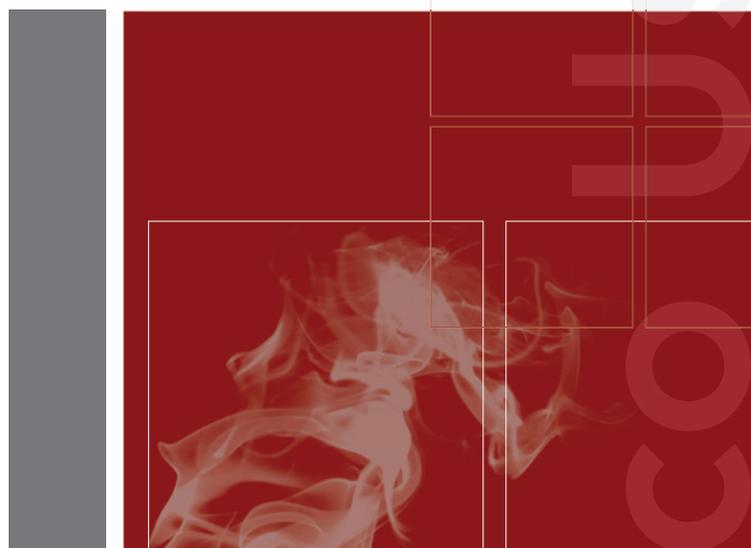


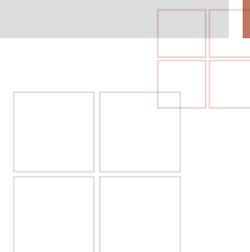
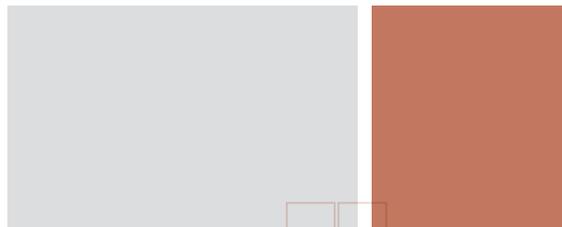
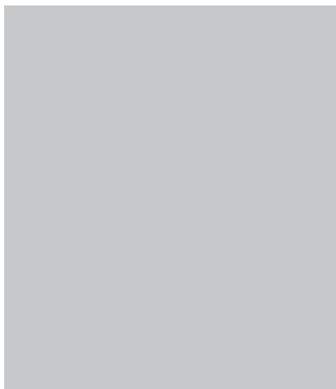
# Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Surveys 2011 & School Health Profiles Comparison 2010:



## Tobacco Use Among Louisiana Public School Students



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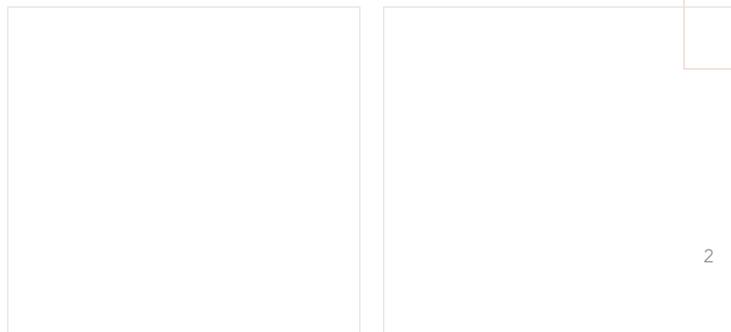
## Introduction

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS) is a national school-based survey supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and implemented by Louisiana state agencies to monitor priority health-risk behaviors among youth. In 2011, the YRBSS was administered to a total of 1,160 students at a random sample of 24 public high schools in Louisiana. Results from the YRBSS are used to guide programs and policies that support health and set and track progress towards health goals.

In 2010, School Health Profiles (Profiles) Survey was completed by 231 principals and 225 lead health teachers (as designated by the principal) in Louisiana, representing approximately 74% and 72% of Louisiana public high schools, respectively. School Health Profiles is a system of surveys that assess school health policies and practices.

A comparison of results from the 2011 YRBSS and the 2010 School Health Profiles Survey provides useful insight into how well policies and student health practices are aligned as well as how accurately school personnel perceive student behavior related to health-risk behaviors. Implications and recommendations are presented herein based on these perceptions and practices. For more information on the background, content, results and trends from the 2010 School Health Profiles survey, please visit [http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/profiles/2010/profiles\\_report.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/profiles/2010/profiles_report.pdf).

