

District of Columbia 2010 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Tobacco Use

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? Tobacco use, including cigarette smoking, cigar smoking and smokeless tobacco, is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability and death in United States.¹ Every day, approximately 3,600 youth in the United States between the ages of 12 and 17 years initiate cigarette smoking.²



Image Credit: Smoking News. Arlington, Virginia. arlingtonva.us.

The National Picture

National results from the 2009 YRBS³ indicate:

- 26.0% of students report currently using tobacco in any form
- 46.3% of students had tried cigarettes

On at least 1 day in the 30 days before the survey:

- 19.5% of students had smoked cigarettes
- 14.0% of students had smoked cigars, cigarillos or little cigars
- 8.9% of students used smokeless tobacco

Key Indicators for DC YRBS Percentage of DC students who	2007 High School	2010 High School*	2007 Middle School	2010 Middle School*
Smoked cigarettes, cigars or used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on one or more of the past 30 days	13.5	16.8	10.9	9.7
Have ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs	50.4	43.1	35.4	18.8
Smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days	11.4	12.5	7.6	5.6
Smoked cigarettes on at least 20 of the past 30 days	3.5	4.2	0.9	0.6
Smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on one or more of the past 30 days	10.4	13.7	7.5	7.7
Used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on one or more of the past 30 days	5.1	4.1	4.5	2.1

*2010 DC YRBS results are population estimates derived using only DCPS student data. The 2007 data includes both DCPS and Public Charter Schools.

Effective Strategies and Best Practices in DC

- The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) outlines learning standards for tobacco education that are medically accurate, comprehensive, and age appropriate. <http://osse.dc.gov/service/dc-educational-standards>
- The OSSE's Healthy Youth Development Team works with the Department of Health to provide services and online resources to address tobacco issues of the District's youth. <http://osse.dc.gov/service/school-and-community-health-education>
- The OSSE's DC Tobacco Youth Coalition trains selected DC youth in tobacco control and prevention to create youth leaders with the skills and authority to help reduce smoking in the community. <https://sites.google.com/site/ossehydt/>.

¹CDC. (2002). Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Economic Costs --- United States, 1995--1999. *MMWR*, 51 (14), 300-3.

²SAMHSA. (2008). *Results from the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings*. Department of Health and Human Services. Rockville: Office of Applied Studies.

³CDC. (2010). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States, 2009. *MMWR*, 59 (5), 1-148.

