



Openness to Smoking Conventional Cigarettes and Openness to Using Electronic Cigarettes and Similar Devices among NYS Youth, 2018

Adolescents are less likely to try smoking if they make a firm decision to be smoke-free. Smoking susceptibility, or openness to smoking, is a predictor of smoking experimentation among youth. To assess openness to smoking, the New York State Youth Tobacco Survey (NY-YTS) asks youth who are never smokers: a) Do you think that you will try a cigarette soon; b) Do you think you will smoke a cigarette at any time during the next year; and, c) If one of your best friends offered you a cigarette, would you smoke it? Youth that respond in any way other than "Definitely not" to any of these three questions are considered open to smoking. Openness to using electronic cigarettes and related products, also referred to as e-cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), is assessed the same way. Questions assessing openness to e-cigarette use were added to the NY-YTS in 2014.

The chart below indicates openness to using e-cigarettes is not only higher than openness to smoking conventional cigarettes among high school youth, but it has increased from 23.7% in 2014 to 31.0% in 2018, a statistically significant trend. Openness to smoking among high school youth increased from 2016 to 2018. Though the increase is not statistically significant, this is the first increase in openness to smoking observed in this decade.

Percent of NYS High School Students who are Open to Smoking and Open to Using Electronic Cigarettes, NY-YTS 2010-2018

