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not

51. Do you think young people risk harming themselves if they smoke from 1 - 5 cigarettes per day?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not

52. Do you think it is safe to smoke for only a year or two, as long as you quit after that?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not
53. Do you think you would be able to quit smoking cigarettes now if you wanted to?
   a. I do not smoke now
   b. Yes
   c. No

54. Have you ever participated in a program to help you quit using tobacco?
   a. I have never used tobacco
   b. Yes
   c. No

55. During this school year, were you taught in any of your classes about the dangers of tobacco use?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Not sure

56. During this school year, did you practice ways to say NO to tobacco in any of your classes (for example by, role playing)?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Not sure

57. Does your school have any special groups or classes for students who want to quit using tobacco?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Not sure

58. During the past 12 months, have you participated in any community activities to discourage people your age from using cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, or cigars?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. I did not know about any activities

59. Have you ever heard about the "Rage against the Haze" group?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Not sure

60. Have you gone to a "Rage against the Haze" event?
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Not sure

61. During the past 30 days, have you seen or heard commercials on TV, the Internet, or on the radio about the dangers of cigarette smoking?
   a. Not in the past 30 days
   b. 1-3 times in the past 30 days
   c. 1-3 times per week
   d. Daily or almost daily
   e. More than once a day

62. When you watch TV or go to movies, how often do you see actors using tobacco?
   a. I don't watch TV or go to movies
   b. Most of the time
   c. Some of the time
   d. Hardly ever
   e. Never

63. When you watch TV, how often do you see athletes using tobacco?
   a. I don't watch TV
   b. Most of the time
   c. Some of the time
   d. Hardly ever
   e. Never

64. When you are using the Internet, how often do you see ads for tobacco products?
   a. I don't use the Internet
   b. Most of the time
   c. Some of the time
   d. Hardly ever
   e. Never

SOME TOBACCO COMPANIES MAKE ITEMS LIKE SPORTS GEAR, T-SHIRTS, LIGHTERS, HATS, JACKETS, AND SUNGLASSES THAT PEOPLE CAN BUY OR RECEIVE FREE.

65. During the past 12 months, did you buy or receive anything that has a tobacco company name or picture on it?
   a. Yes
   b. No

66. Would you ever use or wear something that has a tobacco company name or picture on it such as a lighter, t-shirt, hat, or sunglasses?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not
THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR EXPOSURE TO TOBACCO USE.

67. During the past 7 days, on how many days were you in the same room with someone who was smoking cigarettes?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 or 4 days
   d. 5 or 6 days
   e. 7 days

68. During the past 7 days, on how many days were you in the same room AT HOME with someone who was smoking cigarettes?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 or 4 days
   d. 5 or 6 days
   e. 7 days

69. During the past 7 days, on how many days did you ride in a car with someone who was smoking cigarettes?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 or 4 days
   d. 5 or 6 days
   e. 7 days

70. Which statement best describes the rules about smoking inside your home? Do not include decks, garages, or porches.
   a. Smoking is not allowed anywhere inside my home
   b. Smoking is allowed in some places or at some times
   c. Smoking is allowed anywhere inside my home and at any time
   d. There are no rules about smoking in my home

71. Which statement best describes the rules about smoking in the car you drive the most? [Non-drivers: in the car driven by a parent or guardian that you ride the most].
   a. Smoking is not allowed anywhere inside my car.
   b. Smoking is allowed in some places in the car.
   c. Smoking is allowed in the car at any time.
   d. There are no rules about smoking in the car.

72. As far as you know, during the past 7 days, on how many days did someone smoke in your home when they were not supposed to?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 or 4 days
   d. 5 or 6 days
   e. 7 days

73. As far as you know, during the past 7 days, on how many days did someone smoke in one of your household's vehicles when they were not supposed to?
   a. 0 days
   b. 1 or 2 days
   c. 3 or 4 days
   d. 5 or 6 days
   e. 7 days

74. Do you think the smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to you?
   a. Definitely yes
   b. Probably yes
   c. Probably not
   d. Definitely not

75. Does anyone who lives with you now smoke cigarettes?
   a. Yes
   b. No

76. Does anyone who lives with you now use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
   a. Yes
   b. No

77. How many of your four closest friends smoke cigarettes?
   a. None
   b. One
   c. Two
   d. Three
   e. Four
   f. Not sure

78. How many of your four closest friends use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
   a. None
   b. One
   c. Two
   d. Three
   e. Four
   f. Not sure

THE NEXT QUESTIONS WILL ASK YOU ABOUT TELEVISION TIME AND ASTHMA.
79. **On an average school day, how many hours do you watch TV?**
   a. I do not watch TV on an average school day
   b. Less than one hour per day
   c. One hour per day
   d. Two hours per day
   e. Three hours per day
   f. Four hours per day
   g. Five or more hours per day

80. **Has a doctor or other health care provider ever written you a prescription (medicine you get at a pharmacy) for asthma?**
   a. I have never had asthma
   b. Yes
   c. No
   d. Not sure

81. **Have you had an asthma attack or episode of asthma in the past 12 months?**
   a. I have never had asthma
   b. Yes
   c. No
   d. Not sure

82. **During the past 12 months, how many days of school did you miss due to your asthma?**
   a. I have never had asthma
   b. A lot
   c. Some
   d. A few
   e. None
   f. Not sure
Notes
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