



Tobacco Use

Montana Students

Montana Office of Public Instruction, Denise Juneau, Superintendent



What is the problem?

The 2015 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among high school students:

Cigarette Use

- 39% ever tried cigarette smoking. (1)
- 13% smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.
- 4% smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey.
- 4% smoked cigarettes on school property on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.
- 2% smoked a cigarette on each of the past 30 days before the survey.

Other Tobacco Use

- 12% used smokeless tobacco (e.g., chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip) on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.
- 13% smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.
- 30% used electronic vapor products (e.g., e-cigarettes, e-cigars, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens such as blu, NJOY, or Starbuzz) during the 30 days before the survey.

Any Tobacco Use

- 39% used cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, or electronic vapor products on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey.

What are the solutions?

More health education ▪ More family and community involvement ▪ Healthier school environments

What is the status?

The 2014 Montana School Health Profiles indicates that among high schools:

Health Education

- 90% required students to take 2 or more health education courses.
- 62% taught 18 key tobacco-use prevention topics in a required course.
- 28% had a lead health education teacher who received professional development during the 2 years before the survey on tobacco-use prevention.

Family and Community Involvement

- 27% provided families with health information to increase parent and family knowledge of tobacco-use prevention.

School Environment

- 56% prohibited all tobacco use at all times in all locations. (2)
- 44% provided tobacco cessation services for students, (30% for faculty and staff), at school or through arrangements with providers not on school property.
- 93% posted signs marking a tobacco-free school zone.
- 53% used the School Health Index or a similar self-assessment tool to assess their policies, activities, and programs in tobacco-use prevention.

1. Even one or two puffs.

2. Prohibited the use of all tobacco, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipes; by students, faculty and school staff, and visitors; in school buildings; outside on school grounds; on school buses or other vehicles used to transport students; and at off-campus, school-sponsored events; during school hours and non-school hours.