
II. Community Programs

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

Monitoring exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is one of the goals of the Youth Tobacco Survey, because ETS exposure in youth is strongly linked to lung cancer, heart disease, asthma, respiratory and ear infections, adverse reproductive outcomes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Exposure:

Students were asked about their exposure to second hand smoke in the past 7 days. **40.3%** of students reported that they had been in the same room with someone who was smoking cigarettes, cigars or a pipe on one or more days in the past week. **34.8%** said that they had ridden in a car on one or more days of the past week with someone who has smoking cigarettes, cigars or a pipe.

Perception of harm from ETS:

94.1% of high school students answered “definitely yes” or “probably yes” when asked if they thought that the smoke from other people’s cigarettes, cigars, or pipe was harmful to them.

However, many youth are exposed to second-hand smoke in their own homes: **42.2%** reported that they live with someone who currently smokes cigarettes, cigars or a pipe. Students also see other forms of tobacco use in their own homes: **21.7%** live with someone who chews smokeless tobacco, and the majority of students, **78.2%**, report that they live with someone who chews betelnut, with or without tobacco.

