

Chronic Disease Risk Factors

Youth Smoking

Importance: Major cause of premature mortality. Accounts for 400,000 deaths annually in the US. Most smokers begin smoking as youth or young adults.

National statistic: Current cigarette use among high school students: 20% (2007, YRBSS)

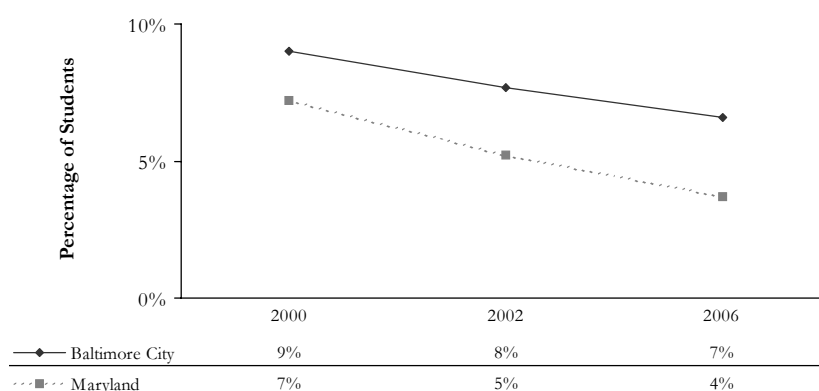
Healthy People 2010 goal: 16% (high school students who smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days)

Middle school students

Cigarette smoking

- Since 2000, cigarette smoking prevalence among middle school students surveyed has declined by 27% in Baltimore City and by almost 50% statewide.
- Baltimore middle school students were 30-75% more likely to report current smoking than students statewide during 2000-2006.

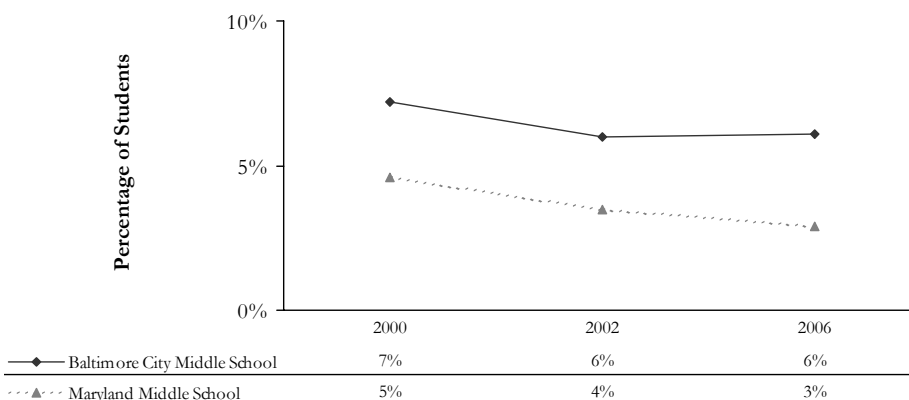
Percentage of Middle School Students who Smoked Cigarettes in the Past 30 Days, Baltimore City and Maryland; 2000, 2002, and 2006



Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Monitoring Changing Tobacco-use Behaviors in Maryland, November, 2007. On the internet at: <http://www.crf.state.md.us/html/stats.cfm> "During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?"

Cigar, cigarillo and little cigar smoking

Percentage of Middle School Students who Smoked Cigars, Cigarillos, or Little Cigars in the Past 30 Days; Baltimore City and Maryland; 2000, 2002, and 2006



Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Monitoring Changing Tobacco-use Behaviors in Maryland, November, 2007. On the internet at: <http://www.crf.state.md.us/html/stats.cfm> The Survey asked students, "During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars?"

- Cigar use in middle schoolers declined in Baltimore and Maryland in 2000-2002.
- While this decreasing trend continued statewide from 2002 to 2006, in Baltimore, reported use of cigar products among middle schoolers did not decrease from 2002 to 2006. This stands in contrast to the decrease observed for cigarette smoking in that time period.
- In 2006, cigar smoking prevalence was twice as high among surveyed Baltimore City middle school students compared to middle school students surveyed statewide.

