



Youth Tobacco Survey Results for 2022

Profile Report: State of Nebraska (bosr.unl.edu/SHARP)



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

Administered by:
Bureau of Sociological Research
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The YTS is one component of the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System, an ongoing program that monitors the health and wellness of Nebraska's youth. SHARP is completed in collaboration with DHHS, the Department of Education, and UNL.

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Introduction

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States.¹ Nearly all tobacco use begins during youth and young adulthood. Cigarette smoking by young people has immediate adverse health consequences and accelerates the development of chronic diseases across a person's lifespan. To ensure a continued positive public health impact, it is important to monitor and evaluate youth tobacco use.

Nebraska DHHS, Department of Education, and UNL thank the schools, teachers, and students who participated in the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS).

Background

The purpose of the Nebraska High School Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is to better understand youth tobacco use by using representative samples of public high schools in the state. The YTS collects detailed information regarding the quantity and frequency of tobacco use by adolescents. It also measures knowledge, perceptions and attitudes on health risks associated with tobacco use; indicators of the impact of media and advertising; enforcement of minors' access; regulations and laws; cessation and exposure to secondhand smoke. For more detail on terms and tobacco products included in the report, please see Appendix A.

The Nebraska High School Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) was conducted in 2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2022. This report presents results from the 2022 survey. In previous years the YTS was conducted in the fall of even numbered years and reported the following year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 administration was postponed to 2021, leaving a three-year gap. All future administrations take place during the fall of odd calendar years (i.e., every two years).

Sample Design and Response Rates

A two-stage cluster sample design (see below) was used to produce a representative sample of students in each grade in the sample (2022). In the first stage, a random sample of public high schools was selected with probability proportionate to school enrollment. This method results in schools with a larger student population having a greater probability of being selected. Schools were then invited to participate.

In the second stage, within each of the participating schools, a random sample of classrooms was selected and all students in those classes were selected for participation. Class Level – The second sampling stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling (with a random start) of classes from each school that participated in the survey. All classes in the selected schools were included in the second-stage sampling frame. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey.

In 2022, a total of 17 out of 60 sampled schools participated (28.3%), with 548 of 696 sampled students completing the survey questionnaires (78.7%). The 696 sample includes the number of students enrolled in eligible classrooms, present or absent the day of the survey. This was a reduction in the school participation rate but a slight increase in the student response rate (Table 1). The SHARP team is planning strategies for the next survey administration to improve the participation and response. During the project design, the CDC specified a method of calculating an overall response rate by multiplying the two percentages together

instead of using an arithmetic mean to represent the response rate. Using the CDC recommended approach, overall response rate was 22.3% (28.3% x 78.7%=22.3%).

Table 1. 2017-2022 Participation Rates

Data Year	Sampled Schools	Participating Schools	School Participation Rate	Sampled Students	Participating Students	Student Response Rate	Overall Response Rate
2017	60	47	78.3%	2,879	2,329	80.9%	63.4%
2019	60	40	66.7%	2,464	1,846	74.9%	50.0%
2022	60	17	28.3%	696	548	78.7%	22.3%

Ensuring Demographic Representativeness

To ensure the results are representative and generalizable to all high school students from Nebraska’s public schools, the data was weighted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR). Weighting of results is a strategy that compares the Nebraska school population to the characteristics of the respondents and adjusts how much each respondent contributes to the final result to ensure certain populations of students are not over or underrepresented in the results.

Table 2. Demographic Characteristics of Participants (2022)

Demographic Characteristic	Group	Number of Participants	Unweighted Percent ¹	Weighted Percent ¹
Age	14 and under	69	12.6%	11.5%
	15	156	28.5%	23.3%
	16	131	23.9%	25.6%
	17	120	21.9%	25.3%
	18 and older	72	13.1%	14.2%
	Missing	0		
Gender	Female	274	50.1%	48.4%
	Male	273	49.9%	51.6%
	Missing	1		
Grade	9 th	112	20.7%	17.7%
	10 th	192	35.4%	31.7%
	11 th	89	16.4%	20.2%
	12 th	149	27.5%	30.4%
	Missing	6		
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino	79	14.5%	20.7%
	Not Hispanic or Latino	464	85.5%	79.3%
	Missing	5		
Race	White, Non-Hispanic ²	417	76.1%	64.9%
	White, Hispanic or Non-Hispanic ³	443	80.8%	72.2%
	Other ⁴	105	19.2%	27.8%

Physical or Mental Disability	Students with a Disability	113	22.6%	25.7%
	Students without a Disability	386	77.4%	74.3%
	Missing	49		

¹ "Unweighted Percent" and "Weighted Percent" exclude missing.

² "White, Non-Hispanic" indicates that the respondent selected "White" for race, and selected "Non-Hispanic" for ethnicity.

³ "White, Hispanic or Non-Hispanic" indicates that the respondent selected "White" for race, and can be of any ethnicity.

⁴ "Other" includes those who selected multiple races, or any one of the following categories: "American Indian or Alaska Native," "Asian," "Black or African American," "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," or "Other."

Note: In order to present valid and reliable data some categories were combined. This increases the number of respondents in that category. Additional race and ethnicity data may be available from TFN.

In previous administrations of the survey, the data were weighted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) if the overall response rate was 60.0% or higher using their method for calculating the average response rate. For 2022, the data were weighted by the BOSR at a 22.3% overall response rate. As a result, trend findings should be approached with some caution as the results may be less representative and generalizable than previous survey administrations.

Weighted results can be used to make inferences concerning prevalence of tobacco product use, associated risk behaviors of public school students (grades 9 - 12) in Nebraska, and are used throughout this report. The table above shows how the responding students (unweighted percent) have been adjusted to improve representativeness (weighted percent).

Executive Summary

Results from the 2022 Nebraska Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) show continued progress in reducing tobacco use and in improving tobacco-related environments for Nebraska youth.

The following is a summary of the findings from the Nebraska YTS 2022.

Many of the topics covered on the YTS have seen improvement in the seven-year span from 2015 through 2022. Some of the areas showing the greatest improvement include the proportion of students who have ever used cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, and exposure to secondhand smoke in home (Table 3).

Table 3. Select Favorable Trends among Nebraska High School Students, 2015-2022

	2015	2017	2019	2022
Ever smoked a cigarette	29.0%	24.0%	17.2%	18.3%
Currently use cigarettes	9.0%	7.0%	6.1%	2.7%
Ever used cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars	21.0%	16.0%	13.8%	7.8%
Currently use cigar, cigarillo, or little cigar	7.0%	6.0%	4.0%	3.2%
Ever used smokeless tobacco	13.0%	12.0%	7.3%	5.4%
Currently use smokeless tobacco	6.0%	5.0%	3.3%	3.0%
Ever used a hookah	10.0%	8.0%	6.0%	NA ¹
One or more friends use smokeless tobacco	20.0%	17.0%	16.7%	NA ¹
Agree that young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends	14.0%	13.0%	11.1%	21.7%
Exposure to secondhand smoke in home	19.0%	20.0%	15.8%	15.1%
¹ In 2022 the questions "Have you ever tried smoking tobacco in a hookah or water pipe, even one or two puffs?" and "How many of your four closest friends use chewing tobacco, snuff or dip ?" were not asked.				

In addition to the topics noted above, many measures remained consistent over time, while some unfavorable trends are also reported. One particularly noteworthy finding is that the percentages of both those who had ever used or currently use e-cigarettes slightly decreased since the 2019 administration, but increased overall since 2015. The percentage reported in 2022 of students having ever smoked an e-cigarette has almost doubled since 2015 (Table 4).

Male students were generally more likely than their female counterparts to be past and/or current users of tobacco products. They were more likely to consider secondhand smoking harmful and less likely to hold the perception that young people who smoke, compared to non-smokers, have more friends. Female students, on the other hand, were more likely to disapprove of smoking in homes, consider secondhand aerosol harmful, and to agree with the statement "all tobacco products are dangerous." However, the 2022 YTS data also revealed that compared to male students, a higher percentage of female students had ever smoked a cigarette or e-cigarette. In addition, females demonstrated greater curiosity about cigarette smoking and showed a higher susceptibility to try e-cigarettes.

For tobacco product prevalence, in most cases, the trend was curve-shaped that increased from the 9th grade and usually peaked at grade 10 or 11, and declined in the 12th grade. Linear trends were also present:

an increasing percentage of current e-cigarette smoking among high school students was reported as grade levels increase.

Trend Alert

Trend data shows that cigarette use has seen a meaningful decrease. The percentage of students having ever smoked a cigarette declined from 29.0% in 2015 to 18.3% in 2022. Similarly, students currently using cigarettes also decreased from 9.0% in 2015 to 2.7% in 2022 (Table 3).

Conversely, e-cigarette use has seen a dramatic increase since 2015. In 2015, 19.0% of students reported having ever used an e-cigarette compared to 30.0% in 2022 (Figure 33). Current e-cigarette use more than doubled from 9.0% in 2017 to 22.6% in 2019 before a slight decrease to 14.1% in 2022 (Figure 35).

Table 4. Select E-Cigarette Trends among Nebraska High Students, 2015-2022

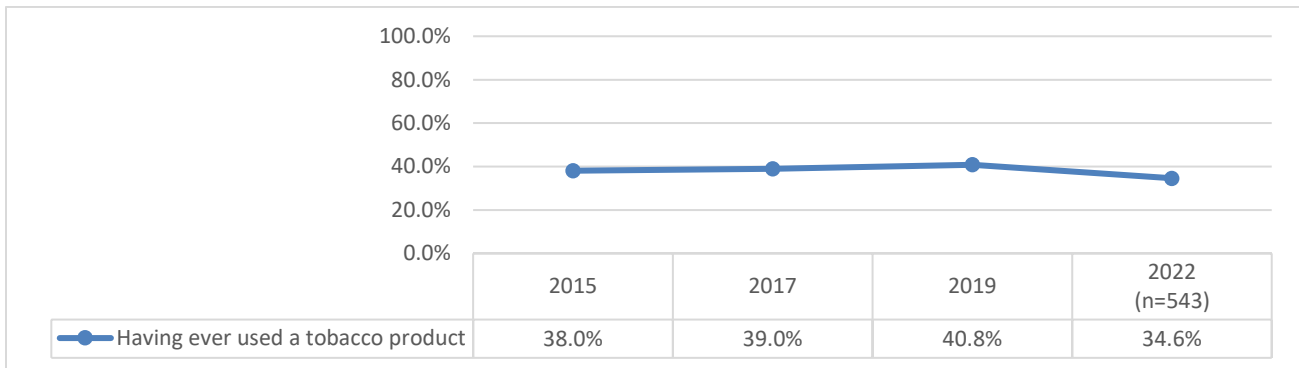
	2015	2017	2019	2022
Ever smoked an e-cigarette	19.0%	26.0%	37.1%	30.0%
Currently use e-cigarettes	9.0%	9.0%	22.6%	14.1%
Having ever used a tobacco product	38.0%	39.0%	40.8%	34.6%
Currently using a tobacco product	20.0%	18.0%	24.6%	14.9%
Percentage of students whose first tobacco product tried was an e-cigarette	19.0%	14.0%	58.9%	18.8%
¹ Prior to 2015 the question "Of the following tobacco products, what was the FIRST ONE you tried?" was not asked.				

Use of Any Tobacco Product

The prevalence rate for “ever used” includes use of combustible cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos (little cigars), smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, hookahs, roll-your-own cigarettes, pipes filled with tobacco (not water pipes), snus, dissolvable tobacco, and bidis. The prevalence rate for “current use” includes combustible cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos (little cigars), smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and hookahs.