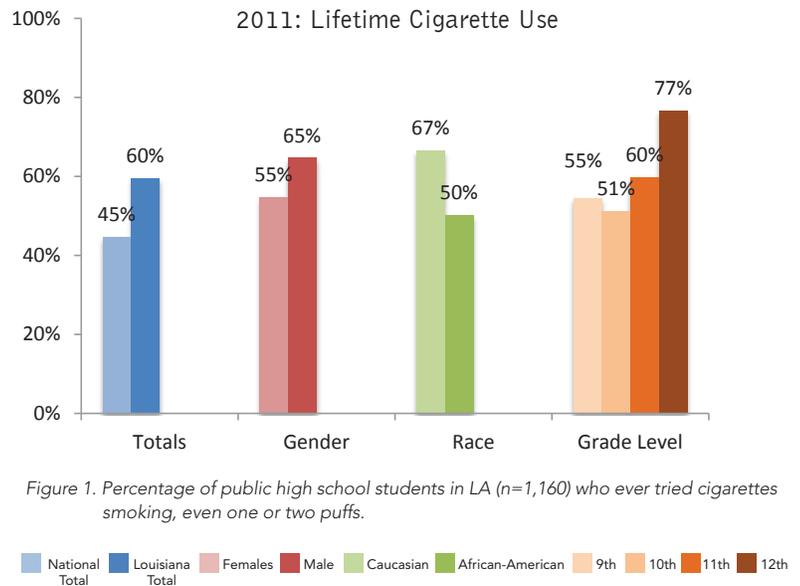
*Figures 1 – 8 represent findings from the 2011 YRBSS. Figures 9 and 10 display findings from the 2010 School Health Profiles, and reference similar questions from the YRBSS in the same figure. These figures are telling when investigating existence of and student adherence to school health policies.*



# Youth Tobacco Use in Louisiana: What are the Students Saying?

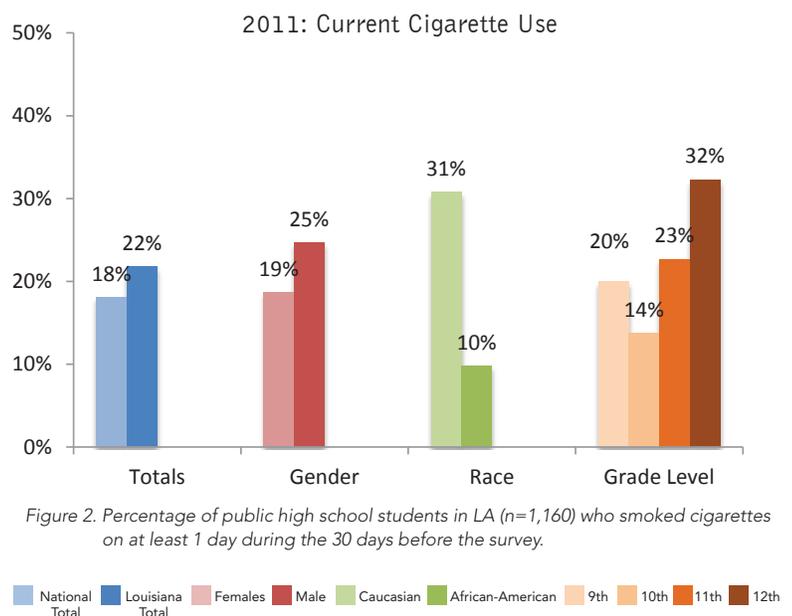
## Figure 1. 2011: Lifetime Cigarette Use

- 60% of Louisiana high school students who took the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS) reported ever having tried smoking, compared to a national rate of 45% (Lifetime Cigarette Use).
- Males reported lifetime cigarette use at a rate of 65% and females reported lifetime cigarette use at a rate of 55%.
- Rates of lifetime cigarette use are reportedly higher for Caucasian students (67%) than African-American students (50%).
- 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported the highest rate of lifetime cigarette use (77%) among high school students.