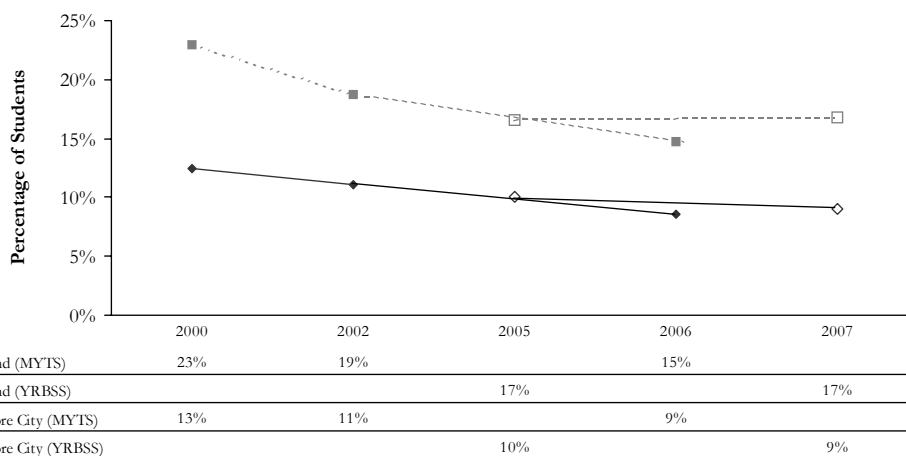
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High school students

Two surveys with similar methodologies assessed smoking trends among Baltimore City high school students: the Maryland Youth Tobacco Survey (MYTS) (administered in Baltimore City middle and high schools in 2000, 2002, and 2006) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Behavioral and Risk Factor Surveillance System (YRBSS) (administered in Baltimore City high schools in 2005 and 2007). We present here results from both since they yielded slightly different results, despite similar methodologies.

Cigarette smoking

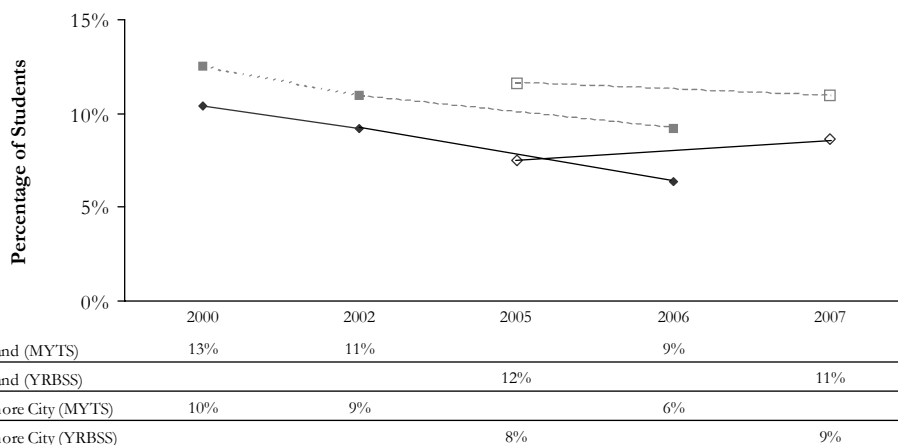
Percentage of High School Students who Smoked Cigarettes in the Past 30 Days, Baltimore City and Maryland, 2000-2007—CDC's Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (YRBSS) and the Maryland Youth Tobacco Survey (MYTS)



Source: MYTS - Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Monitoring Changing Tobacco-use Behaviors in Maryland, November, 2007. On the internet at: <http://www.crf.state.md.us/html/stats.cfm>. YRBSS - Centers for Disease Control. 2005 and 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbss/index.htm>. Accessed June 12th, 2008. See technical notes for a description of the YRBSS and MYTS data and methodology. Both surveys asked students: "During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?"

Cigar, cigarillo and little cigar smoking

Percentage of High School Students who Smoked Cigars, Cigarillos, or Little Cigars in the Past 30 Days, Baltimore City and Maryland; 2000-2007



Source: MYTS - Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Monitoring Changing Tobacco-use Behaviors in Maryland, November, 2007. On the internet at: <http://www.crf.state.md.us/html/stats.cfm>. YRBSS - Centers for Disease Control. 2005 and 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbss/index.htm>. Accessed June 12th, 2008. See technical notes for a description of the YRBSS and MYTS data and methodology. Both surveys asked students: "During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars?"

- The MYTS reports decreases in both cigarette and cigar smoking among high school students in Baltimore and statewide from 2000 to 2006. According to the MYTS, cigarette smoking prevalence among Baltimore high schoolers declined by approximately 30% from 2000 to 2006, and cigar smoking by 40%.
- In contrast, the YRBSS indicates that only cigarette use decreased from 2005 to 2007 while cigar use actually increased. This increase in cigar use in Baltimore was in contrast to the decrease reported by the YRBSS for the state as a whole.
- Both surveys reported that Baltimore high school students were less likely to smoke than students statewide. This stands in contrast to middle school students, who were more likely than Maryland students to report smoking. This may be due to the higher high school drop out rate in Baltimore and the fact that students who drop out may be more likely to smoke than students who remain in school.