



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

E-Bulletin

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2015 HAWAI'I YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS)

The Hawai'i State Department of Health, Department of Education, and University of Hawai'i recently released high school data from the *2015 Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Cross-Year Comparisons (YRBS)* for the state and all four counties. The YRBS is administered bi-annually to public, non-charter school students statewide, and monitors six types of health-risk behaviors: (1) tobacco use, (2) alcohol and other drug use, (3) sexual behaviors, (4) behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence, (5) unhealthy dietary behaviors, and (6) physical inactivity.



Findings from the 2015 survey suggest that Hawai'i's teens are making better choices as the prevalence of some health-risk behaviors has decreased in recent years or since the behavior was first monitored. For example:

- Less than 10% of high school students reported smoking cigarettes within the past month, compared to 28% in the early 1990s.
- A quarter of teens reported recent alcohol consumption, compared to 38% in 1993.
- About 15% of high school students had been in a physical fight in the past year, a steady decrease from 37% in the 1990s.
- About 13% of teens reported soda consumption, down from nearly 23% in 2007.

The report also points to areas that require attention. One area of concern is adolescent mental health. Nearly 30% of high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless almost daily at some point within the past year,

to the extent that it interfered with their usual activities. And while cigarette smoking has decreased, 25% of high school students reported using electronic vapor products in the past month.

The 2015 Hawai'i Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Cross-Year Comparisons (YRBS) may be downloaded from: https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/Health%20and%20Nutrition/2015_YRBS_HS-20160418.pdf

For information from the 2015 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS), such as methods, data, and documentation, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

DATA HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015 HAWAI'I YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

Findings from *Data Highlights from the 2015 Hawai'i Youth Tobacco Survey* further validate the concerns over the growing experimentation with electronic smoking devices. The survey is a module of the Hawai'i School Health Survey, also administered to public school students in grades 6 through 12 statewide in odd-number years.

The report, released by the state's Department of Health indicates that cigarette use among Hawai'i youth dropped between 2005 and 2015. Middle school use decreased from

5% to 3%, while high school use decreased from 13% to less than 8% during that period. However, the share of middle and high school students using e-cigarettes has increased. Middle school use jumped from just under 2% in 2011 to more than 12% in 2015. During the same period of time, use among high school students more than quadrupled, jumping from 5% to more than 22%.

Hawai'i follows national trends in tobacco product use. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently released the *National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)*, which similarly revealed that while cigarette use among American youth has decreased, the use of e-cigarettes has dramatically increased. Nationally, cigarette use by middle school students dropped from 4.3% to 2.3% between 2011 and 2015 and from 16% to 9% for high school students during the same period of time. Use of e-cigarettes by middle school students jumped from less than 1% in 2011 to more than 5% in 2015, and from just under 2% to almost 16% among high school students. Currently e-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco product among U.S. middle and high school students.

Results from *Data Highlights from the 2015 Hawai'i Youth Tobacco Survey* may be downloaded at: http://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/content/sites/hawaii/2015_HYTS_FINAL_June2016.pdf

Results from the *National Youth Tobacco Survey* may be read at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/pdfs/mm6514a1.pdf>

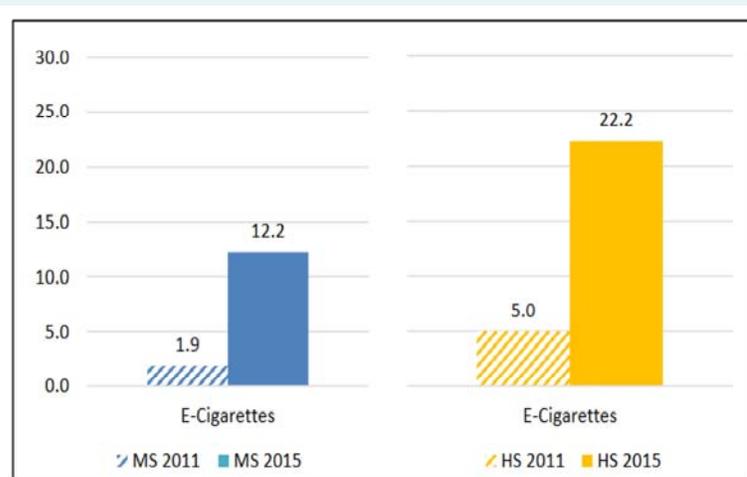


Figure 4: Ever Used *NEW* Tobacco Products – E-cigarettes (lifetime use), HYTS 2011 and 2015

CLASP EARLY HEAD START BY THE NUMBERS PROFILE

Each year the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) releases its annual *Early Head Start (EHS) by the Numbers* profiles, which provide data on EHS participants, families, staff and programs for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, using data from the grantees' program reports.



The Early Head Start Program was established in 1994 to offer low-income 3- and 4-year-old children and their families comprehensive early education and support services, including education that address cognitive, developmental and socio-emotional needs; medical and dental screenings/referrals; mental health services; nutritional services; and social service referrals for the entire family.

Hawai'i's 2014 profile (the most current data available) shows that:

- Two-thirds (66%) of program participants received home-based services, compared to 46% nationwide; another third received center-based services, compared to 49% nationally.
- English is the primary language spoken at home for 67% of Hawai'i participants, compared to 73% nationally.
- The good majority (85%) of enrolled children received medical screening, with 12% of those receiving follow up treatment.
- Nearly a fifth (17%) of children had a disability, with 48% of those diagnosed during the program year.
- Most pregnant women (87%) enrolled in EHS received prenatal health care, however this was slightly lower than the national rate (94%).

The profile also provides data on EHS staff. For example:

- A majority (52%) of EHS staff have a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, compared to 36% nationally.
- The share of staff that have a Bachelor's Degree is similar at the state and national levels, 21% and 26% respectively.
- The average teacher salary is \$32,529, while the average home visitor salary is slightly less at \$31,706.

For the EHS Hawai'i profile, visit: <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/states/early-head-start-2014/HI-EHS2014.pdf>

2016 CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUMMIT

The Hawai'i State Legislature's Keiki Caucus will be hosting its 23rd Annual Children and Youth Summit, *Growing Our Future/Going Back to Our Roots*, on Friday, October 7th at the State Capitol.

Each year, the summit brings together hundreds of students, advocates, professionals, parents, and policymakers to discuss critical issues that are affecting Hawai'i's children, youth and their families. By the end of the day, participants will have viable policy recommendations that the Keiki Caucus can use to draft and introduce legislation during the 2017 session.



For more information, or to participate in this year's summit, please contact Judith Clark from Hawai'i Youth Services Network at 489-9549 or jclark@hysn.org.



Hurry. The registration deadline is September 23rd.

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