



Cigarettes and Tobacco

The 2022-23 Tennessee Together Student Survey was administered to public school students in 8th, 10th, and 12th grade. There were 186 schools across 35 counties that opted to participate.

The final sample included 23,011 students with final results weighted to represent the statewide population in surveyed grades.

The survey measured youth behaviors, attitudes and social norms related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, including the misuse of prescription medications.

AVERAGE AGE OF INITIATION: **CIGARETTES** **12.7** years old

12.0% of students reported ever smoking **cigarettes**.

AVERAGE AGE OF INITIATION: **SMOKELESS TOBACCO** **12.8** years old

5.3% of students reported ever using **smokeless tobacco**.

More than half of students reported that it was either "very" or "fairly difficult" to obtain tobacco products.

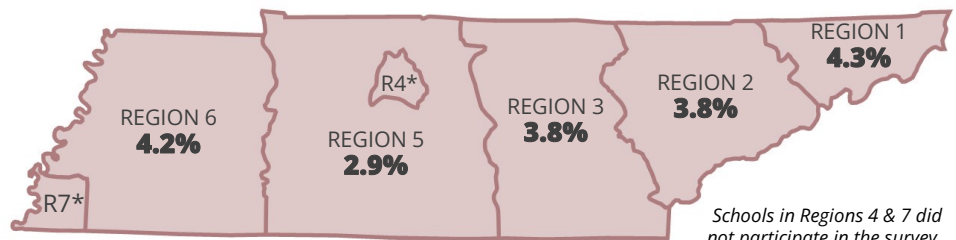


PAST 30-DAY USE

3.5% of students reported using cigarettes **in the past 30 days**.

38.9% of the students who used in the past 30 days reported use on six or more days, defined as **high-frequency** use.

PAST 30-DAY USE BY TDMHSAS PLANNING AND POLICY REGION



Schools in Regions 4 & 7 did not participate in the survey.

PEER MISUSE

16.8% of students reported that **at least one of their closest friends** had used part or all of a cigarette in the past year.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

51.7% of students reported speaking **with their parents** specifically about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in the past year.

PARENT, PERSONAL, AND PEER APPROVAL

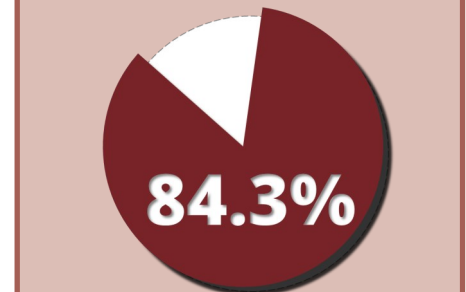
94.6% of students perceived that their **parents** feel it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" to smoke cigarettes.

85.9% of **students** felt it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" for someone their age to smoke cigarettes.

76.9% of students perceived that their **friends** feel it would be "wrong" or "very wrong" to smoke cigarettes.

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

PERCEIVED RISK



of students perceived "moderate" or "great risk" associated with smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day.