

## Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

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**State Web Site:** <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/info/dpqi/hp/tobacco.htm>  
**National Web Site:** <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/>

### Sources of Information for the Database

The Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is a questionnaire administered to middle and high school students in Kentucky and is made possible by a grant to the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The survey sample is a two-stage cluster design. In the first stage, schools are selected randomly within the grade range specified with a probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes are randomly selected from within the selected school and all the students within a selected class are surveyed. Participation in YTS is voluntary. Personal identifying information, such as name or address, is not collected. The YTS has been conducted biennially since 2000 by local health department tobacco coordinators and health educators. The YTS is also conducted nationally in even-numbered years with a sample size of approximately 300 schools in the United States.

Along with federal funds, the Kentucky Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (KTPCP) receives state funds through the Master Settlement Agreement. With these resources, KTPCP supports local health departments in building community capacities to prevent and eliminate harm from tobacco use. The successful administration of the KYTS by local health departments obtains information useful in monitoring the progress toward achieving each of the four goals listed above. Evaluation of the activities conducted to prevent and control tobacco use in Kentucky will result in a greater knowledge of how to direct resources in the future.

### Description of the Data Collected

The YTS collects data on prevalence of tobacco use among young people, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, bidis (hand-rolled cigarettes wrapped in a leaf and tied with string), and kreteks (clove cigarettes). The survey also collects information on secondhand smoke exposure, youth cessation of tobacco use, the role of media and advertising in tobacco use, minors' access to tobacco products, tobacco use in schools, tobacco-related attitudes of young people, and the influence of peers and family members to use tobacco products.

## Strengths of the Data

The YTS provides data on risk behaviors associated with tobacco use across the state. The data collected are comparable to results from the Youth Tobacco Surveys of other states and also to the national YTS results. Data from the YTS can be used to monitor components of CDC's Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs, including surveillance and evaluation, community programs to reduce tobacco use, school programs, enforcement, counter-marketing, and cessation programs.

## Specific Uses of Information

- Monitor *Healthy Kentuckians 2010* goals
- Provide data to enhance the capacity of the state to design, implement, and evaluate the comprehensive tobacco control program
- Provide data for tobacco grant applications
- To evaluate health disparities

### Data Limitations

The main limitation to YTS data is self-report bias. Therefore, the prevalence estimates are strictly based on each respondent's answers to the questions. The tendency to report a healthier lifestyle may occur. Another limitation is that no over-sampling procedures were taken in previous surveys so that regional data could be obtained.

## System Evaluation

The data collection is routinely monitored utilizing quality control standards developed by CDC. Evaluation of quality is determined through monthly and annual reports of these performance standards.

## Data Set Availability

YTS data from 2002 and 2006, 2008, and 2010 for both middle and high schools are available to the public; data from 2004 is available for high school only (middle school data were not weighted). The data are available in SPSS, SAS, and comma delimited formats.

<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>High School</b>	3,500
	<b>Middle School</b>	4,200
<b>Smallest Geographic Level Released</b>		Statewide
<b>Cost of Data Set</b>		Free

### **2010 OVERALL RESPONSE RATES (High School):**

**Schools** - 89.47% 85 of the 95 sampled schools participated.

**Students**- 83.32% 3592 of the 4311 sampled students completed usable questionnaires

**Overall response rate** -  $89.47\% * 83.32\% = 74.55\%$

### **2010 OVERALL RESPONSE RATES (Middle School):**

**Schools** - 83.33 % 90 of the 108 sampled schools participated.

**Students** - 86.81 % 4275 of the 4924 sampled students completed usable questionnaires

**Overall response rate** -  $83.33\% * 86.81\% = 72.34\%$

## **Data Release Policy**

Contact the YTS coordinator if requesting data from the YTS.

## **Data Publications**

The Kentucky Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program produces a report of the YTS results for every year the survey is administered. Fact sheets for the 2010 YTS can be found at the Kentucky Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program website: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/info/dpqi/hp/tobacco.htm>.

## **Suggested Data Citation**

Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Kentucky Youth Tobacco Survey*. Frankfort, Kentucky: Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky Department for Public Health, [survey year].

## **Contributing Author**

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