

12.3 Tobacco Use

Smoking is the number one preventable cause of disease and death in this country.

Most adult smokers start smoking before the age of 18 years. In 2017, Senate Bill 754 passed, which raised the minimum age to purchase cigarettes from 18 to 21 in Oregon.

Oregon students responded to 23 questions related to tobacco use including age of initiation, desire or attempts to stop smoking, location for smoking, source of tobacco, living in homes with smokers, tobacco advertisements, and perceptions of peer use of tobacco products. The good news is that Oregon's tobacco prevention efforts appear to be paying off - the vast majority of Oregon youth continue to avoid using tobacco in any form.

Questions relating to youth tobacco use (cigarettes, chewing tobacco, hookahs, e-cigarettes/vaping products and cigars), behaviors and attitudes are shown in the following tables.

For additional information, see the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program at:

<http://www.healthoregon.org/tobacco>

Table 102: During the past 30 days, did you smoke cigarettes (including menthol cigarettes)?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Yes, smoked cigarettes	4.7	3.0	8.0	7.7
No, did not smoke cigarettes	95.3	97.0	92.0	92.3

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 103: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke menthol cigarettes?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
0 days	98.3	98.9	94.6	96.9
1 or 2 days	0.9	0.6	2.5	1.5
3 to 5 days	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5
6 to 9 days	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.4
10 to 19 days	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3
20 to 29 days	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2
All 30 days	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.2

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 104: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip such as Redman, Levi Garrett, Beechnut, Skoal, Skoal Bandits, Copenhagen, Camel Snus, or Marlboro Snus?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
0 days	96.6	98.9	92.5	96.6
1 or 2 days	1.8	0.5	3.2	1.4
3 to 5 days	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.5
6 to 9 days	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.2
10 to 19 days	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3
20 to 29 days	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
All 30 days	0.4	0.1	2.7	0.7

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 105: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke a little cigars, such as Swisher Sweets?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
0 days	97.7	98.5	94.7	94.4
1 or 2 days	1.3	1.0	3.7	3.4
3 to 5 days	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.2
6 to 9 days	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.6
10 to 19 days	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
20 to 29 days	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1
All 30 days	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 107: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke tobacco in a hookah, also known as a waterpipe?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
0 days	96.5	98.5	96.9	97.3
1 or 2 days	1.2	0.8	1.7	1.5
3 to 5 days	1.4	0.3	0.7	0.4
6 to 9 days	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
10 to 19 days	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.2
20 to 29 days	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
All 30 days	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.3

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 106: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke a large cigar?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
0 days	98.8	99.2	98.5	98.0
1 or 2 days	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.4
3 to 5 days	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2
6 to 9 days	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1
10 to 19 days	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
20 to 29 days	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
All 30 days	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 108: During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use an e-cigarette or other vaping product?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
0 days	92.2	93.7	90.9	87.1
1 or 2 days	3.7	3.8	5.4	5.7
3 to 5 days	1.3	1.2	1.3	2.3
6 to 9 days	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.6
10 to 19 days	0.7	0.3	0.5	1.1
20 to 29 days	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.6
All 30 days	1.0	0.3	1.2	1.6

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 109: Any tobacco use (including vaping products) in the past 30 days

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Yes	12.0	8.4	20.8	18.9
No	88.0	91.6	79.2	81.1

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 110: Any use of any flavored tobacco or vaping product

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Yes	16.7	12.4	31.5	28.4
No	83.3	87.6	68.5	71.6

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 111: Current use of any flavored tobacco or vaping product

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Yes	7.4	5.3	11.9	12.9
No	92.6	94.7	88.1	87.1

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 112: How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
I have never smoked a whole cigarette	87.3	93.4	77.0	83.8
8 years old or younger	1.6	0.8	1.5	0.7
9 years old	1.5	0.4	1.2	0.4
10 years old	2.0	0.6	0.6	0.7
11 years old	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7
12 years old	2.5	1.2	2.5	1.2
13 years old	2.7	1.9	2.8	2.0
14 years old	1.3	0.7	3.9	2.4
15 years old	0.0	0.0	4.6	3.6
16 years old	0.0	0.0	3.3	3.5
17 years old or older	0.0	0.1	1.6	1.0

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 113: How old were you when you first used any form of tobacco or vaping product other than regular cigarettes? Exclude marijuana.