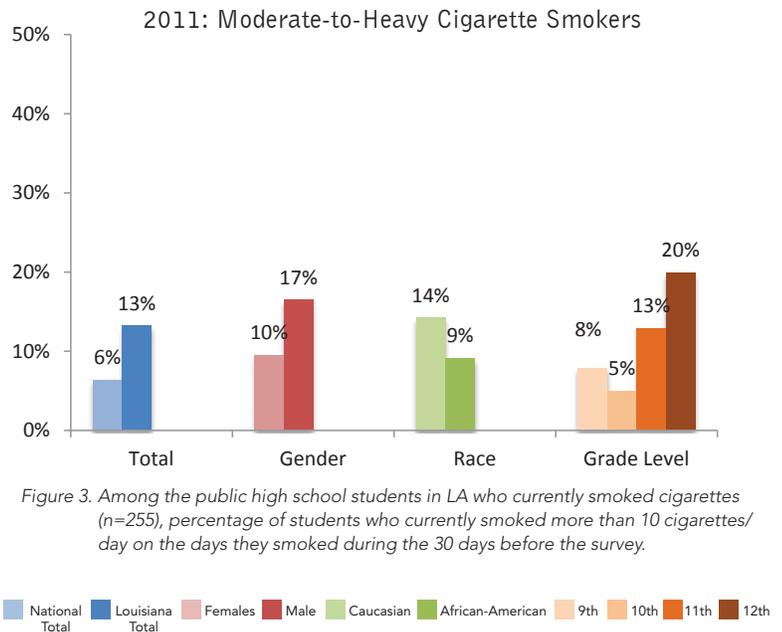
## Figure 2. 2011: Current Cigarette Use

- 22% of Louisiana students smoked a cigarette on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey was administered (Current Cigarette Use).
- More males (25%) reported current cigarette use than females (19%).
- 31% of Caucasian students and 10% of African-American students reported current cigarette use.
- 10<sup>th</sup> graders had the lowest rate of current cigarette use (14%) and 12<sup>th</sup> graders had the highest (32%).



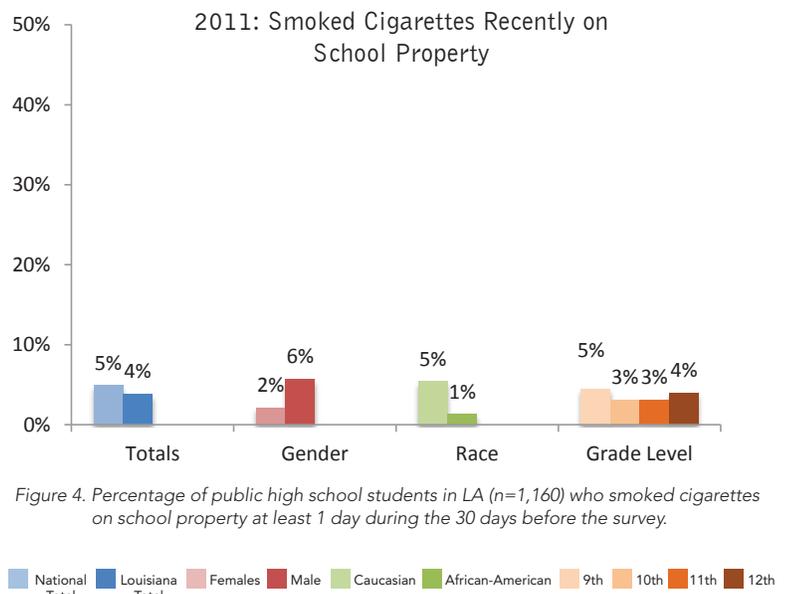
### Figure 3. 2011: Moderate-to-Heavy Cigarette Smokers

- 13% of Louisiana students who currently smoke cigarettes reported to smoke more than 10 cigarettes per day on the days that they smoked, compared to the national rate of 6% (Moderate-to-Heavy Cigarette Smokers).
- 10% of females and 17% of males were classified as moderate-to-heavy cigarette smokers.
- More Caucasians (14%) than African-Americans (9%) were considered moderate-to-heavy cigarette smokers.
- The lowest rate of moderate-to-heavy cigarette smokers was reported by 10<sup>th</sup> graders (5%) and the highest by 12<sup>th</sup> graders (20%).



