

# Arkansas 2007 Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)



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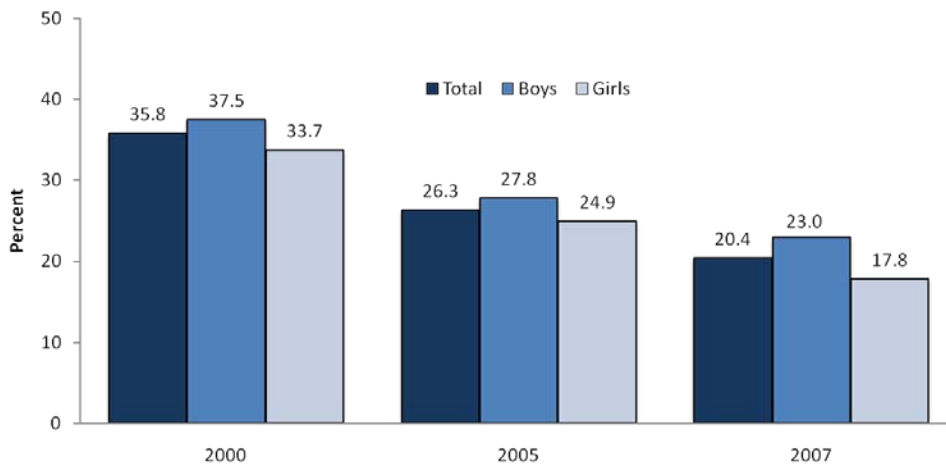
## Brief Summary



The YTS is an anonymous, self-administered school-based survey conducted in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education and the participating school districts. The YTS collects data on the prevalence of the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products, as well as information on secondhand smoke (SHS), knowledge and attitudes about tobacco, cessation, media messages, school tobacco prevention education, and access to tobacco products.

The 2007 YTS was administered to a representative sample of all regular public middle and high school students in Arkansas. The survey was completed by 1,905 middle school students (grades 6-8) and 2,007 high school students (grades 9-12). Key findings in the areas of current cigarette smoking, early initiation of cigarette smoking, methods of obtaining cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco use are presented in Figures 1 through 5.

**Figure 1. Current Cigarette Use among High School Students\* by Gender**  
AR YTS 2000, 2005, & 2007



The prevalence of current cigarette smoking among high school students was 20.4% in 2007 (Figure 1). This is a significant decrease from 35.8% in 2000. The decrease is seen in both boys and girls. In 2007 the smoking rate in boys was 23.0% compared to 37.5% in 2000. In girls it was 17.8% compared to 33.7% in 2000.

\*Students in grades 9-12 who report having smoked cigarettes on one or more days during the previous 30 days.

**Figure 2. Current Cigarette Use among High School Students\* by Race/Ethnicity and Gender**  
AR YTS 2007

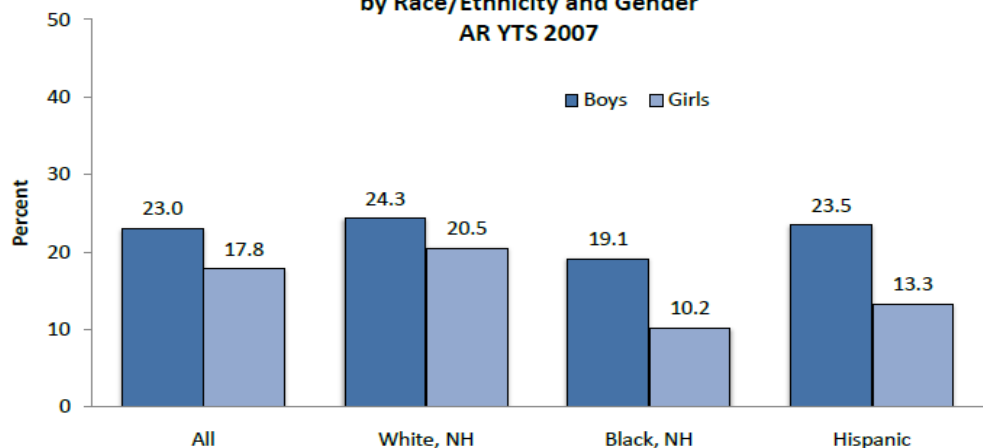
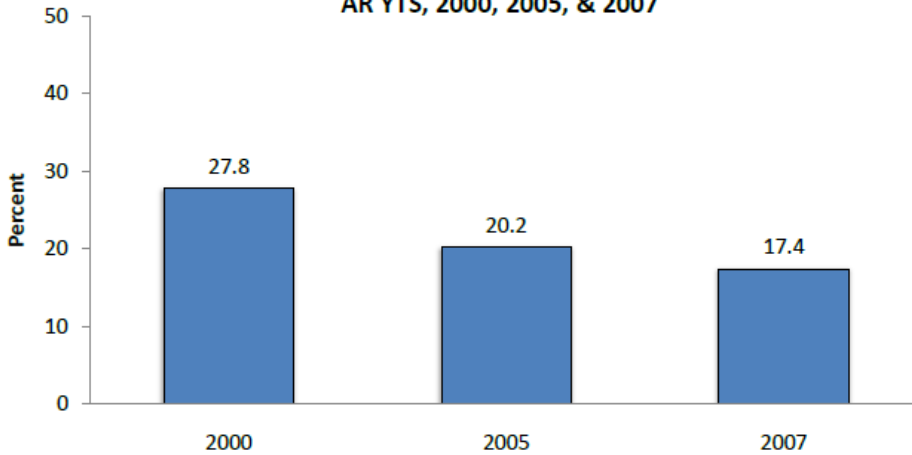


Figure 2 shows that there is a higher prevalence of current cigarette smoking among White non-Hispanics and Hispanics than among Black non-Hispanic boys and girls. However, these differences were not statistically significant.

