Youth Risk Behavior Surveys

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![Image of cigarettes and a person smoking](image-url)
ABOUT TOBACCO AND YOUTH

Ninety percent of adult smokers begin smoking in their teens (or earlier). About one-third of youth smokers will die prematurely from diseases caused by smoking. Thus prevention of youth tobacco use is critical to the health of any community.

LOUISIANA STATISTICS

In 2009, 54.8% of Louisiana students reported having smoked once or more during their lives, compared to 46.3% nationwide (Figure 1). Lifetime cigarette use decreased a few percentage points from 2008 to 2009 in Louisiana and nationally.

» Males smoke slightly more than females and the gap widened in 2009 (Figure 1).

» More white students have smoked once or more than black students. Percents are down slightly from a year ago (Figure 1).

» Prevalence of smoking generally increased with grade level. However, 12th graders showed a marked decline in 2009 (Figure 1).
**CURRENT CIGARETTE USE**

In 2009, 17.6% of Louisiana students were current cigarette users at the time of the survey, compared to 19.5% nationally (Figure 2). This has not changed considerably from the previous year for either Louisiana or the nation.

» More white students (25.8%) currently smoked cigarettes than black students (8.6%). Though black students increased from 6.5% a year ago, they still currently smoke less than white students (Figure 2).

» More 12th grade students smoked cigarettes than students in any other grade level in 2008; but in 2009 10th graders smoked more than 12th graders (21.6% vs. 19.1%) (Figure 2).
MODERATE-TO-HEAVY CIGARETTE SMOKERS

In 2009, 6.8% of Louisiana students were moderate to heavy cigarette smokers, only slightly lower than the national average at 7.8% (Figure 3). This is a marked decrease from 2008 for both Louisiana and the country.

» Declines in percentages of moderate-to-heavy smokers have occurred in all demographic/education groups from 2008 to 2009 (Figure 3).

» More male students were moderate to heavy smokers than female students, but the numbers have decreased by more than 5 percentage points for both (Figure 3).

» Generally, more older students were moderate to heavy cigarette smokers than younger students in both years (Figure 3).

*Among the 17.6% of students who currently smoked cigarettes, percentage of students who currently smoked more than 10 cigarettes/day on the days they smoked during the 30 days before the survey.

FIGURE 3
In 2009, 3.4% of Louisiana students smoked cigarettes on school property recently, lower than the national average of 5.1%. From 2008 to 2009, smoking on school property showed little change nationally and in Louisiana (Figure 4).

- About twice as many male students smoked cigarettes on school property as female students in both survey years (Figure 4).
- More than twice as many white students smoked cigarettes on school property as black students in both survey years (Figure 4).
- Younger students tended to smoke on school property more than older students (Figure 4).

*Percentage of students who smoked cigarettes on school property at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.

**FIGURE 4**
In 2009, 5.6% of Louisiana students used snuff or dip on school property, compared to 8.9% nationwide (Figure 5). The use of smokeless tobacco on school property has showed little change from 2008 to 2009.

- Male students used smokeless tobacco on school property at much higher rates (10.0%) than female students (1.3%), in both survey years (Figure 5).
- White students surpass black students in their use of smokeless tobacco by a factor of about 6 (Figure 5).
- Rates of using smokeless tobacco in all grades have increased from 2008 to 2009 by up to 3 percentage points, except for 12th graders, who have shown a 2.3 percentage point drop in use (Figure 5).

*Percentage of students who used smokeless tobacco including chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on school property at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.

**FIGURE 5**
**BOUGHT CIGARETTES AT A STORE**

In 2009, 22.7% of Louisiana students bought cigarettes at a store in the 30 days before the survey, compared to 14.1% nationwide (Figure 6). This is a marked increase from Louisiana's 2008 figure of 13.5% (Figure 6).

» More male students bought cigarettes in a store than female students, and the percentage has almost doubled from 19.8% in 2008 to 39% in 2009 (Figure 6).

» More black students bought cigarettes in a store than white students, and both races have shown an increase in one year (Figure 6).

**TRIED TO QUIT SMOKING**

In 2009, 58.7% of Louisiana students tried to quit smoking in the 12 months before the survey, higher than the national average of 50.8% (Figure 7). Louisiana showed a small improvement from 2008 to 2009 with the percent of students who tried to quit increasing from 55.6% to 58.7%. There was very little change nationally.

» In 2009, more females tried to quit then males (64.6% vs. 52.9%), which is a reversal from 2009 (Figure 7).

» Prevalence and frequency of past and current smoking is higher among white students, and more white than black students attempted to quit smoking in 2009, but not 2008 (Figures 1, 2 & 7).

For more information on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, go to [http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm).
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