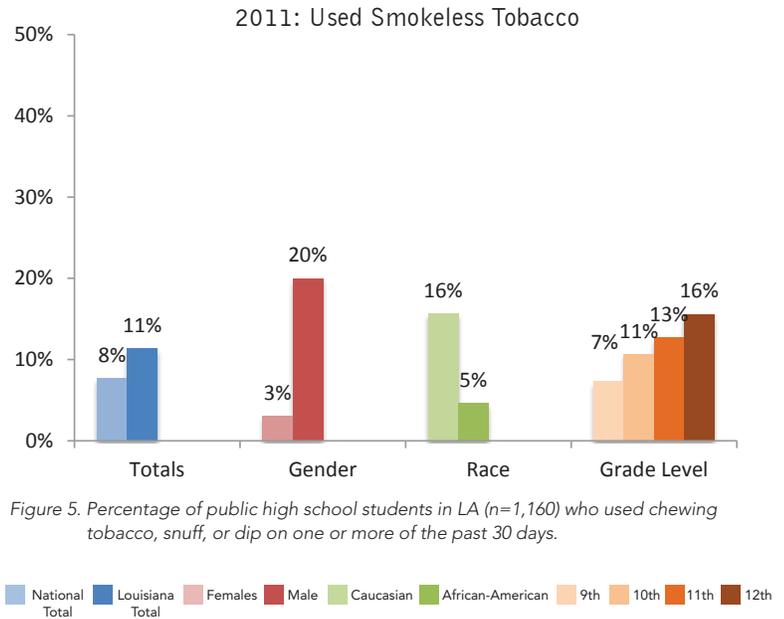
### Figure 4. 2011: Smoked Cigarettes Recently on School Property

- 4% of Louisiana students reported ever having smoked on school property in the past 30 days (Smoked Cigarettes Recently on School Property).
- More males (6%) than females (2%) reported having smoked cigarettes recently on school property.
- 1% of African-American students reported having smoked cigarettes recently on school property, compared to 5% of Caucasian students.
- 9<sup>th</sup> graders reported having smoked cigarettes recently on school property at the highest rate (5%).



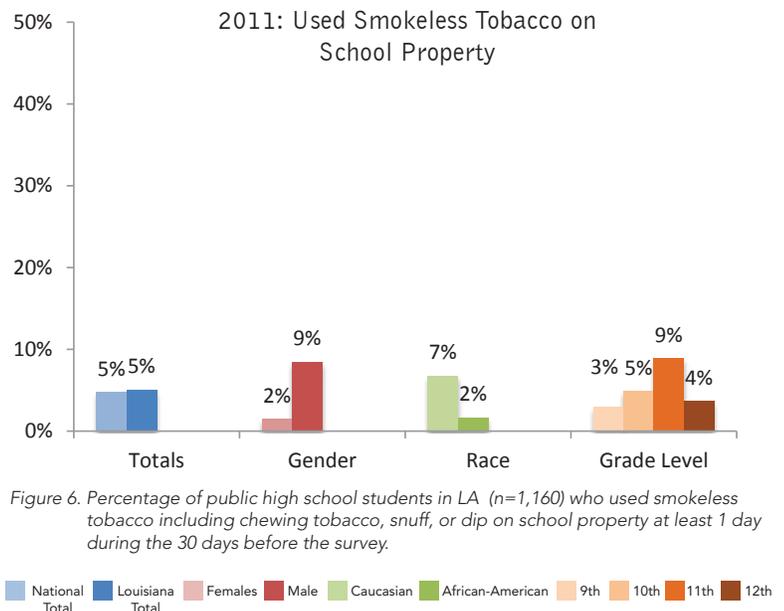
## Figure 5. 2011: Smokeless Tobacco Use

- 11% of Louisiana students reported having ever used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on one or more of the past 30 days, compared to a national rate of 8% (Used Smokeless Tobacco).
- More males (20%) than females (3%) reported having used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip.
- More Caucasians (16%) than African-Americans (5%) reported having used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip.
- Use of chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip increased with every grade level—from 7% among 9<sup>th</sup> graders to 16% among 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