\*Students in grades 9-12 who report having smoked cigarettes on one or more days during the previous 30 days.

**Figure 3. Percent of High School Students\* who Reported They Smoked a Whole Cigarette the First Time Before Age 13 Years  
AR YTS, 2000, 2005, & 2007**

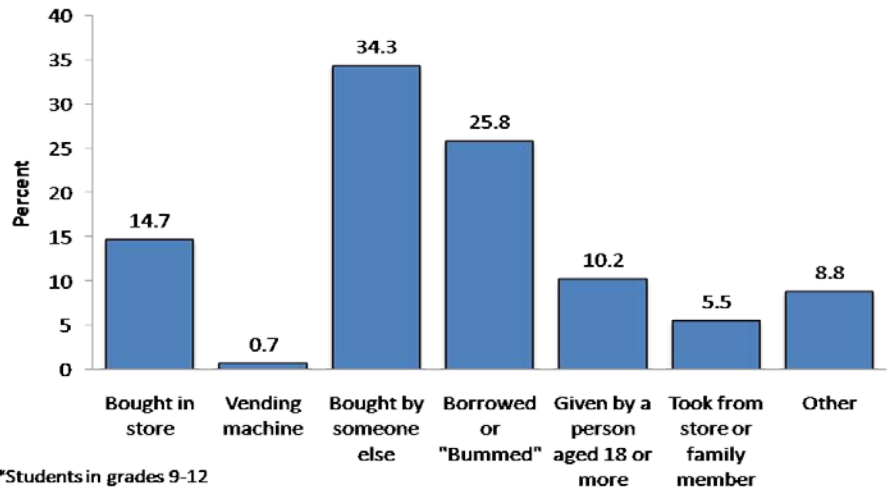


The number of high school students who report that they first smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before the age of 13 has dropped significantly from 27.8% in 2000 to 17.4% in 2007 (Figure 3). According to a report from the Surgeon General: *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Young People*, people who start smoking at a younger age are more likely to use tobacco products as adults.

\*Students in grades 9-12

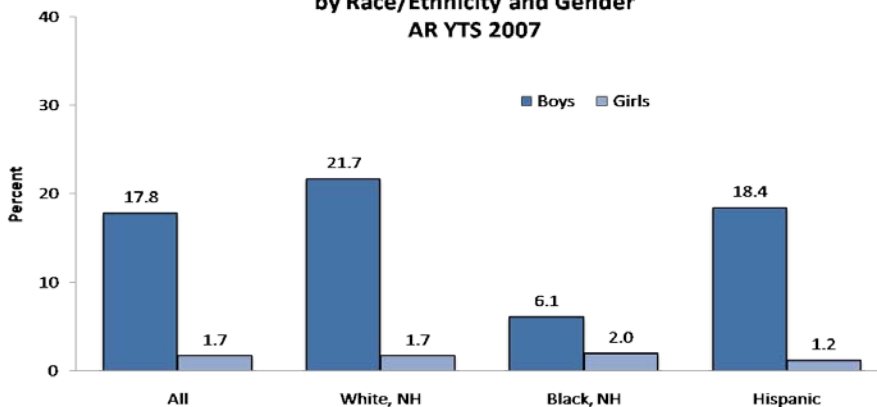
According to the 2007 YTS, the usual methods of obtaining cigarettes by current smokers among high school students under the age of 18 are: 34.3% said that they gave someone else money to buy the cigarettes, 25.8% reported borrowing (or bumming) cigarettes from someone else, 14.7% reported buying them in a store such as a convenience store, supermarket, discount store, or gas station (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. The Usual Method of Obtaining Cigarettes by Current Smokers among High School Students\* Under Age 18  
AR YTS 2007**



\*Students in grades 9-12

**Figure 5. Current Smokeless Tobacco Use among High School Students\* by Race/Ethnicity and Gender  
AR YTS 2007**



\*Students in grades 9-12 who report having used smokeless tobacco products on one or more days during the previous 30 days.

Figure 5 shows that the prevalence of current smokeless tobacco use (i.e., chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip) is higher among high school boys than high school girls of all race/ethnicities.

*The findings in this brief summary highlight the results from high school students only. It is important to note that these behaviors start in middle school. According to the 2007 Arkansas YTS 9.5% of public middle school students are current cigarette smokers and 5.4% are current users of smokeless tobacco products.*