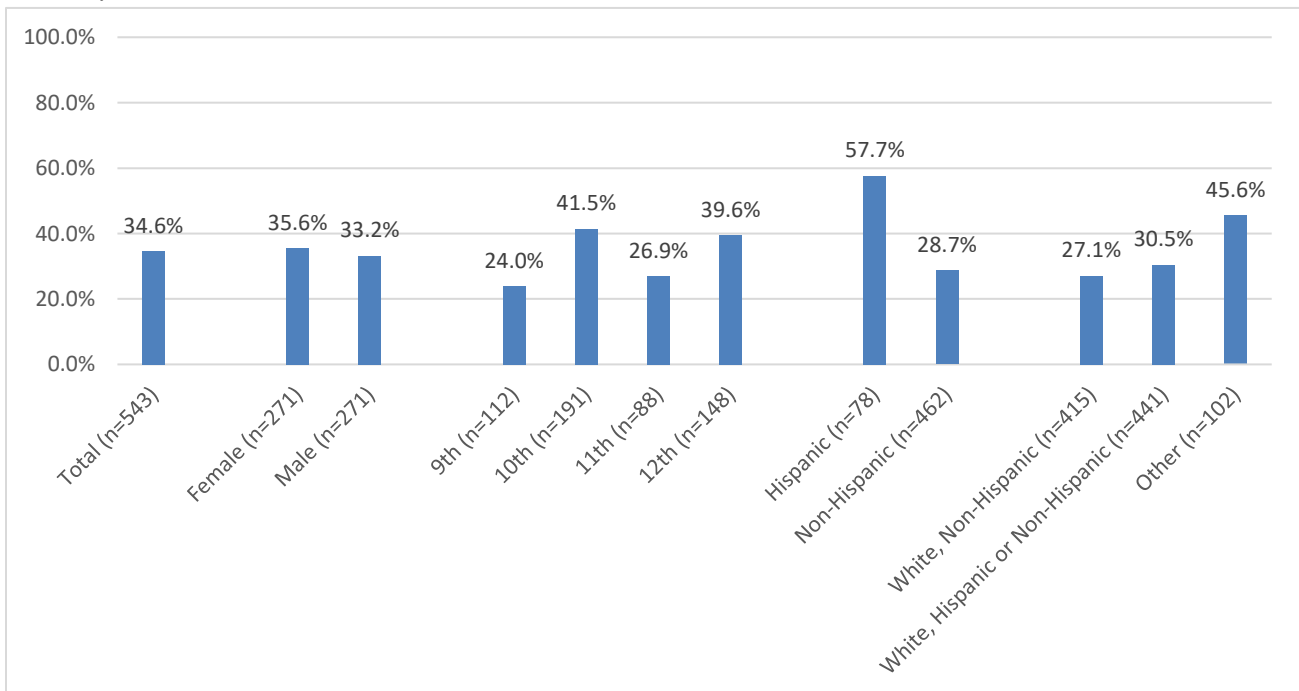
- The percentage of students who reported having ever used any tobacco product in their lifetime decreased slightly from 2015 to 2022 (Figure 1), with about one of every three students reporting “yes” to at least one product in 2022.

Figure 1: Percentage of Students Having Ever Used a Tobacco Product in Their Lifetime, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



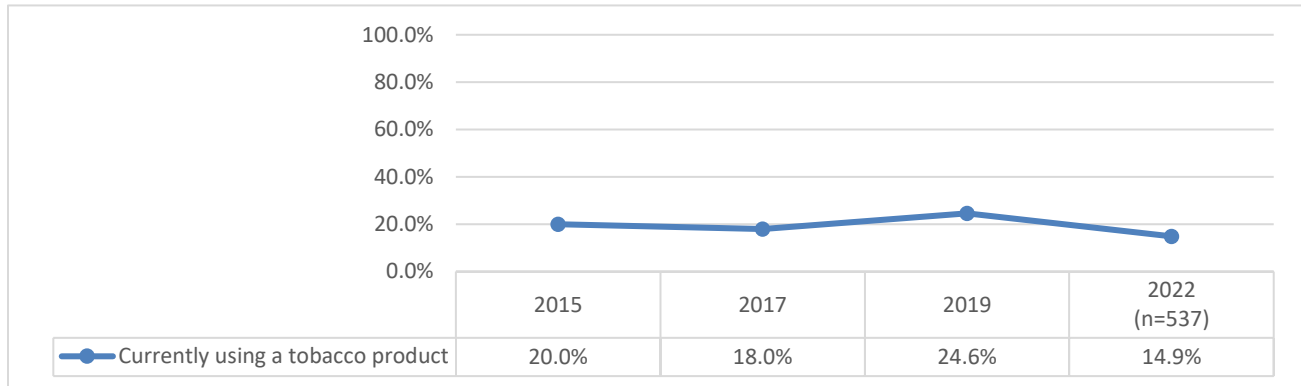
- In 2022, larger variations were found regarding the proportion of students reporting lifetime tobacco use between ethnicities than compared to any other demographic (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Percentage of Students Having Ever Used a Tobacco Product in their Lifetime by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



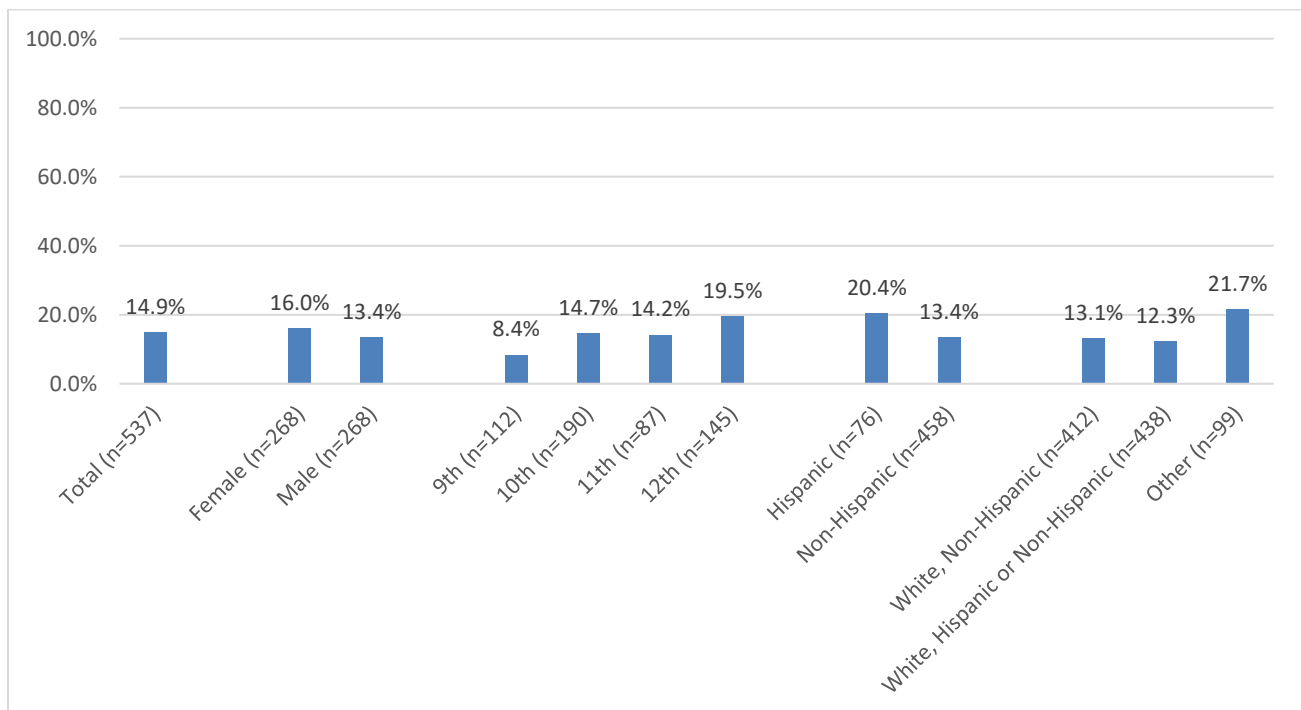
- Figure 3 shows that after an increase of about 6.0% from 2017 to 2019, a decreased percentage of students were currently using a tobacco product in 2022 (14.9%).

Figure 3: Percentage of Students Currently Using a Tobacco Product, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



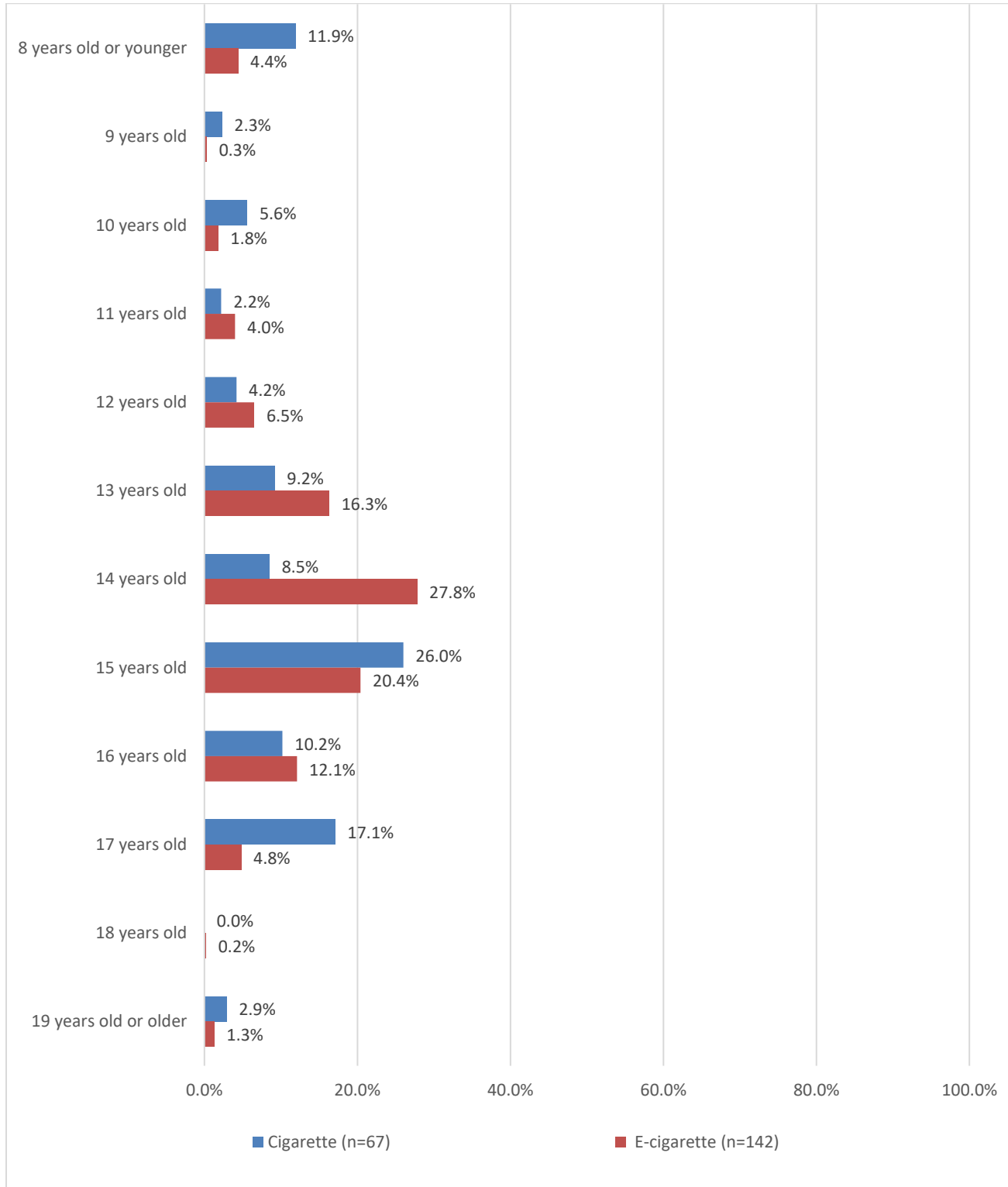
- Female students (16.0%) were more likely to report current tobacco use than males (13.4%, Figure 4).
- Students in higher grade levels were markedly more likely to be current tobacco users as opposed to 9th graders.

