

Youth Nicotine Use

In 2018, the [Surgeon General](#) officially called youth and young adult use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) use, or vaping, an epidemic.

ENDS companies have targeted youth and young adults with advertising. This has contributed to high rates of ENDS use among youth and young adults.

[Studies](#) show that young adults (aged 18-29) who have never smoked often start using nicotine products by using ENDS. They are then more likely to begin smoking cigarettes. When people start smoking during youth, they are more likely to continue the habit.

According to the 2021 Wyoming Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS), 8% of Wyoming adults between the ages of 18 and 29 used ENDS every day or some days and 15% smoked cigarettes every day or some days. Most Wyoming adults (91%) who had ever smoked a whole cigarette had done so before the age of 21.

Age of First Use

Because many people who use nicotine start young, grade school years are a key time for preventing ENDS and cigarette use.

ENDS

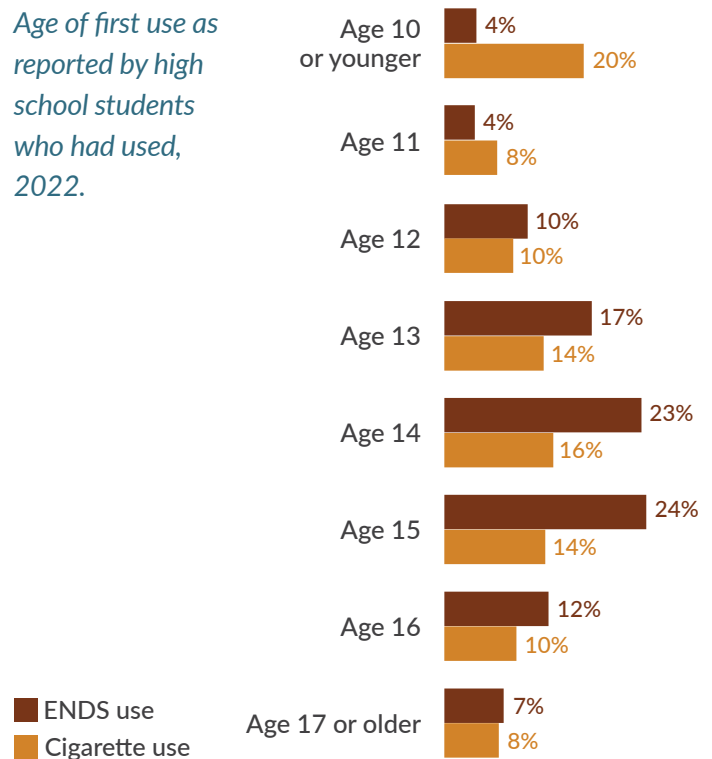
Two out of five (40%) high school students had tried ENDS at some point in their lives, according to the 2022 Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA). Almost one in five (18%) of these students had tried ENDS before turning 13 (see right).

CIGARETTES

One out of four (24%) high school students had tried cigarettes at some point in their lives. Over one third (38%) of these students had tried cigarettes before turning 13. One out of five (20%) first tried cigarettes before the age of 10 (see below).

Many Students Start Nicotine Use During Grade School

Age of first use as reported by high school students who had used, 2022.



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Current Use

ENDS

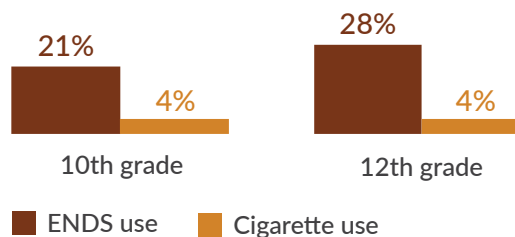
About one in four (24%) high school students were current ENDS users. ENDS use was more common for 12th graders (28%) than 10th graders (21%; see right).

Cigarettes

Few high school students (4%) were current smokers. Smoking use was similar for 12th graders (4%) and 10th graders (4%; see right).

ENDS Use Is More Common than Cigarette Smoking

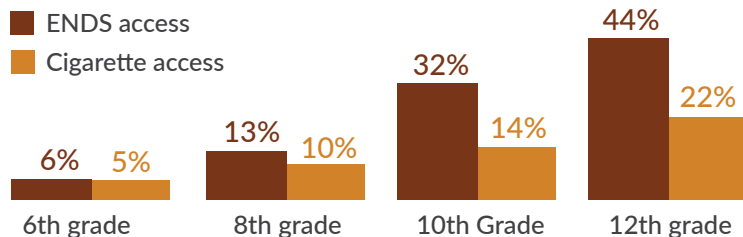
Past 30 days use by grade, high school



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Nicotine Access Becomes Easier with Age, Especially for ENDS

Percentage of students who say ENDS or cigarettes are very easy to access, by grade



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About 1 in 20 sixth graders said it would be very easy to access ENDS (6%) or cigarettes (5%). Access to nicotine products was easier for older students. By 12th grade, almost half (44%) of students reported very easy access to ENDS. About 1 in 5 (22%) said they had very easy access to cigarettes.



ENDS ARE THE NICOTINE PRODUCT OF CHOICE FOR WYOMING YOUTH

Conclusions

ENDS are a subject of concern for Wyoming youth because of rapidly increasing use and the potential for ENDS use to lead to smoking. Reports about first use indicate that working with students in all grades—including elementary school—may prevent youth ENDS use and smoking. Although few youth smoke regularly, cigarettes are a subject of concern for youth and young adults because they are more likely to continue the habit when they start during youth. [Declining cigarette smoking rates among youth](#) may reflect success of federal, state, and county-level prevention efforts.

Additional Information:

- The 2021 ATS was a phone survey of Wyoming adults. Additional information is available here <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/prevention/substanceabuseandsuicide/tobacco-prevention/> and here <https://wysac.uwyo.edu/wyomingtobacco/>
- The 2022 Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) was a survey of students in public schools. Students responded to online or paper versions of the survey in the spring. Further details and a data tool that includes trend data from previous versions, estimates for various substances of abuse, county-level estimates, and demographic breakdowns are available at <https://www.pnasurvey.org/Home>.



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