

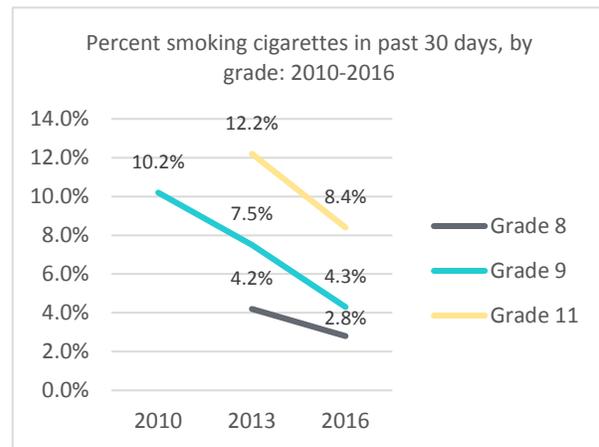
2016 Minnesota Student Survey: Tobacco Findings

YOUTH SMOKING HITS HISTORIC LOWS, BUT TOBACCO PREVENTION AND HEALTH EQUITY EFFORTS MUST REMAIN STRONG.

Cigarette smoking fell dramatically among both 9th and 11th grade students.

Results from the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey showed that cigarette smoking among both 11th and 9th grade students fell by nearly one third since the survey was last conducted in 2013. These are the lowest rates ever recorded by the survey, with only 8.4% of 11th graders, and 4.3% of 9th graders reporting they had smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days.

Results also showed declines in 11th and 9th grade cigar product and smokeless tobacco use.



Statewide efforts are keeping kids from using tobacco.

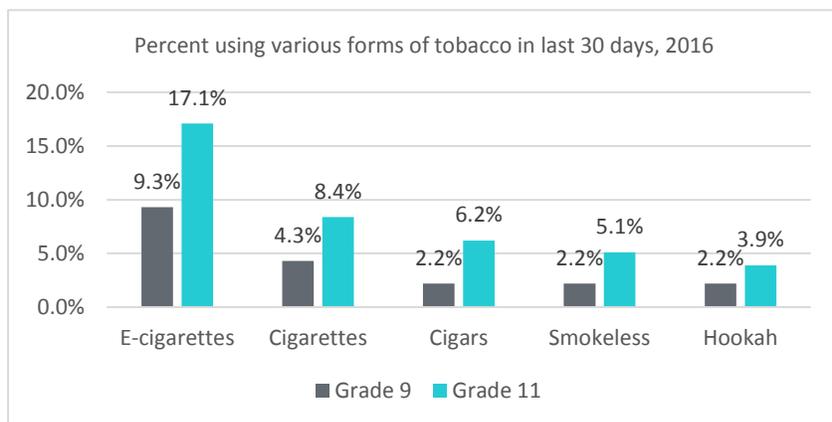
These declines follow extensive statewide efforts to curb cigarette smoking. Price increases on tobacco are one of the most effective strategies for reducing youth use; In July 2013, Minnesota's landmark tobacco excise tax increase raised the price of cigarettes by \$1.60 per pack.

Minnesota also has a comprehensive clean indoor air law that doesn't allow smoking in indoor public places like restaurants and workplaces. Additionally, Minnesota's strong network of communities and partners across the state are actively working to raise awareness and further protect youth from the harms of cigarette use.

More needs to be done to achieve a generation free from the harms of tobacco.

The survey also showed a dramatic and concerning increase in the number of students using e-cigarettes; 11th and 9th graders are now using e-cigarettes at twice the rate of conventional cigarettes.

2016 MINNESOTA STUDENT SURVEY: TOBACCO FINDINGS

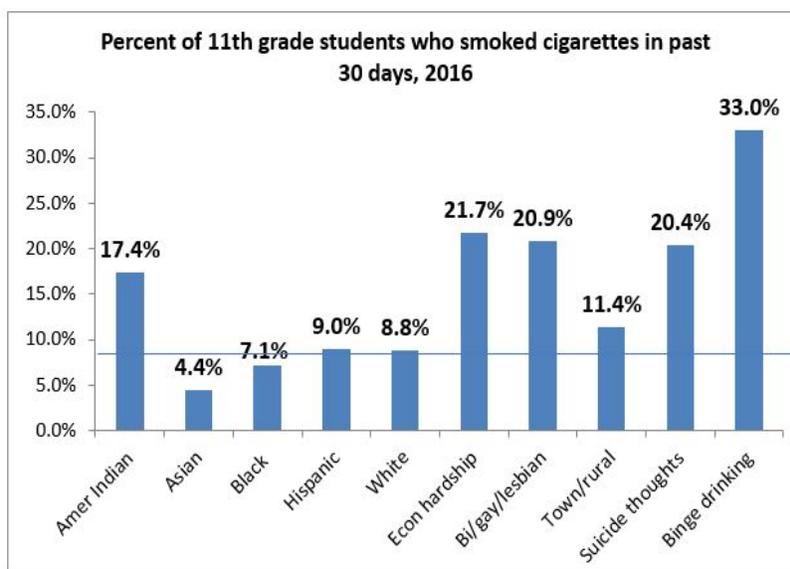


Products like e-cigarettes, e-hookahs and vape pens typically contain nicotine, and are currently unregulated. No amount of nicotine is safe for youth; it is highly addictive and may harm adolescent brain development. Damaging long-term effects may have implications for learning, memory, attention, behavior problems, and future addiction.

The survey also found that, despite declines in use among all groups, disparities still remain among some student populations. American Indian students, those experiencing economic hardship, identifying as bi, gay, or lesbian, experiencing suicidal thoughts, and those who also binge drink, smoke at significantly higher rates.

About the Survey

The Minnesota Student Survey is conducted every three years among populations of Minnesota public schools. The census-like survey asks questions about activities, experiences, and behaviors. Topics include: tobacco, alcohol and drug use, school climate, physical activity, violence and safety, health, connections with school and family, and other topics. In 2016, nearly 169,000 public school students participated in the survey.



Note: Straight horizontal line is statewide average percent (8.4%)

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