Figure 4: Percentage of Students Currently Using a Tobacco Product by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



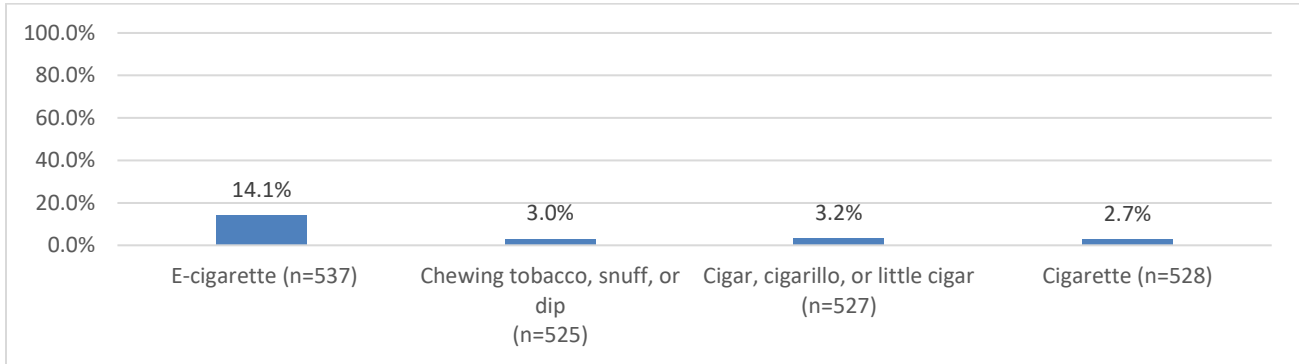
- As seen in Figure 5, over one quarter of students (26.0%) reported starting smoking cigarettes at the age of 15, and larger a proportion tried e-cigarettes during middle adolescence (27.8%).

Figure 5: Age of First Tobacco Use, Among Students who used That Product, Nebraska YTS 2022



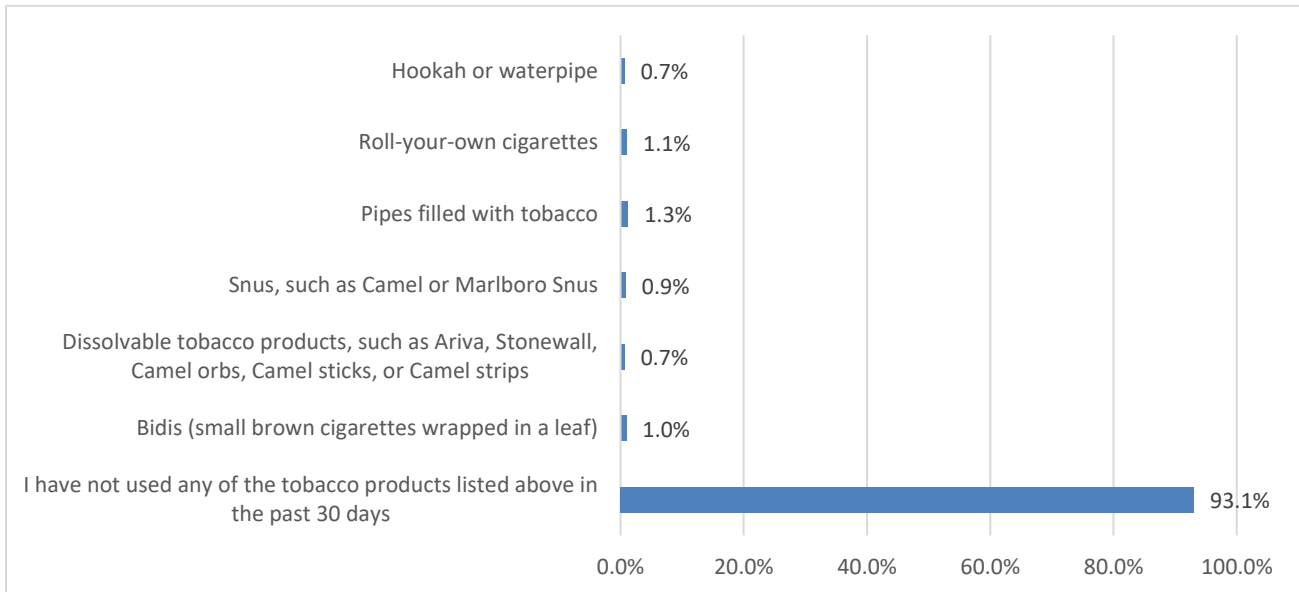
- Over one-tenth (14.1%) of students reported using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days prior to the survey, whereas a small proportion of students reported using other tobacco products such as smokeless tobacco (3.0%), cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars (3.2%), or cigarettes (2.7%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Percentage of Students who Reported Using Each Type of Tobacco Product in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022



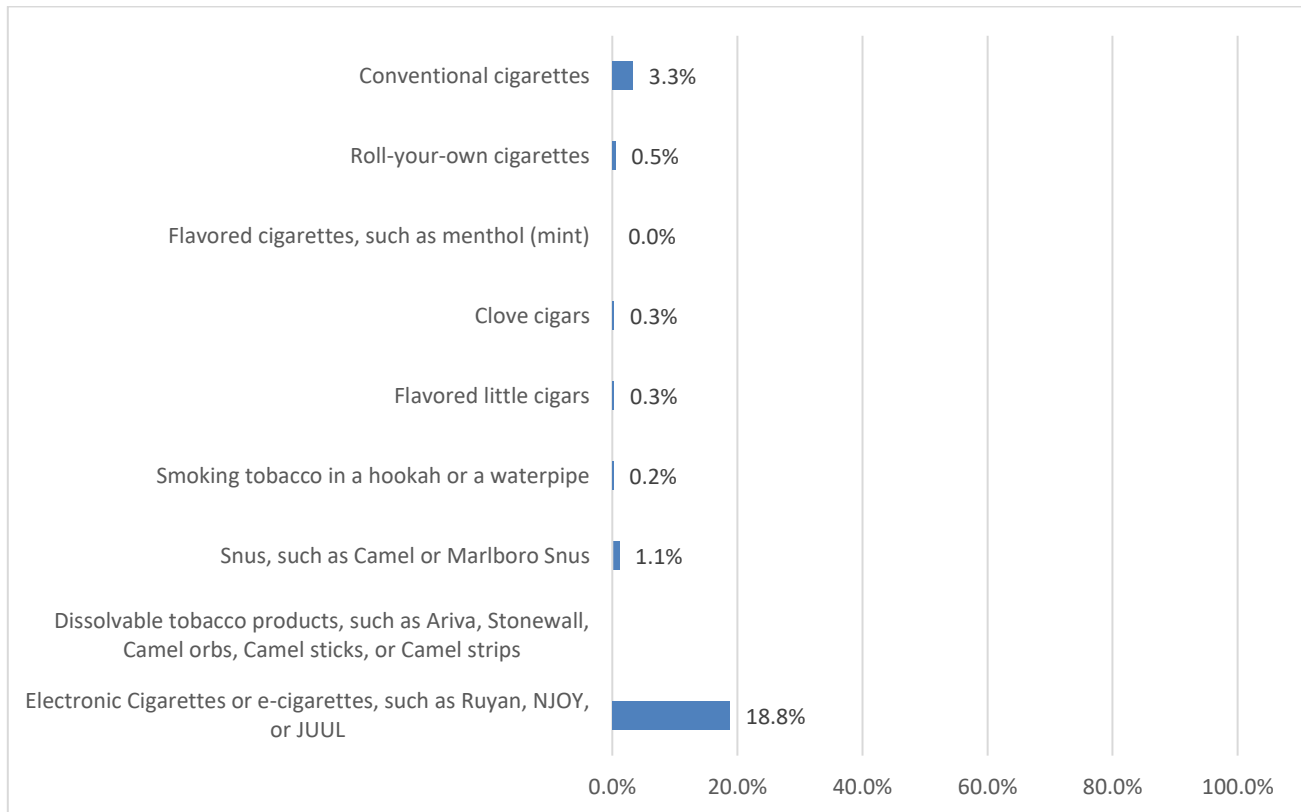
- As seen in Figure 7, among students currently using any tobacco products, pipes filled with tobacco were used most frequently (1.3%).

Figure 7: Percentage of Students who Reported Using Other Types of Tobacco Product in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



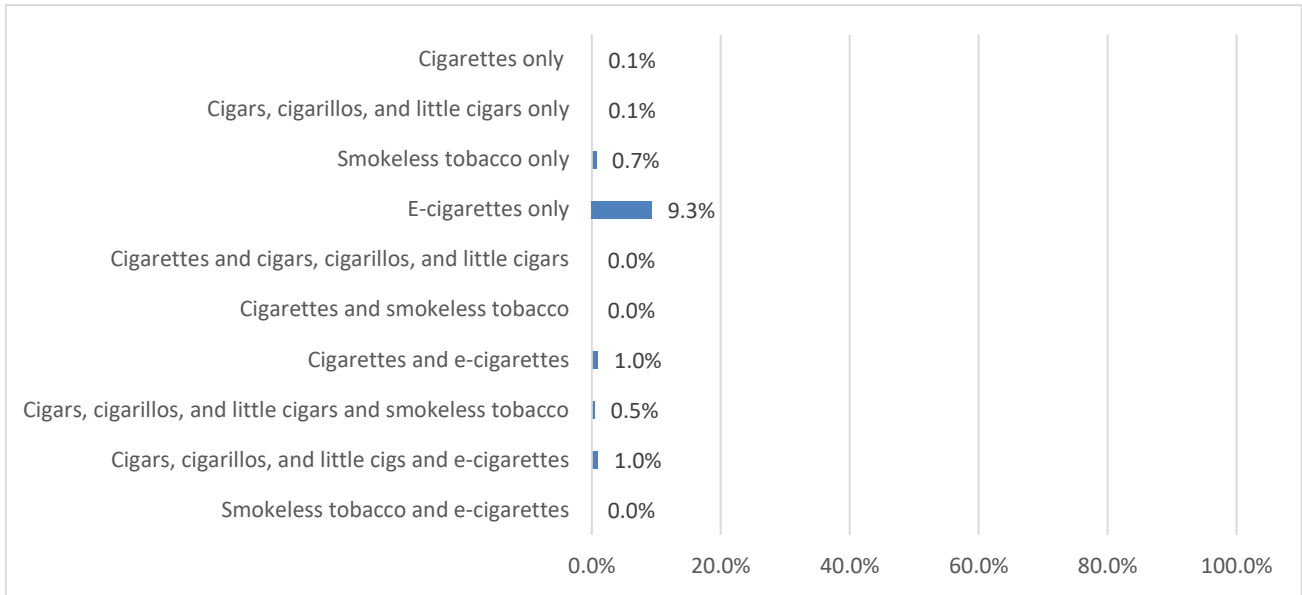
- Among students who had ever tried a tobacco product, almost one-fifth (18.8%) first tried e-cigarettes, followed by 3.3% reporting conventional cigarettes (Figure 8).

Figure 8: First Tobacco Product Tried, Among Students who Reported Having Ever Tried a Tobacco Product, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=523)



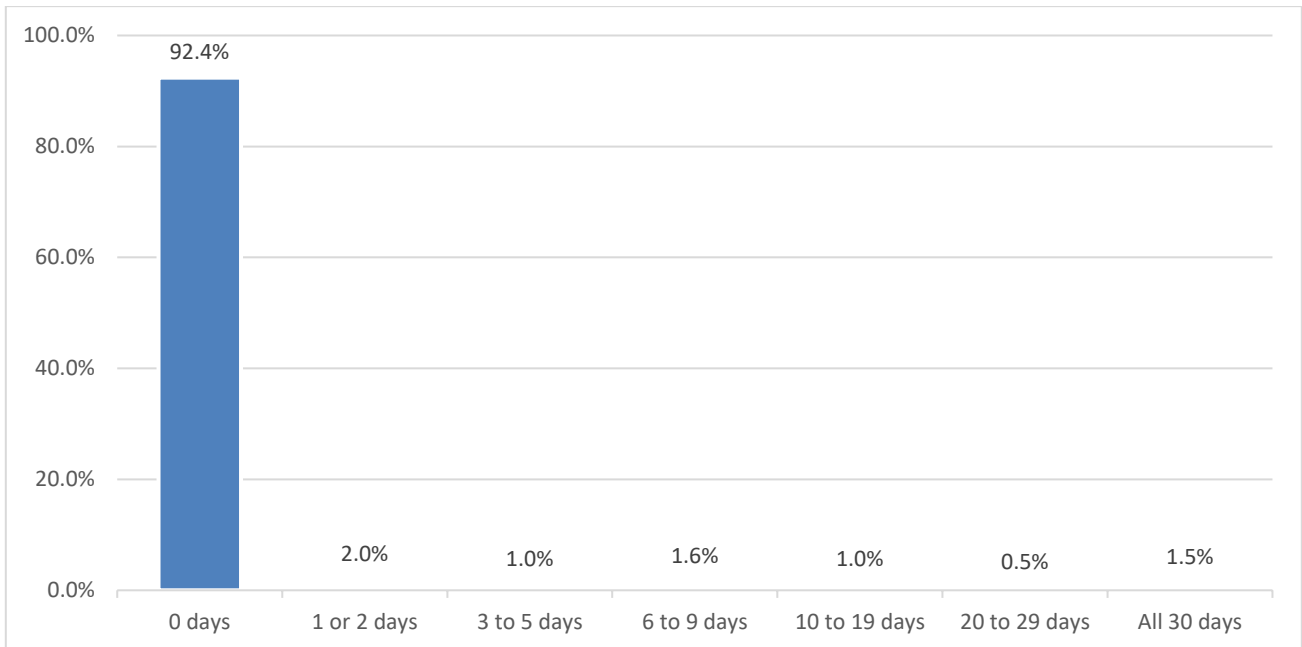
- The majority of students (9.3%) who reported current tobacco use of only one tobacco product used e-cigarettes only, whereas cigarettes only (0.1%) and cigars, cigarillos, and little cigars only (0.1%) were used the least.
- As seen in Figure 9, among students currently using any two tobacco products, cigarettes and e-cigarettes were used together most frequently (1.0%).