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
I have never used any of those products	80.4	86.2	60.8	67.6
8 years old or younger	2.2	0.8	1.8	0.8
9 years old	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.3
10 years old	2.6	0.7	1.2	0.4
11 years old	2.0	1.1	1.6	0.5
12 years old	3.8	3.2	4.1	1.2
13 years old	6.9	5.7	2.6	3.2
14 years old	1.3	1.9	5.3	5.8
15 years old	0.0	0.0	9.5	9.1
16 years old	0.0	0.0	10.0	8.7
17 years old or older	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.3

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 114: First tobacco or vaping product used

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
I have never used any tobacco or vaping product	81.5	86.2	60.2	67.2
Cigarette	6.6	3.5	12.1	8.9
Chewing tobacco	2.1	0.4	5.6	2.2
Small cigar	0.4	0.3	0.8	1.0
Large cigar	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.5
Hookah	2.6	0.7	7.4	2.6
E-cigarette or other vaping product	4.5	7.4	12.9	15.9
Another type of product	2.1	1.4	0.0	1.7

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 115: Tried to quit smoking cigarettes in the past 12 months

• Table has been suppressed due to low number of responses.

Table 116: During the past 30 days, from which of the following sources did you get tobacco or vaping products?

	Grade 11	
	County %	State %
A store or gas station	19.0	16.0
Friends 18 or older	50.4	49.4
Friends under 18	31.0	33.5
Took from home without permission	2.1	6.2
A family member	5.5	11.0
The internet	3.6	6.7
Some other source	22.5	15.5

- Percentages include only students under age 18 who used some type of tobacco in the past 30 days and obtained tobacco from at least one source.
- Students were asked to mark all that apply so each response is calculated individually.
- 8th grade suppressed due to low number of responses.

Table 117: Does someone living in your house (other than you) smoke or vape tobacco?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Nobody smokes or vapes	59.8	70.1	69.4	70.6
Someone smokes or vapes, but not inside the house	30.5	22.9	25.2	23.4
Someone smokes or vapes inside the house	9.7	7.0	5.4	6.0

- Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 118: During this school year, have you seen anyone smoking or vaping tobacco on school property?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Yes	17.6	21.8	38.0	46.9
No	82.4	78.2	62.0	53.1

- Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 119: During the past 30 days, have you seen an advertisement promoting tobacco or a vaping product on a storefront or in a store?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Yes	62.5	59.5	63.4	63.2
No	25.3	27.0	21.9	23.5
Not sure	12.2	13.6	14.7	13.3

- Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 120: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Cigarette companies deliberately advertise and promote cigarettes to encourage youth under 18 to smoke.

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Strongly agree	26.1	21.3	27.9	24.6
Somewhat agree	26.0	26.4	28.1	28.9
Don't know / Not sure	28.1	33.7	26.7	29.0
Somewhat disagree	5.1	6.4	9.7	7.8
Strongly disagree	14.7	12.2	7.6	9.7

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

Table 121: Do you think tobacco companies have been honest or dishonest with the public about the dangers of tobacco use?

	Grade 8		Grade 11	
	County %	State %	County %	State %
Very honest	8.0	7.0	10.6	8.4
Somewhat honest	14.5	12.0	20.9	18.6
Don't know/Not sure	22.5	29.6	28.5	26.2
Somewhat dishonest	20.5	23.0	19.8	22.0
Very Dishonest	34.6	28.5	20.2	24.8

• Percentages exclude missing answers.

12.4 Alcohol Use

Alcohol is the country's most widely used legal drug and, despite the fact it is illegal for 8th and 11th graders to purchase alcohol, it is the most widely used substance among American youth. Youth who initiate alcohol use at an early age (14 years or younger) are four times more likely to experience lifetime dependency and are more likely to be involved in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, personal injury and physical fights. Alcohol use during adolescence can cause lasting brain impairment leading to problems with relationships, education, employment and financial independence. It can lead to crime, social isolation, mental health problems and early death.

Students were asked about their alcohol and binge drinking (defined as five or more drinks within 2 hours) during the past month.

Almost three-quarters (73.2%) of 8th graders and almost half (44.7%) of 11th graders reported that they had never drank alcohol (Table 122). 26.8% of the 8th graders reported using alcohol at age 14 years or younger placing them at a four times greater risk of lifetime alcohol-related problems cited above. Likewise, 25.1% of the 11th graders said they were aged 14 years or younger when first having more than a sip or two of alcohol (Table 122). As might be expected, alcohol use for 11th graders exceeded rates reported by 8th graders on most items.