

Hennepin County  
Public Health  
Assessment Team

# FACT SHEET

# Adolescent Tobacco Use

## Why is this indicator important?

Reducing direct and indirect exposure to tobacco is a critical factor in reducing serious health conditions in the population. For teens, direct use of tobacco may lead to nicotine addiction, and to the onset of chronic heart and lung conditions as adults.

In 2016, 19 percent of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in suburban Hennepin County (excluding Minneapolis) reported using any tobacco (include e-cigarettes) in the past 30 days. Rates were similar for e-cigarette use, and boys were more likely to report using any tobacco compared to girls. While fewer youth are using cigarettes and other conventional\* tobacco, the rates of youth using any tobacco including e-cigarettes are concerning.

**Table 1. 30-day tobacco use for 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, 2016.**

Suburban Hennepin County students attending school in public school districts	8 <sup>th</sup> graders	9 <sup>th</sup> graders	11 <sup>th</sup> graders
<b>30 day any tobacco use (including e-cigarettes)</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>19%</b>
Boys	6%	8%	23%
Girls	6%	8%	15%
<b>30 day electronic cigarette use</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Boys	<b>5%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Girls	4%	7%	13%
<b>30 day cigars, cigarillos, little cigar use</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Boys	1%	2%	8%
Girls	1%	1%	2%
<b>30 day cigarette use</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Boys	1%	2%	6%
Girls	2%	2%	5%



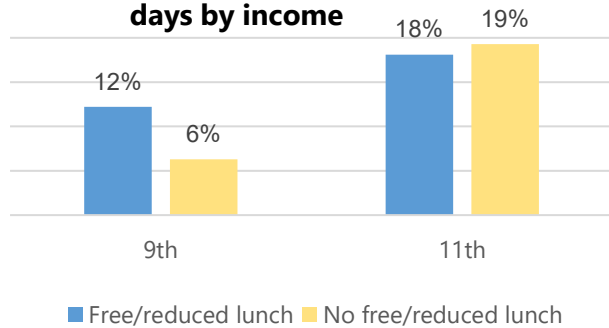
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**For more information** on the health of Hennepin County residents, visit: [www.Hennepin.us/PublicHealthData](http://www.Hennepin.us/PublicHealthData) or email: [PublicHealthData@hennepin.us](mailto:PublicHealthData@hennepin.us)

## What is the current status?

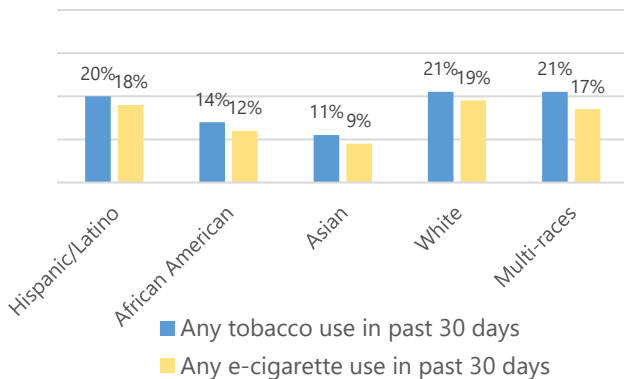
Ninth graders receiving free/reduced lunch (lower income) were more likely to report using tobacco in the past 30 days compared to not low income 9<sup>th</sup> graders. However, there was no difference by income among 11<sup>th</sup> graders (figure 1).

**Figure 1. 9th and 11th graders reporting any tobacco use in past 30 days by income**



Hispanic, white, and multiracial students used tobacco at higher rates compared to other students for any tobacco, and specifically e-cigarettes (figure 2).

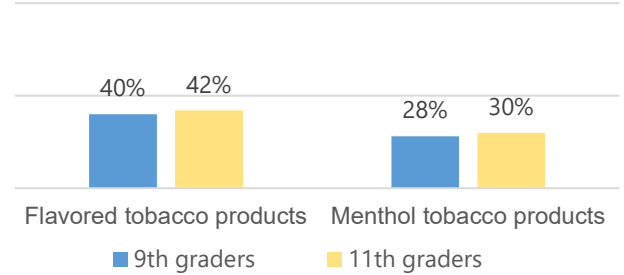
**Figure 2. 11th graders reporting any tobacco and e-cigarette use in past 30 days by race/ethnicity**



## Menthol and flavored tobacco commonly used

Among youth who used tobacco, many report using flavored\*\* or menthol tobacco, which are known to mask the harsh taste of tobacco.

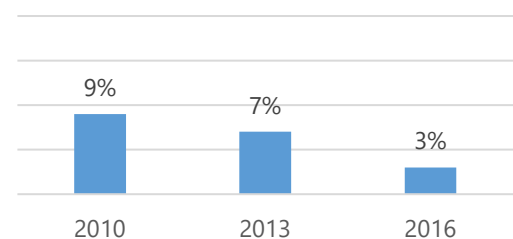
**Figure 3. Use of menthol or flavored tobacco among those who used any tobacco in past 30 days**



## How do we compare?

There has been a steady decline in the percentage of ninth graders in suburban Hennepin County who reported using conventional tobacco (excluding e-cigarettes). In 2010, 9% of the ninth graders reported using conventional tobacco in the past 30 days, compared to 7% in 2013 and 3% in 2016 (figure 4).

**Figure 4. Percentage of 9th graders reporting conventional tobacco use in the past 30 days.**



The data on adolescent tobacco use were drawn from the Minnesota Student Survey 2013 and 2016 data. These survey questions were asked 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Suburban Hennepin County in 2013 and 2016: "During the last 30 days, on how many days did you smoke a cigarette?" "During the last 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos or little cigars?" "During the last 30 days, on how many days did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?" "During the last 30 days, on how many days did you use an electronic cigarette (e-cigarettes, e-hookah, vaping pen)?" "During the last 30 days, on how many days did you use a hookah or a water pipe to smoke tobacco?" Students were provided with a series of response categories ranging from 0 to All 30 days.

\*Conventional tobacco use includes cigarettes, chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, or cigars/cigarillos/little cigars.

Any tobacco includes e-cigarettes and hookah, in addition to conventional tobacco

\*\* Fruit, candy, alcohol flavored tobacco