Figure 9: Tobacco Products Used Alone or Together, Among Students who Reported Current Tobacco Use, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



- Figure 10 shows that students who used tobacco most commonly reported using tobacco products one or two days in the past 30 days (2.0%).

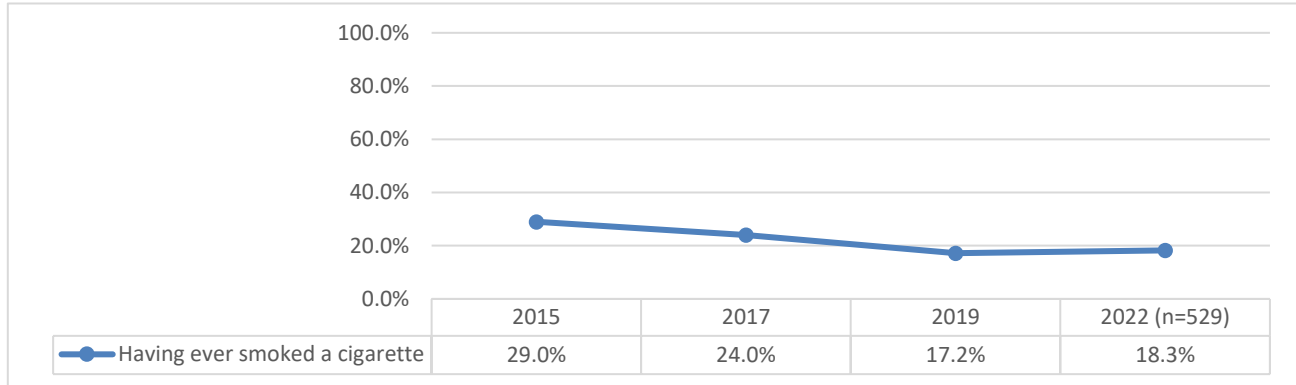
Figure 10: Percentage of Students Reporting on How Many Days They Had Used Tobacco Products in Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=524)



Combustible Cigarettes

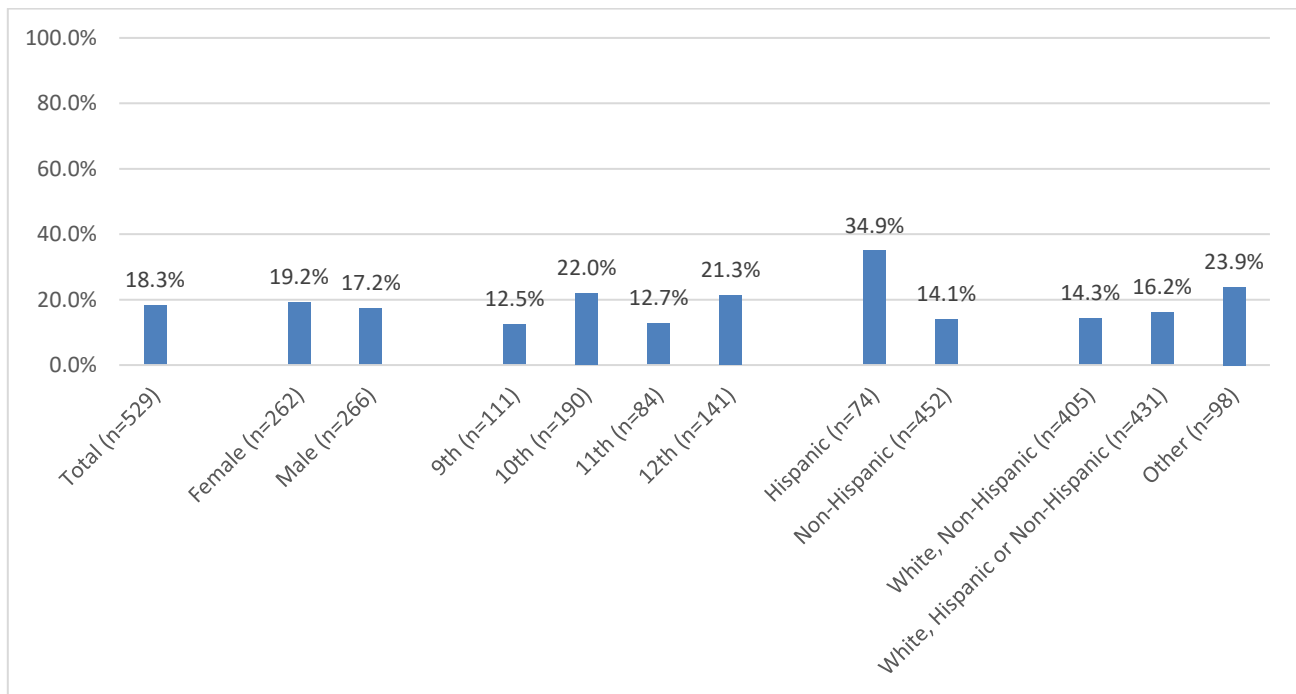
- Over the period from 2015 to 2022 (Figure 11), the percentage of students having ever smoked a cigarette decreased, reaching 18.3% in 2022.

Figure 11: Percentage of Students Having Ever Smoked a Cigarette, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



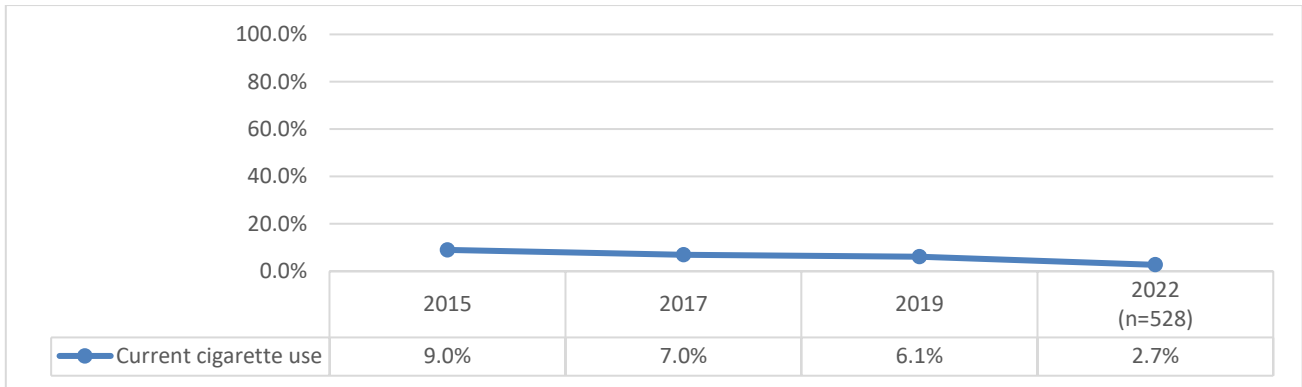
- Overall, students reporting lifetime use of cigarettes fluctuated as they progressed through grades. Figure 12 shows that 10th and 12th graders reported a noticeably higher rate of lifetime cigarette use (22.0% and 21.3%) than 9th and 11th graders (12.5% and 12.7%).
- Hispanic students reported a higher rate of lifetime cigarette use (34.9%) than their non-Hispanic counterparts (14.1%).

Figure 12: Percentage of Students Having Ever Smoked a Cigarette by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



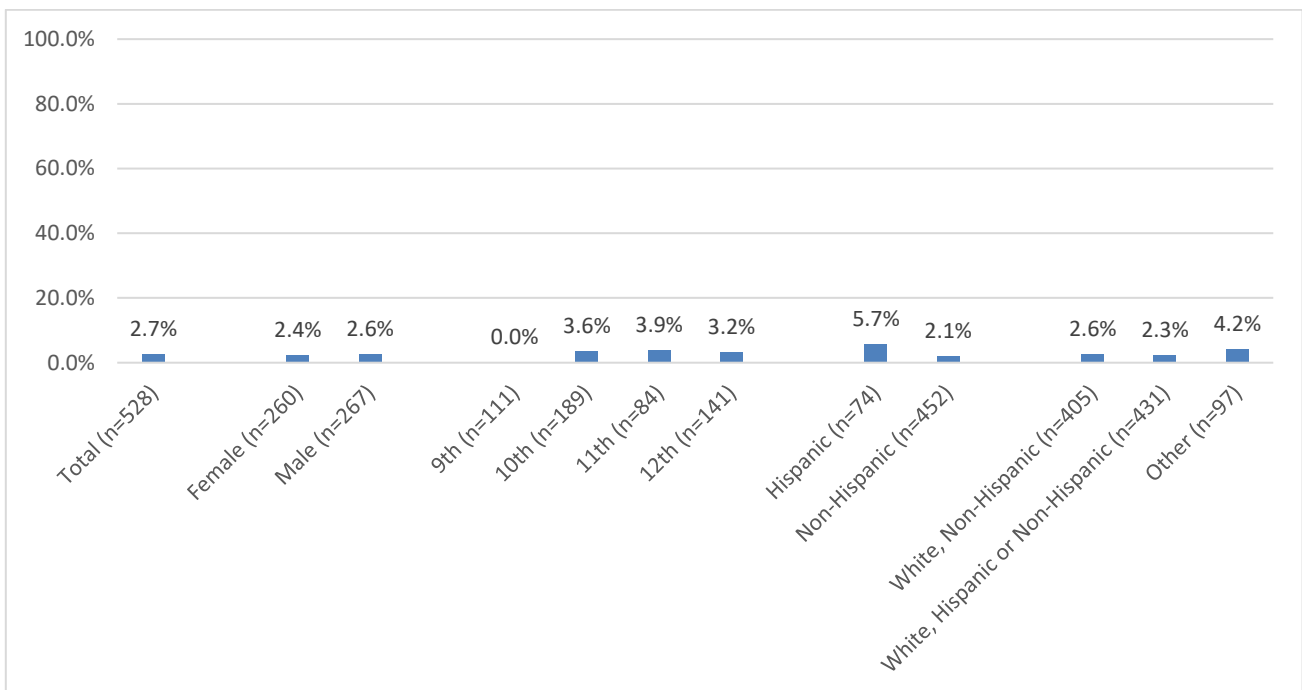
- As seen in Figure 13, from 2015 to 2022, there was a decline in the percentage of students reporting current cigarette use, reaching 2.7% in 2022.