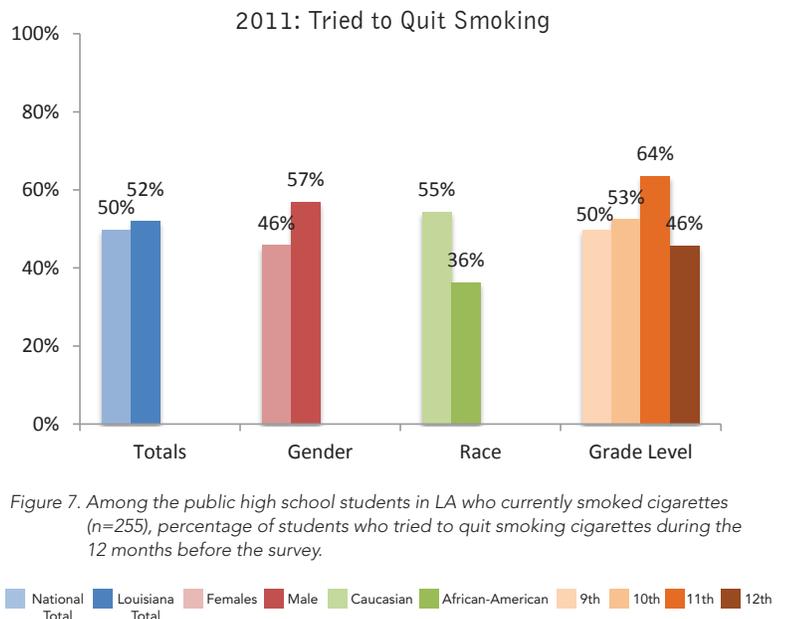
## Figure 6. 2011: Used Smokeless Tobacco on School Property

- 5% of students reported having used smokeless tobacco on school property in the 30 days prior to taking the survey (Used Smokeless Tobacco Recently on School Property).
- 2% of females and 9% of males reported having used smokeless tobacco recently on school property.
- More Caucasians (7%) than African-Americans (2%) reported having used smokeless tobacco recently on school property.
- 9<sup>th</sup> graders reported having used smokeless tobacco recently on school property at the lowest rate (3%), and 11<sup>th</sup> graders reported it at the highest rate (9%).



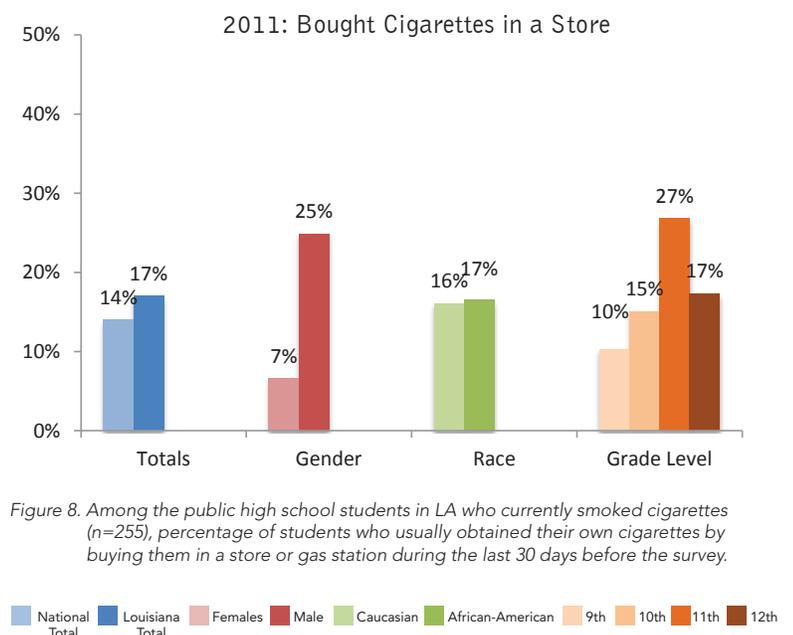
## Figure 7. 2011: Tried to Quit in the Last 30 Days

- Among the 18% of Louisiana students who currently smoked cigarettes, 52% tried to quit smoking during the 12 months prior to taking this survey (Tried to Quit Smoking).
- Males reported having tried to quit smoking (57%) at a higher rate than females (46%).
- Caucasian students reported having tried to quit smoking (55%) at a higher rate than African-American students (36%).
- 11<sup>th</sup> graders tried to quit smoking at the highest rate (64%), and 12<sup>th</sup> graders tried to quit smoking at the lowest rate (46%).



