



Tobacco Use

and Montana Students



What is the problem?¹

Among high school students. . .

Cigarettes

- 9% currently smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days
- 0.5% smoked more than 10 cigarettes per day²

Electronic Vapor Products

- 45% had ever used electronic vapor products in their lifetime³
- 30% currently used an electronic vapor product during the past 30 days
- 18% used an electronic vapor product on school property during the past 30 days
- 13% used electronic vapor products frequently (20 or more of the past 30 days)
- 9% used an electronic vapor product daily (each of the past 30 days)
- 14% usually got their electronic vapor product from a friend, family member, or someone else⁴

Smokeless Tobacco and Cigar Use

- 6% used chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco products (such as Copenhagen, Grizzly, Skoal, or Camel Snus) during the past 30 days
- 6% smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars during the past 30 days

Tobacco Product Cessation

- 60% had tried to quit using all products, including cigarettes, electronic vapor products, smokeless tobacco, cigars, shisha or hookah tobacco, or pipe tobacco.

What are the solutions?⁵

Among middle/junior and senior high schools. . .

Policy

- 97% of schools have adopted a policy prohibiting tobacco use
- 91% of schools have a tobacco-use prevention policy that specifically prohibits tobacco use during non-school hours for students, 87% have policy for faculty/staff, and 81% have policy for visitors
- 98% of schools prohibit tobacco use by students at off-campus, school-sponsored events
- 66% of schools follow a policy that mandates a “tobacco-free environment.”⁶

Health Education

- 94% of schools tried to increase student knowledge on tobacco-use prevention
- 90% of schools taught students about identifying short- and long-term health consequences of tobacco product use
- 84% of schools taught students about the effects of nicotine on the adolescent brain
- 89% of schools taught students about the effects of second-hand smoke and the benefits of a smoke-free environment
- 79% of schools taught students about using goal-setting and decision-making skills related to not using tobacco products
- 85% of schools taught students about school policies and community laws related to the sale and use of tobacco products
- 52% of schools taught all 19 tobacco-use prevention topics
- 90% of schools taught students about electronic vapor products
- 75% of schools’ health education teachers would like to receive professional development on tobacco-use prevention

¹ 2023 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey data representative of all high school students in Montana.

² Among students who currently smoked cigarettes.

³ E-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens (such as blu, NJOY, Vuse, MarkTen, Logic, Vapin Plus, eGo, and Halo).

⁴ Main access reported among students who currently used an electronic vapor product.

⁵ 2022 School Health Profiles data representative of middle/junior and senior high schools in Montana.

⁶ A “tobacco-free environment” is one that prohibits tobacco use by students, staff, and visitors in school buildings, at school functions, in school vehicles, on school grounds, and at off-site school events, applicable 24 hours a day and seven days a week.