Figure 13: Percentage of Students Reporting Current Cigarette Use, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



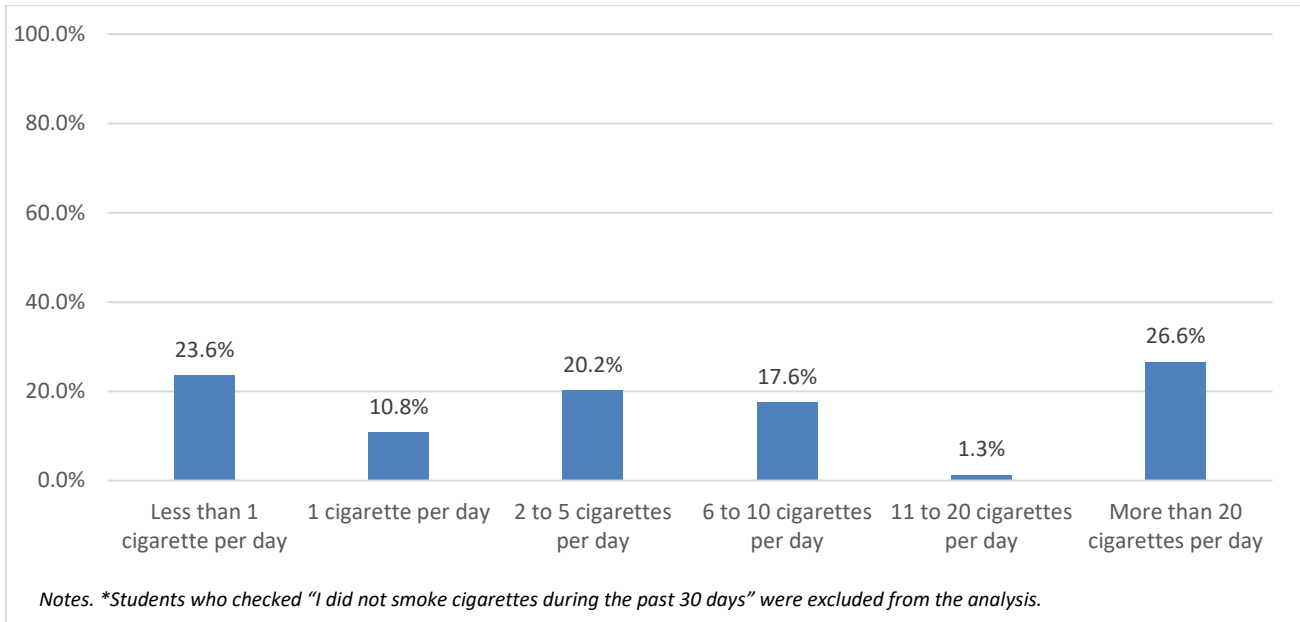
- Hispanic students were over twice as likely to report cigarette smoking in the past 30 days (5.7%) as non-Hispanic students (2.1%).
- There were no large differences observed by gender, grade, or race (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Percentage of Students Reporting Current Cigarette Use by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



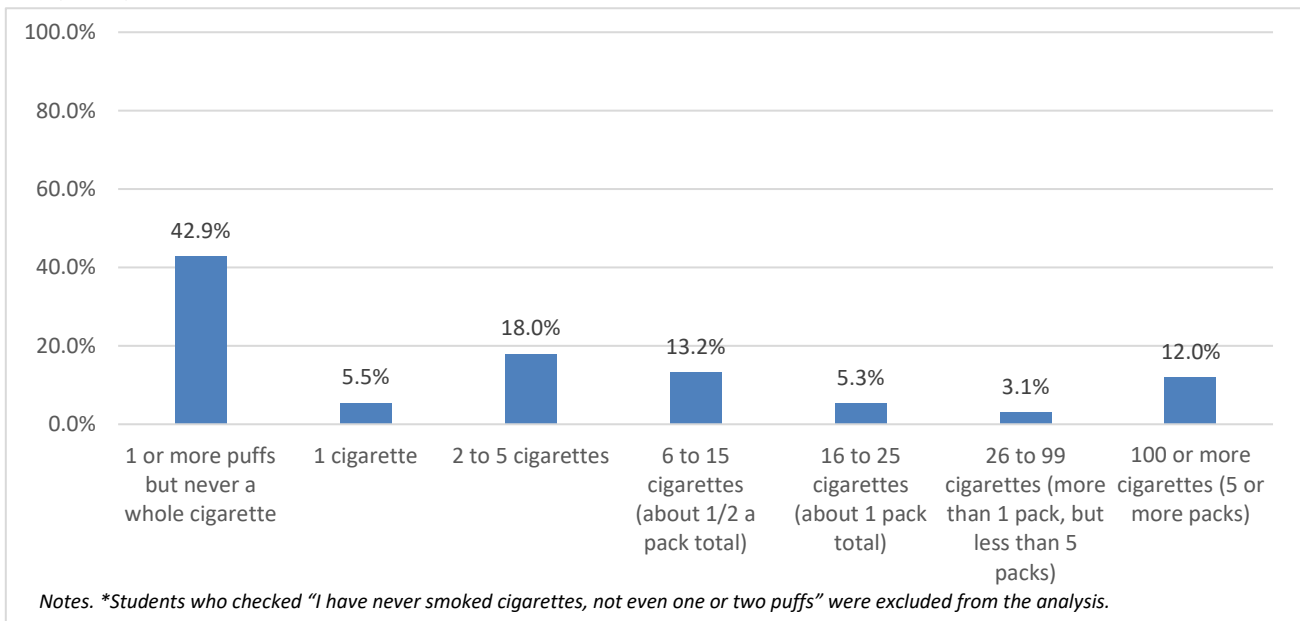
- As seen in Figure 15, just over half of students (54.6%) reported consuming zero to five cigarettes per day during the past 30 days preceding the survey. Percentages of higher cigarette per day use were mostly smaller.

Figure 15: Number of Cigarettes Smoked per Day During the Past 30 Days*, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=18)



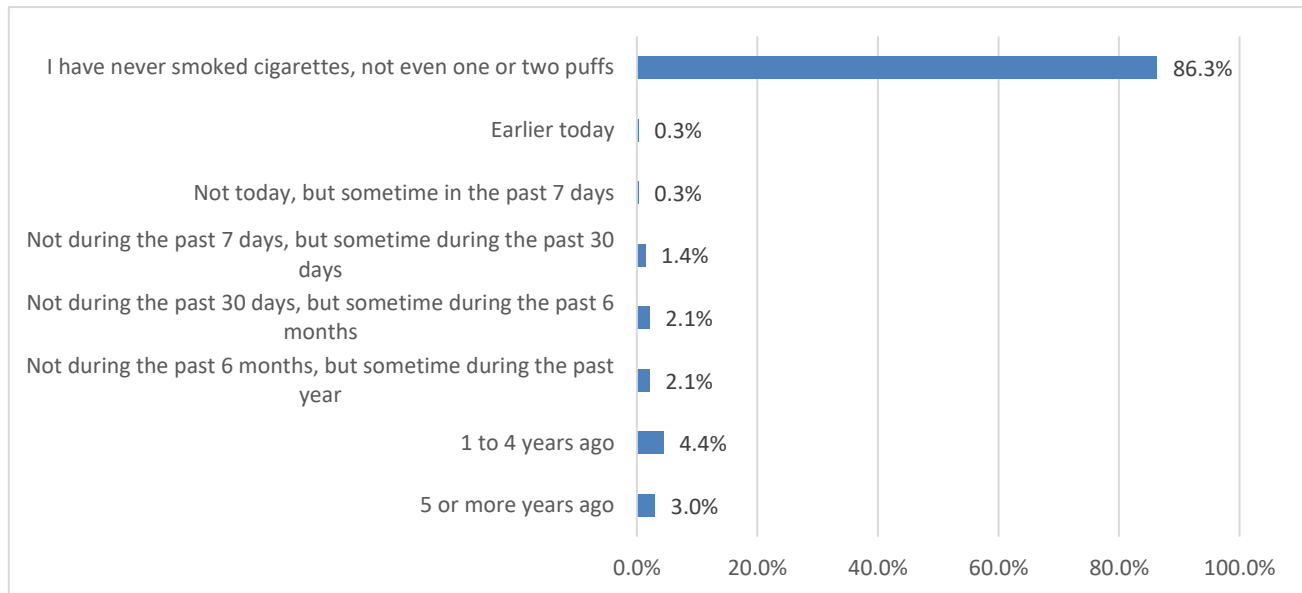
- Almost half of the students (42.9%) who have ever smoked in their lifetime reported smoking one or more puffs, but never a whole cigarette (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Number of Cigarettes Smoked in Entire Life Among Those Who Reported Ever Smoking, Nebraska YTS (n=62)



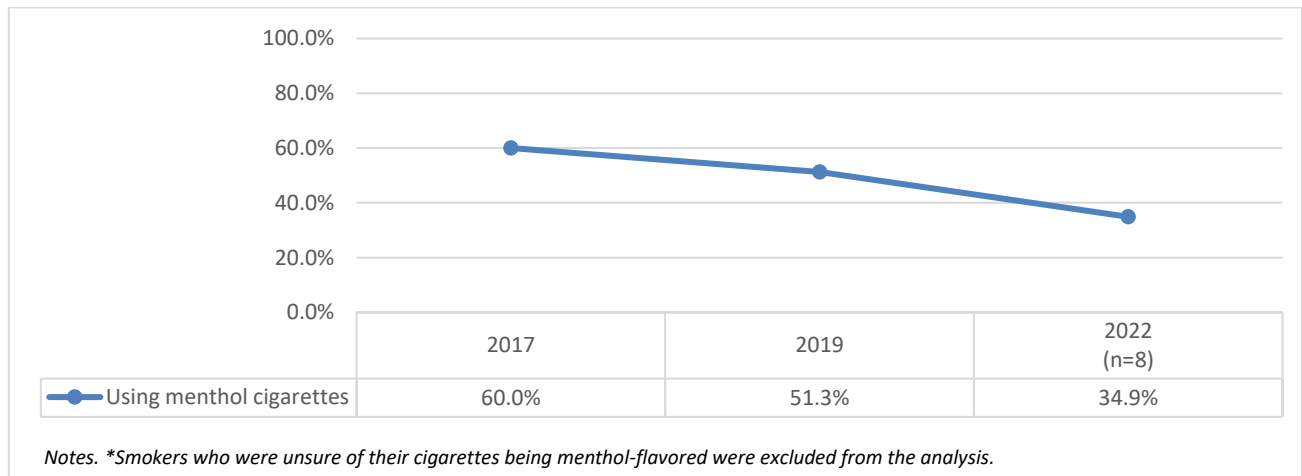
- As seen in Figure 17, students most commonly reported last using cigarettes 1 to 4 years ago (4.4%).

Figure 17: Percentage of Students Reporting their Last Time Using Cigarettes, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=528)



- As displayed in Figure 18, over the three YTS administrations displayed in this figure, the percentage of current smokers using menthol cigarettes peaked in 2017 (60.0%) and went down to 34.9% in 2022. It should be noted that smokers who were unsure of their cigarettes being menthol-flavored were excluded from the analysis.

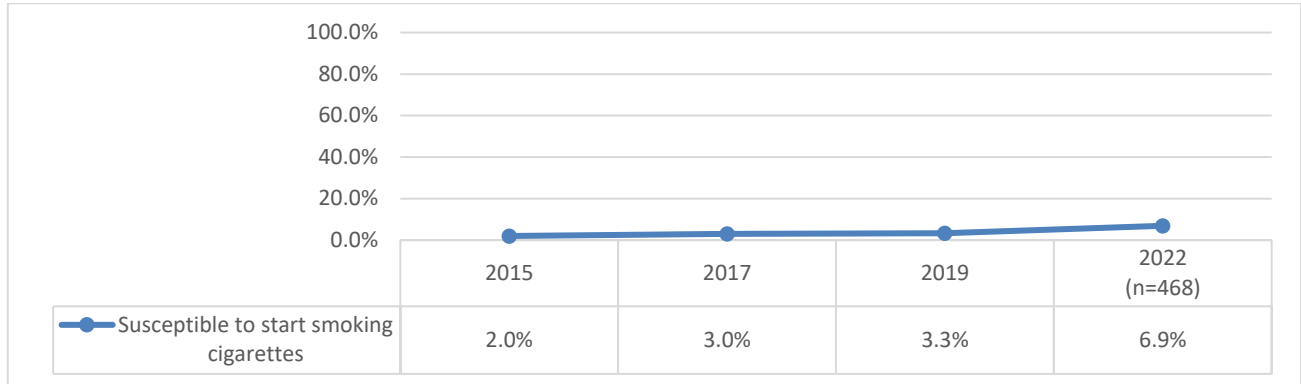
Figure 18: Percentage of Students Reporting Using Menthol Cigarettes, Among Those who Reported Smoking Cigarettes in the Past 30 Days*, Nebraska YTS 2017-2022



- To assess susceptibility, students were asked if they would try a cigarette soon, would try a cigarette in the next year, or would smoke a cigarette if offered by a friend (Figure 19 and 20).