## Figure 8. 2011: Bought Cigarettes in a Store

- 17% of Louisiana students that reported current cigarette use (current smokers) also reported to have purchased the cigarettes in a store or gas station in the survey's preceding 30 days (Bought Cigarettes in a Store).
- Female current smokers bought cigarettes in a store at a lower rate (7%) than males (25%).
- Caucasian current smokers (16%) and African-American current smokers (17%) reported having bought cigarettes in a store at similar rates.
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade current smokers reported having bought cigarettes in a store at the highest rate (27%) among current smokers in other grades.



# Youth Tobacco Use in Louisiana: What is the School Staff Saying?

**Figure 9. Cigarettes: School Prevention Efforts vs. Student Behavior**

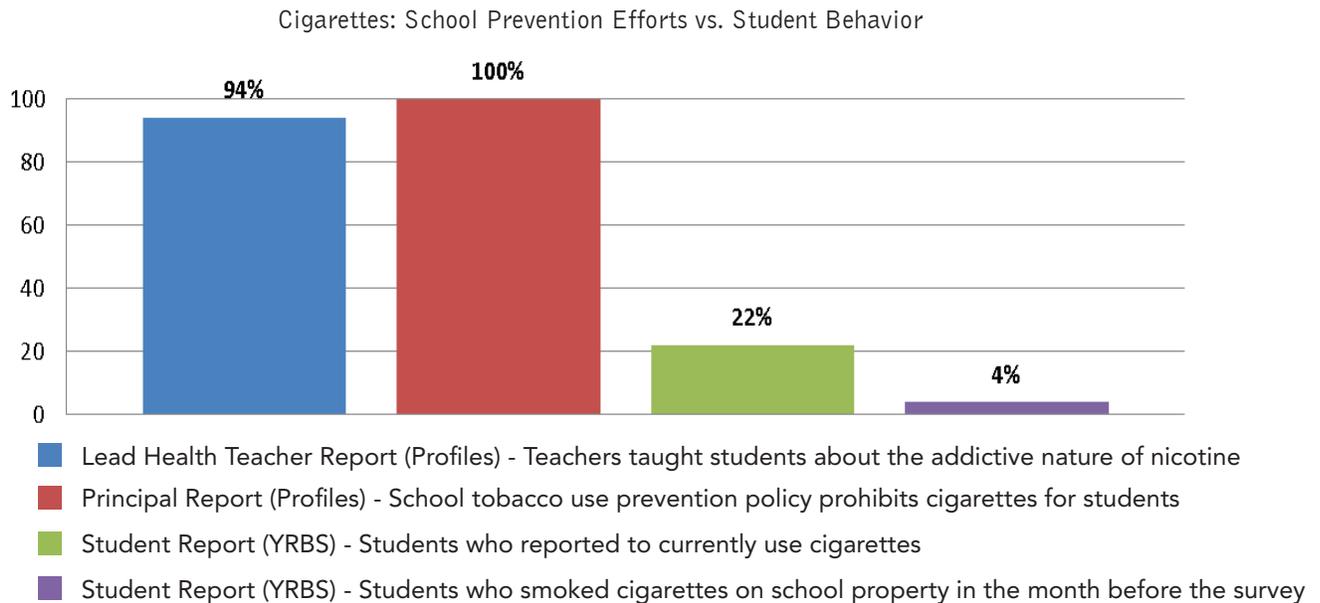


Figure 9. Demonstrates that surveyed schools reported successfully implementing smoke-free school policies. These policies are consistent with reported behavior of public high school students in LA: 22% of students reported to currently smoke cigarettes in the 2011 YRBSS, only 4% of students reported to smoke cigarettes on school property in the month before the survey.

