

Trends in Smoking Prevalence among New York State Youth

According to the *Surgeon General's Report on Preventing Tobacco Use among Youth and Young Adults*, most adult smokers begin smoking before the age of 18, and an earlier age of initiation of smoking is linked to an earlier onset of adverse health effects.

Since youth behavior is often affected by family members, peers and social norms, a key goal of the New York Tobacco Control Program is to create a social and policy environment in which smoking is not desirable, accessible, or acceptable. Youth smoking is defined as an individual under the age of 18 smoking a cigarette on at least one of the past 30 days.

- Among high school students, smoking prevalence has dropped significantly between 2000 and 2014 from 27.1% to 7.3%. This is a 73.1% decrease.
 - Between 2010 and 2014, the rate of cigarette smoking among high school students declined by 42%, from 12.6% to 7.3%.
- Among middle school students, smoking prevalence has dropped significantly between 2000 and 2014 from 10.2% to 1.2%. This is an 88.2% decrease.
- The percentage of students who have ever tried a cigarette, even just one or two puffs, has dropped 64% among high school students (61.7% - 22.4%) and 83% among middle school students (32.5% - 5.6%) since the year 2000 (data not shown).

Percentage of Current Smokers among Middle and High School Students