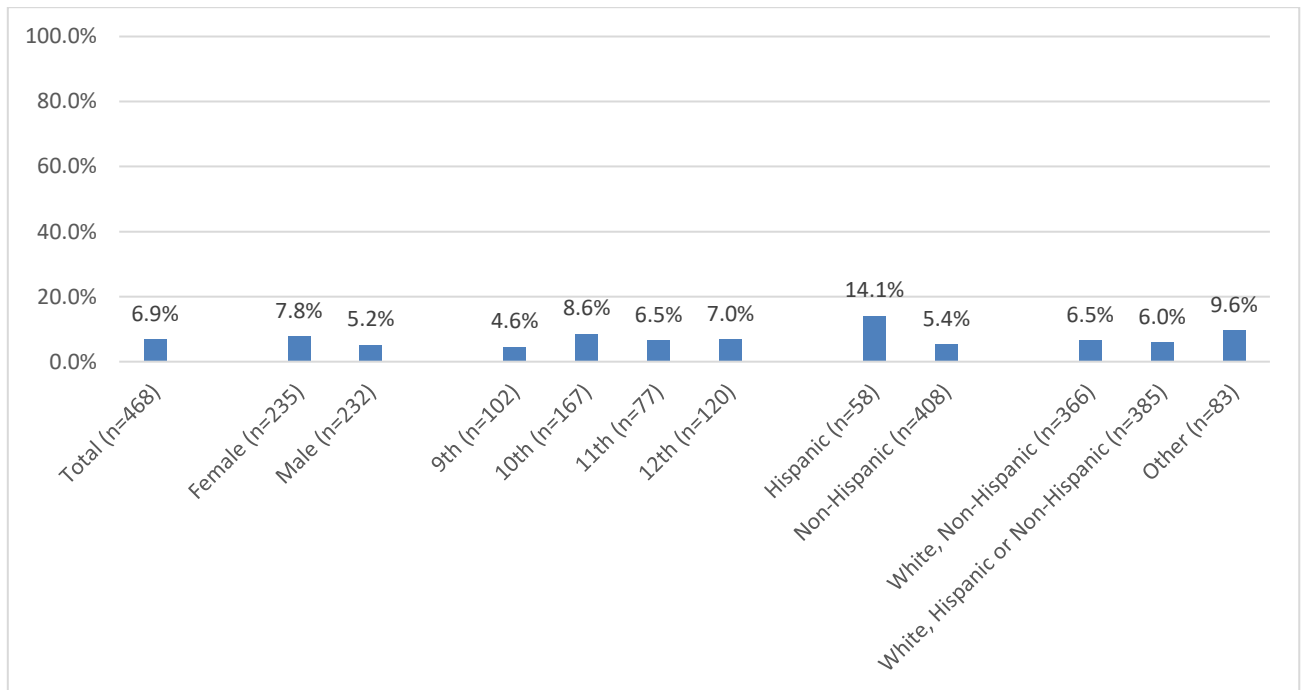
- As seen in Figure 19, in 2022, among students reporting that they had never smoked a cigarette in their life, 6.9% were susceptible to start smoking.

Figure 19: Percentage of Students Susceptible to Start Smoking Cigarettes, Among Those who Reported Never Smoking a Cigarette in Their Lifetime, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



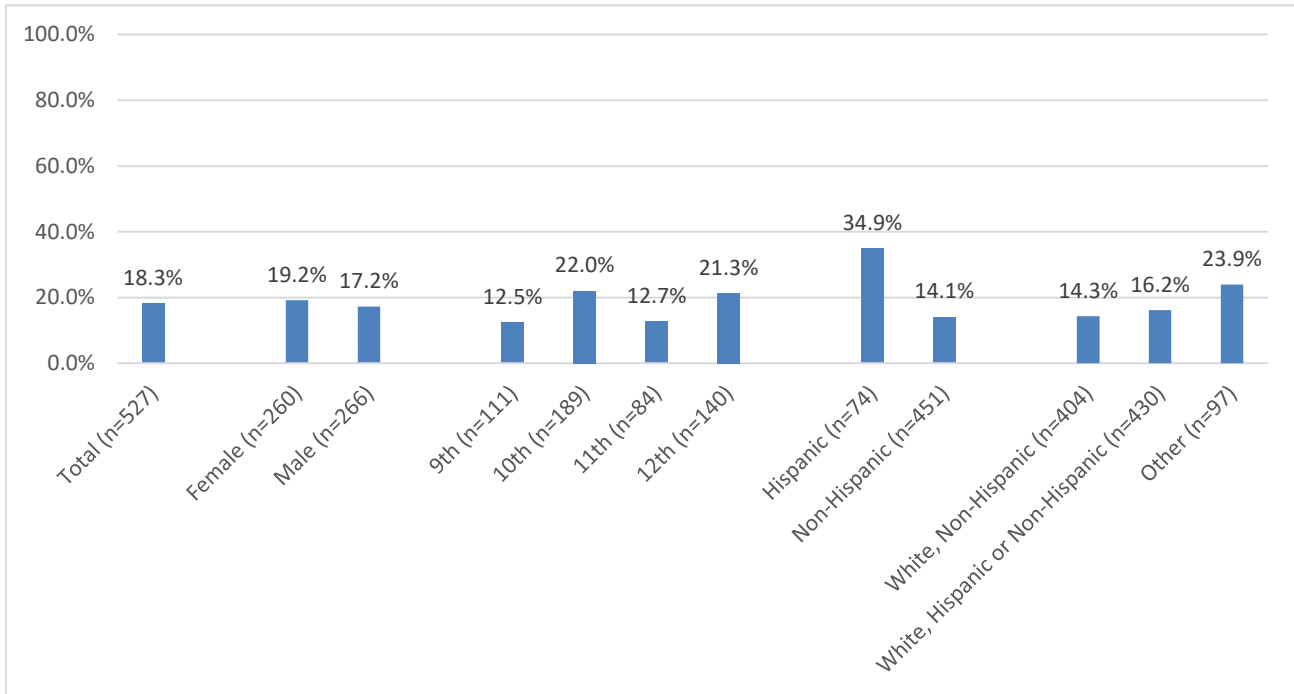
- Among students who reported having never smoked a cigarette, female students (7.8%) were slightly more likely than male students (5.2%) to start smoking.
- Compared to students in other grades, 10th graders reported higher odds of starting such behavior (8.6%, Figure 20).

Figure 20: Percentage of Students Susceptible to Start Smoking Cigarettes, Among Those who Reported Never Smoking a Cigarette in Their Lifetime by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



- Figure 21 indicated that among all respondents, female students (19.2%) showed slightly more curiosity about smoking a cigarette than male students (17.2%).

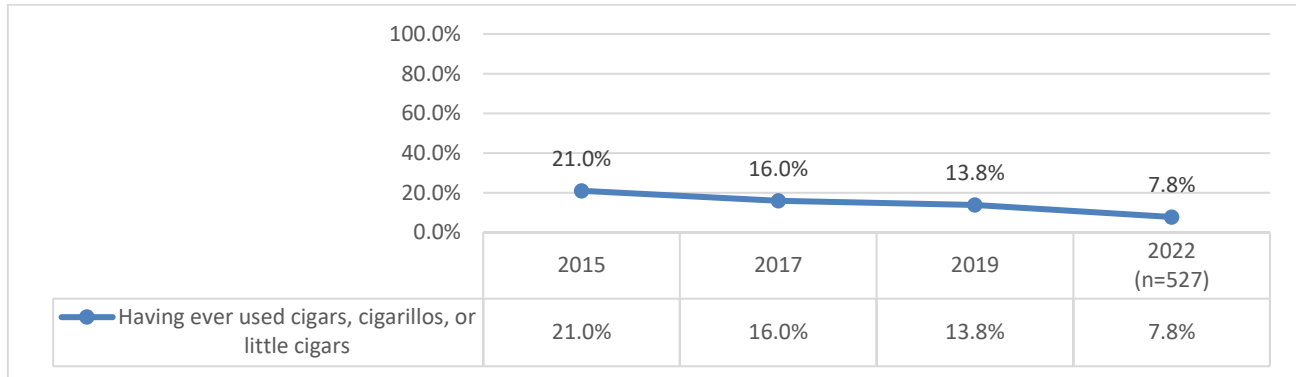
Figure 21: Percentage of Students Curious About Smoking a Cigarette by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



Cigars, Cigarillos, and Little Cigars

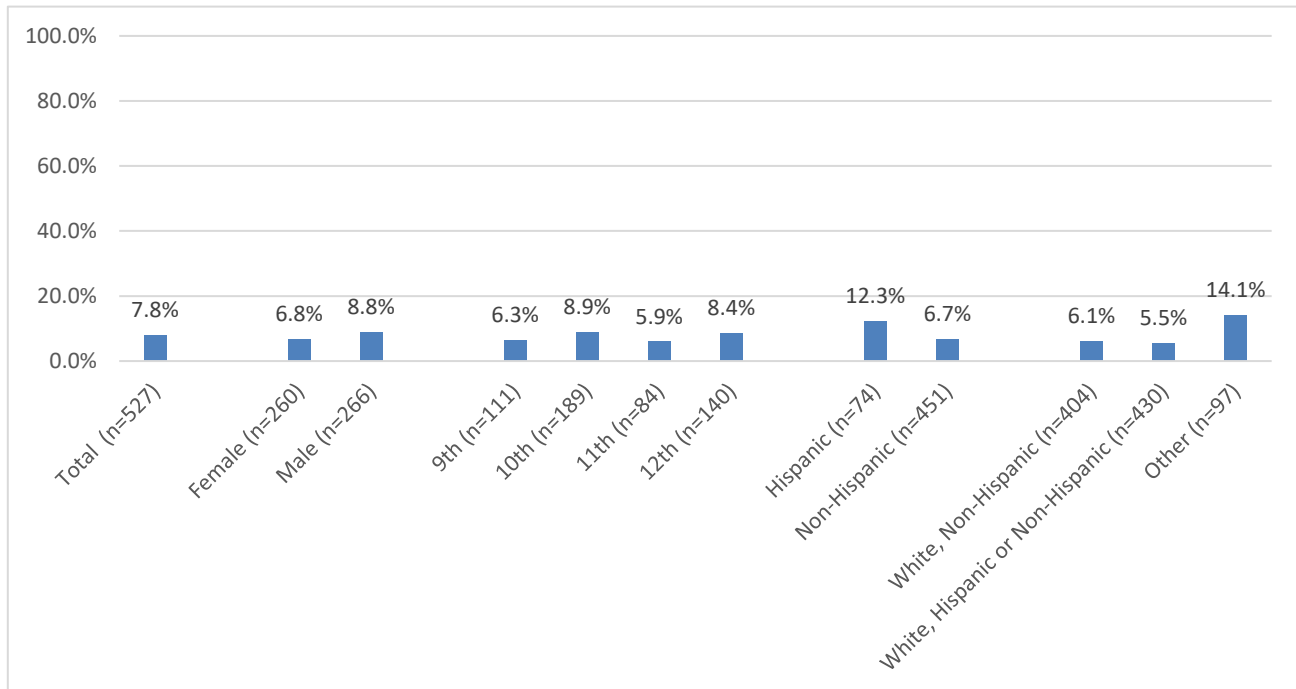
- There has been a consistent decline in cigar, cigarillo, and little cigar use since 2015, reaching a low point of 7.8% in 2022 (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Percentage of Students Having Ever Used Cigars, Cigarillos, or Little Cigars, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



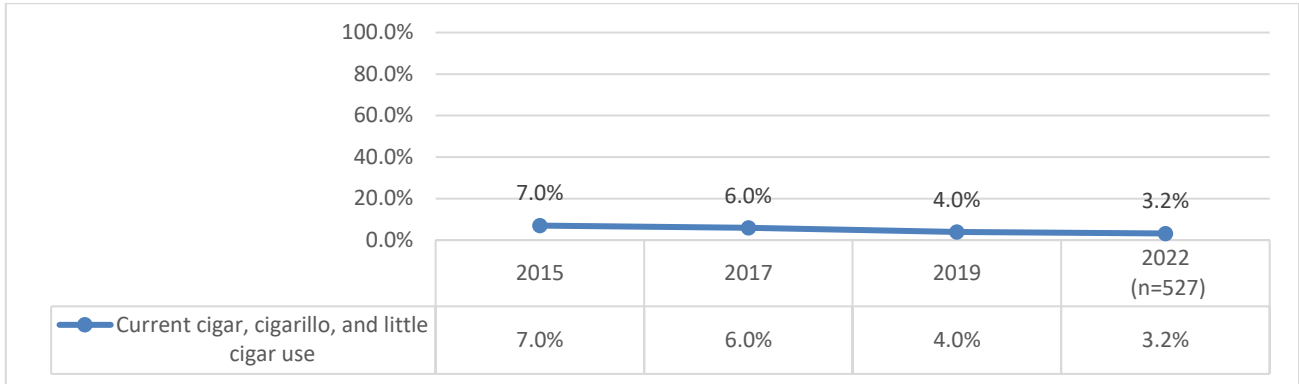
- About one in eight Hispanic students (12.3%) reported having ever used cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars in their lifetime, whereas this rate was one in fifteen among their non-Hispanic peers (6.7%).
- A higher percentage of those having ever used cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars was found among students of other races than white, Hispanic or non-Hispanic students (Figure 23).

