



STATE HIGH-SCHOOL YOUTH SMOKING RATES

Ranking all the states on the basis of their youth smoking rates is not currently possible because the states do not all use the same survey instruments for collecting that information and, consequently, comparable youth smoking data for each state is not available. However, most states do use one or both of the two different major surveys for determining youth smoking rates: the Youth Tobacco Surveillance (YTS) and the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance (YRBS). While YTS rates cannot be compared to YRBS rates, it is possible to compare the YTS rates of those states that use the YTS and to compare the YRBS rates of the states that use the YRBS.

<u>States</u>	<u>2006 YTS</u>	<u>States</u>	<u>2007 YRBS</u>	<u>States</u>	<u>2007 YRBS</u>
New Jersey	15.8	Utah	7.9	NATIONAL	20.0
New York	16.3	District of Columbia	10.6	Delaware	20.2
Pennsylvania	17.5	Hawaii	12.8	Wisconsin	20.5
Mississippi**	18.7	Nevada	13.6	Kansas	20.6
South Carolina	19.1	New York	13.8	Arkansas	20.7
National	19.7	Maine	14	Wyoming	20.8
Nebraska	19.7	Rhode Island	15.1	Connecticut	21.1
Wisconsin	19.9	Florida	15.9	North Dakota	21.1
Ohio	20.5	Maryland	16.8	Texas	21.1
Illinois	21.7	Massachusetts	17.7	Ohio	21.6
Iowa	22.5	Alaska	17.8	Arizona	22.2
Indiana	23.9	South Carolina	17.8	Indiana	22.5
Kentucky	24.5	Michigan	18	North Carolina	22.5
Alabama	26.8	Vermont	18.2	Oklahoma	23.2
** Survey of public schools only.		Georgia	18.6	Missouri	23.8
Differences between the 2006 YTS and 2007 YRBS rates in a particular state cannot be used to show trends because the YTS and YRBS use different survey procedures and do not produce rates that can be compared. For various methodological reasons, the YTS almost always produces lower rates than the YRBS, even when the two surveys are done in the same year. Missing states did not participate in the surveys. Ideally, all states would at least complete the YTS surveys every other year. That would provide extensive, comparable information on youth tobacco use and trends in each state, well beyond the relatively small amount of tobacco-related data collected in the YRBS, which also covers other youth risk behaviors.		Iowa	18.9	New Mexico	24.2
		New Hampshire	19	South Dakota	24.7
		Mississippi	19.2	Tennessee	25.5
		Illinois	19.9	Kentucky	26
		Idaho	20	West Virginia	27.6
		Montana	20		

All rates are based on weighted samples. Nationwide rates include all states, not just those that do the individual surveys. Smoking rates are for "current smokers," those who have smoked in the past 30 days. More information on the school-based YRBS and YTS surveys is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5704.pdf> (YRBS) & http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/NYTS/index.htm (YTS).

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