**Figure 10. Smokeless Tobacco: School Prevention Efforts vs. Student Behavior**

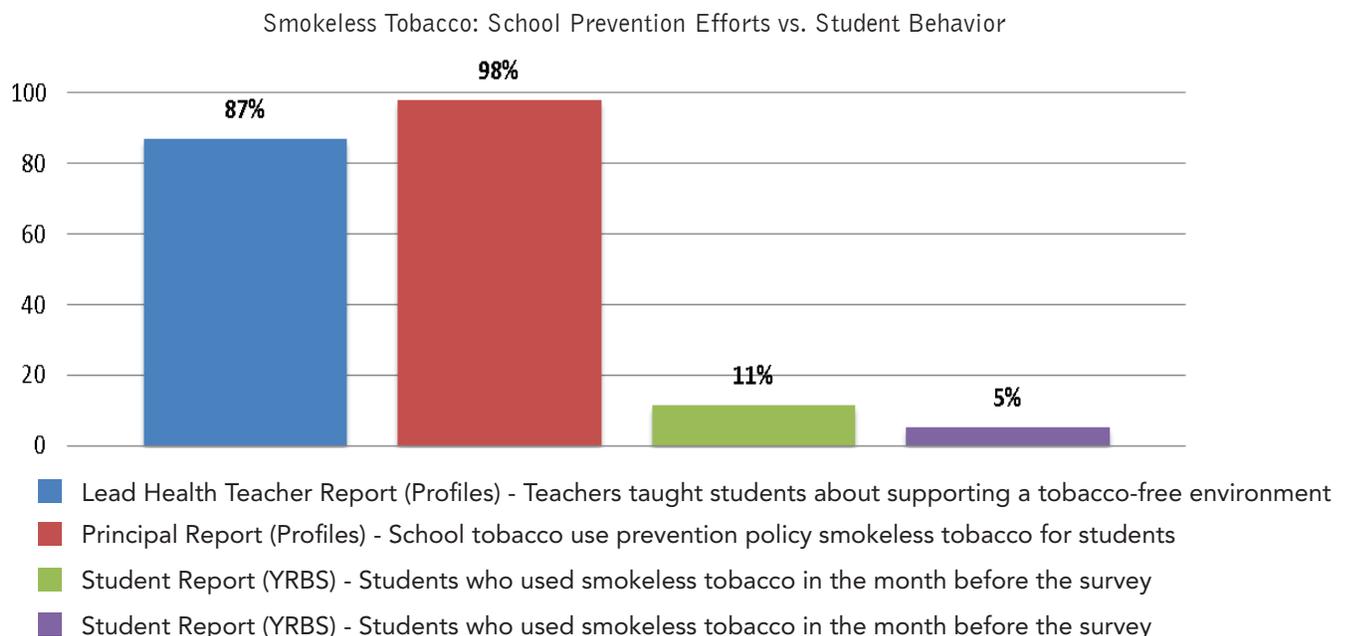


Figure 10. Suggests that students are adhering to schools' smokeless tobacco policies. While 11% of public high school students in LA have reported using smokeless tobacco, only 5% have reported using these products on school property.

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## Limitations

- YRBSS and Profiles are both based on self-reported responses, potentially leading to some response bias by students and school administrators while completing their surveys. For students, this could be due to both the inability to recall all risk behaviors and the conscious decision to not report all risk behaviors accurately due to fear or discomfort. For school health leaders, this could be due to both the inability to recall policies and practices and the conscious decision not to report on said policies and practices accurately.
- The School Health Profiles were conducted one year prior to the 2011 YRBSS surveys, and differ in the methodology, and sampling. Therefore, the relationship between the results of the two reports should be interpreted with caution.
- The current findings do not capture risk behaviors of Louisiana youth that are not enrolled in the public school system. Approximately 14% of Louisiana students (k-12) are enrolled in private schools.
- The sample size for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students was less than 100, which may affect generalizability.

## Conclusions & Recommendations

Results from the Louisiana 2011 YRBS indicate that tobacco prevention and cessation programming may be particularly useful if specific attention is given to two particular target groups: white males and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Rates of tobacco use were higher for males than females for all questions (see *Figures 1 – 7*). Additionally, 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported the highest current and lifetime use of cigarettes compared to other grades (see *Figures 1 – 2*). 12<sup>th</sup> graders also had the highest reports of moderate-to-heavy cigarette use among the smokers in the sample (see *Figure 3*).

This data suggests that student behaviors are consistent with tobacco-free policies implemented by Louisiana Public Schools. Future work in tobacco use prevention should focus on expanding tobacco-free school policies, tobacco prevention education in schools, and tobacco cessation services in schools. Tobacco-free policies, educational programs, and cessation services are also important outside of the school system, as not all of Louisiana's youth are enrolled in public school. Moreover, an expansion of these services outside of the school system will also lead to enhanced exposure and reinforced messaging of tobacco prevention efforts for students who are enrolled in school.