Figure 23: Percentage of Students Having Ever Used Cigars, Cigarillos, or Little Cigars by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



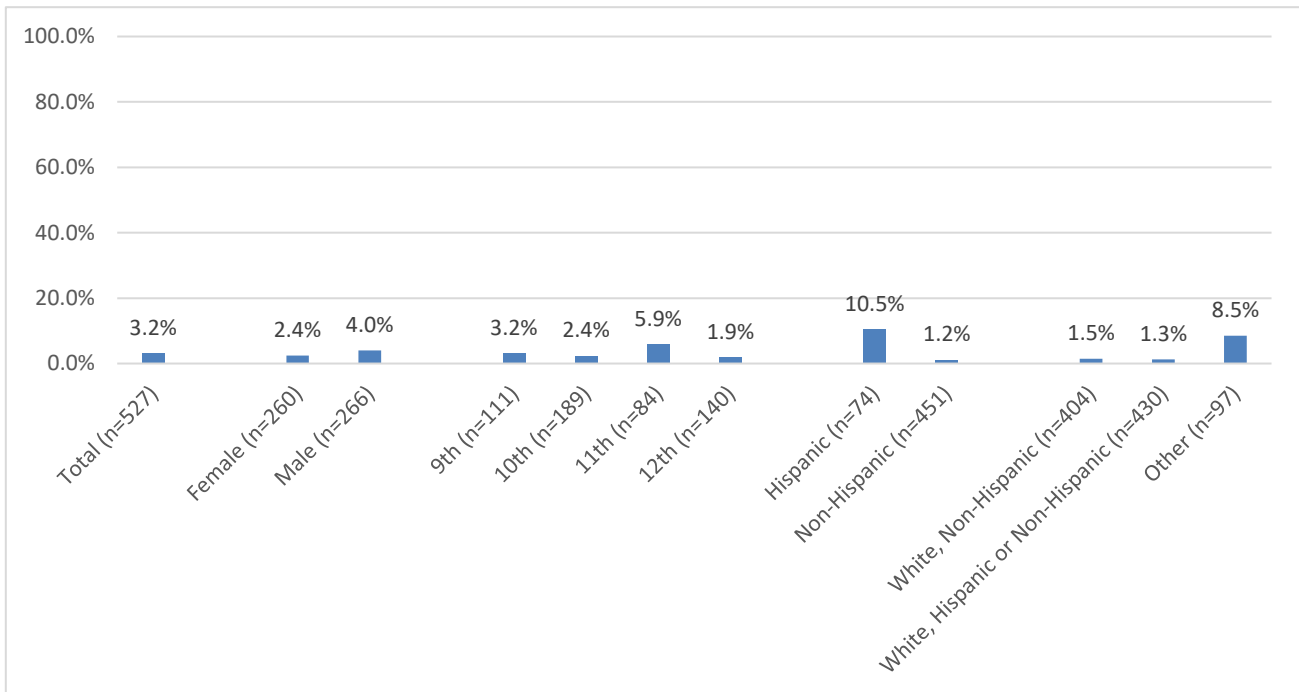
- In 2022, the percentage of students reporting current cigar, cigarillo, or little cigar use dropped to 3.2% from 2019 (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Percentage of Students Reporting Current Cigar, Cigarillo, and Little Cigar Use, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



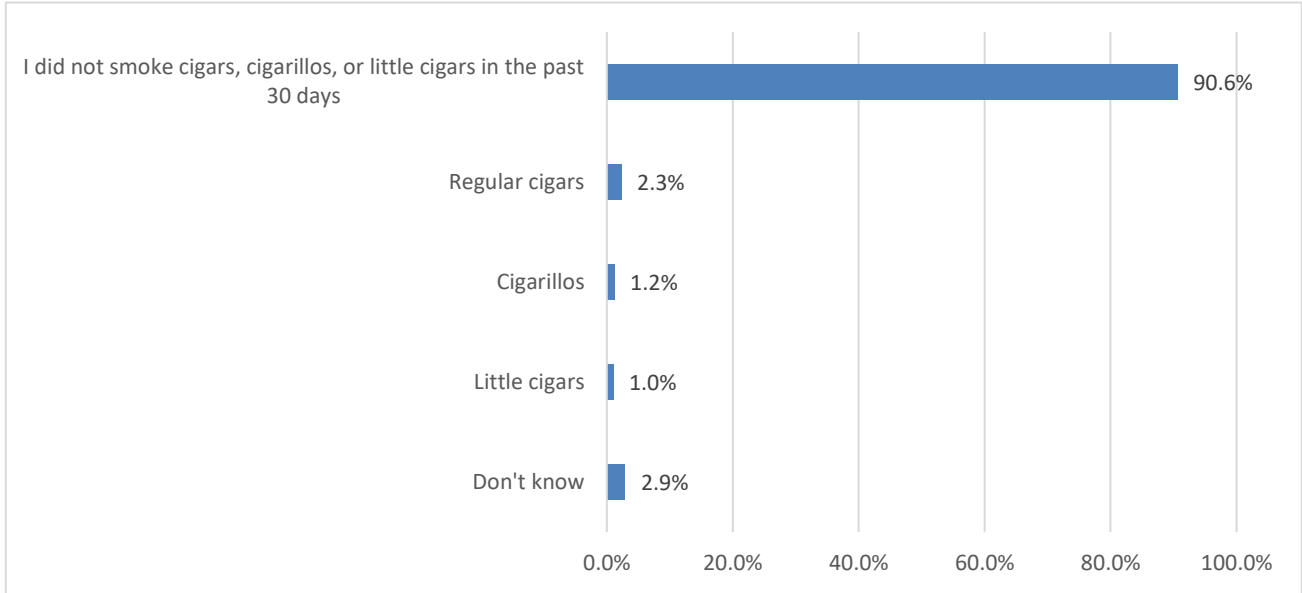
- Male students (4.0%) were more likely to report current cigar, cigarillo, or little cigar use than female peers (2.4%).
- Hispanic students (10.5%) were more likely than their non-Hispanic counterparts (1.2%) to report current use of such tobacco products (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Percentage of Students Reporting Current Cigar, Cigarillo, and Little Cigar Use by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



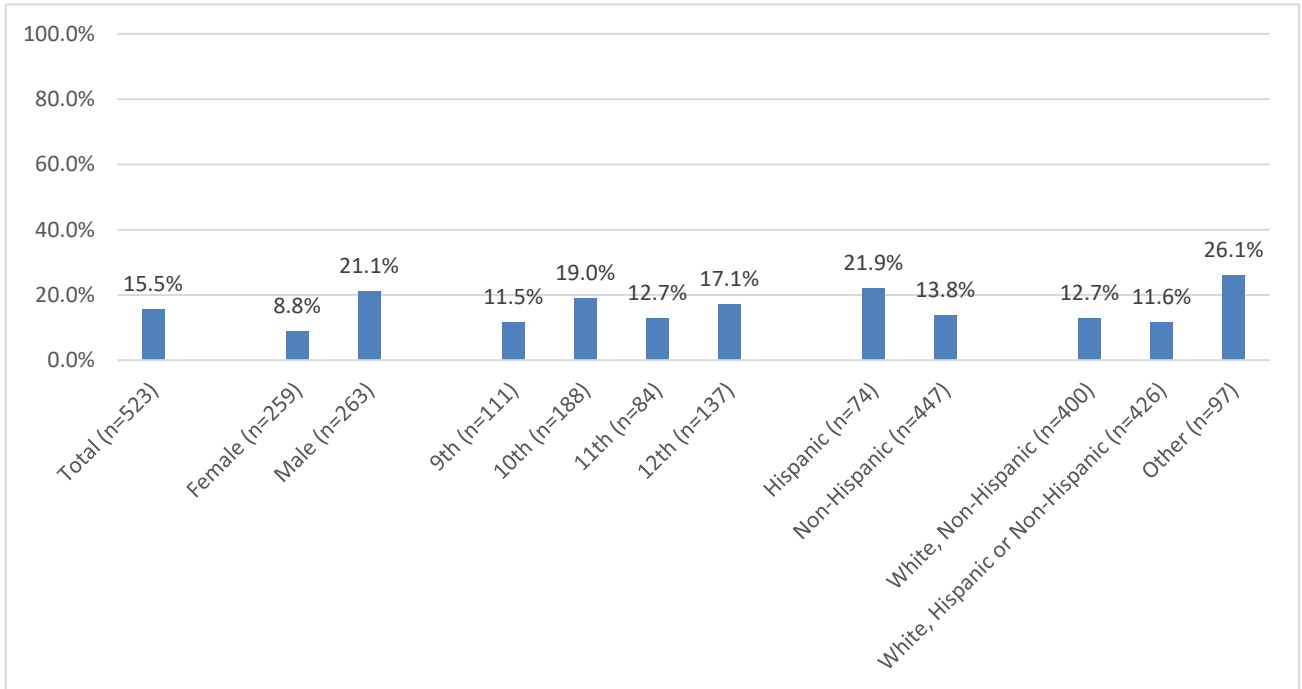
- As seen in Figure 26, among students currently using any cigars, most students reported not knowing which kind they used (2.9%).

Figure 26: Percentage of Students who Reported Using Each Type of Cigars in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



- About one in six students surveyed (15.5%) indicated curiosity about smoking a cigar, cigarillo, or little cigar (Figure 27).
- Students in 10th and 12th grade reported higher percentages (19.0% and 17.1%) of being curious about smoking such tobacco products compared to those in the other grades (11.5% and 12.7%).

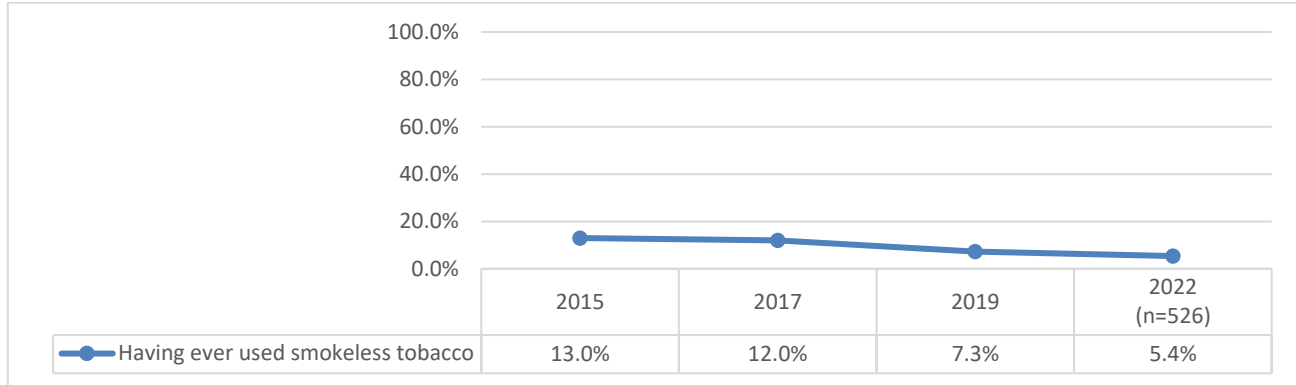
Figure 27: Percentage of Students Curious About Smoking a Cigar, Cigarillo, or Little Cigar by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



Smokeless Tobacco

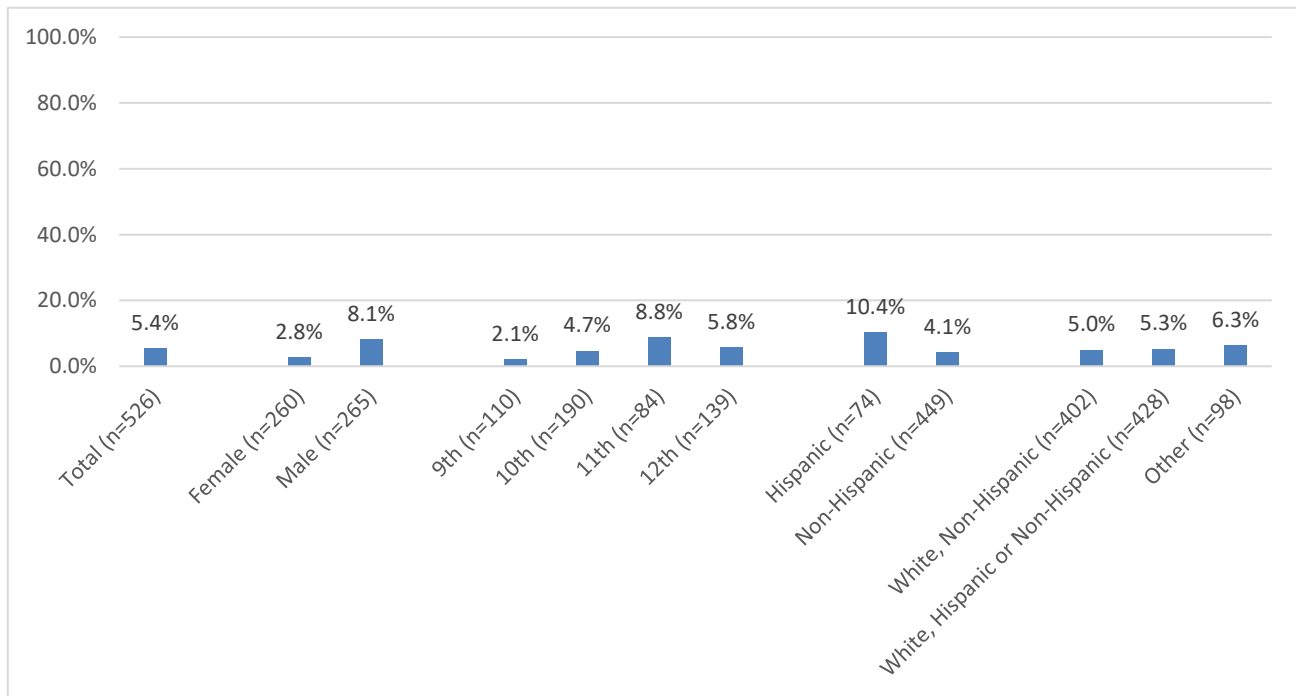
- Similar to the trend of other tobacco products described above, lifetime use of smokeless tobacco decreased throughout the four YTS administrations shown in the chart below (Figure 28), with a drop occurring in 2022 (5.4%) from 7.3% in 2019.

Figure 28: Percentage of Students Having Ever Used Smokeless Tobacco, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



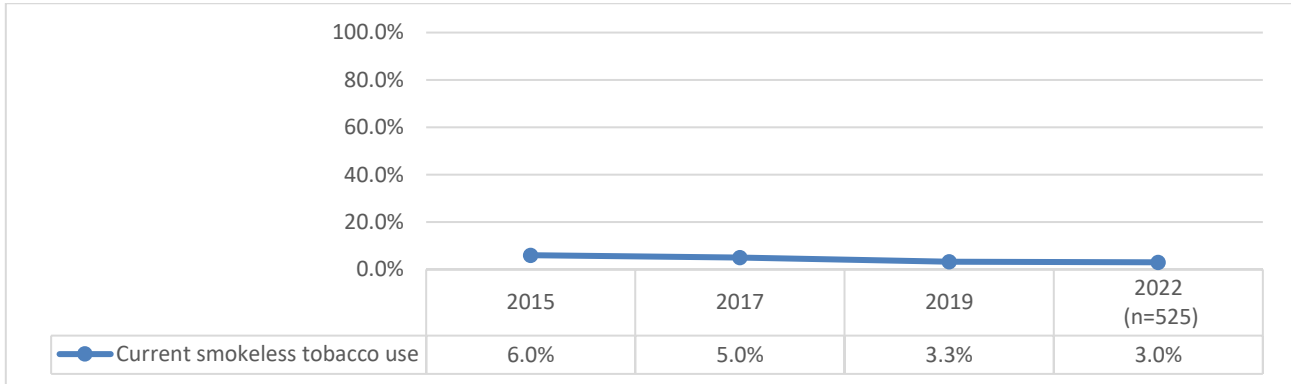
- As seen in Figure 29, about one out of twelve male students (8.1%) reported having ever used smokeless tobacco, which was much higher than the percentage reported among female students (2.8%).
- Students in the 9th grade (2.1%) were less likely to have used smokeless tobacco compared to those in other grades.

Figure 29: Percentage of Students Having Ever Used Smokeless Tobacco by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



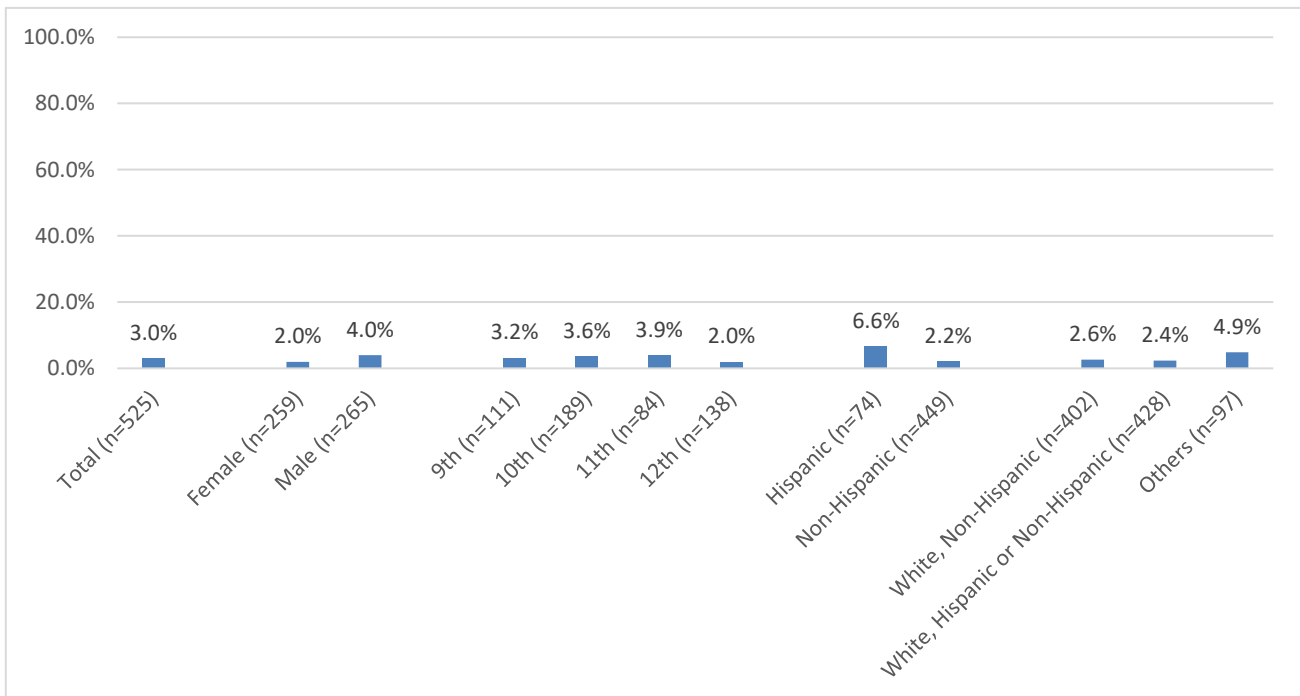
- The past 30 day use of smokeless tobacco among students in Nebraska has followed a gradual decline since the 2015 administration (6.0%). Current smokeless tobacco use was at 6.0% in 2015, dropping to 3.0% in 2022 (Figure 30).

Figure 30: Percentage of Students Reporting Current Smokeless Tobacco Use, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



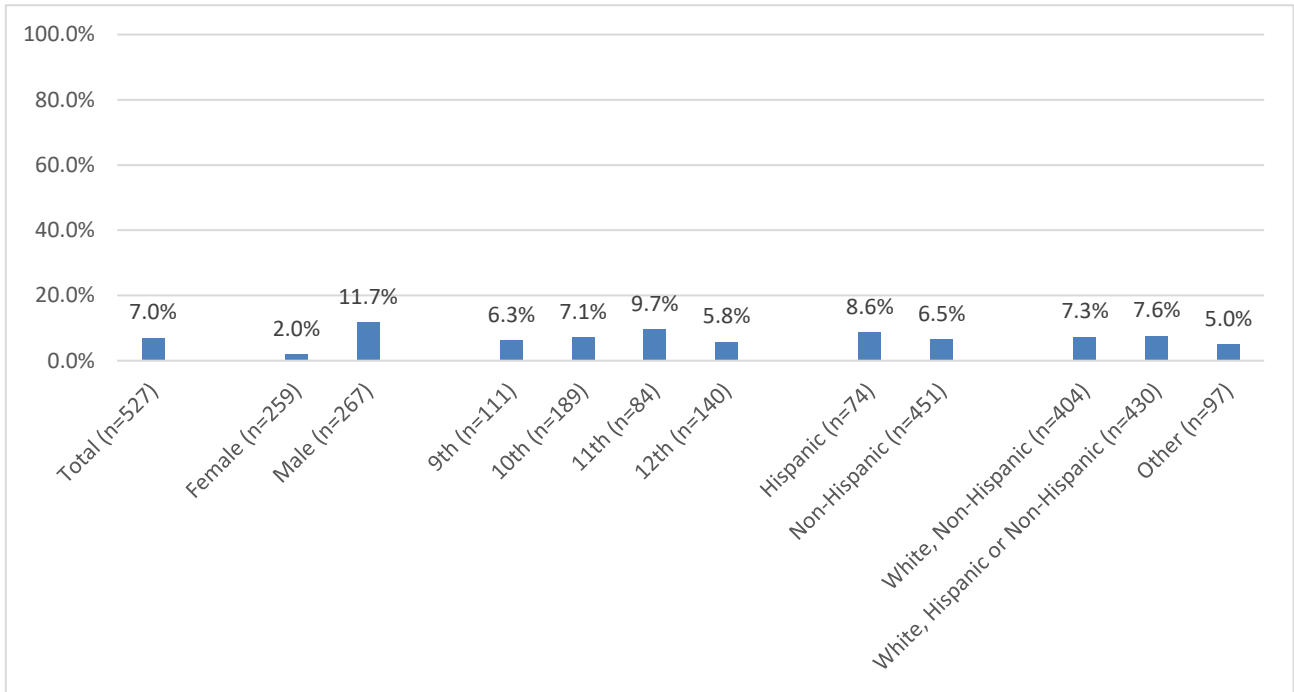
- Current use of smokeless tobacco was twice as common among male students (4.0%) as female students (2.0%).
- Similar to trends of current use of other tobacco products by ethnicity, non-Hispanic students (2.2%) were less likely to be current users of smokeless tobacco than Hispanic students (6.6%).
- Minor differences were present by grade or by race (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Percentage of Students Reporting Current Smokeless Tobacco Use by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



- Just over one in every nine male students (11.7%) indicated they were curious about using smokeless tobacco compared to 2.0% among female students (Figure 32).

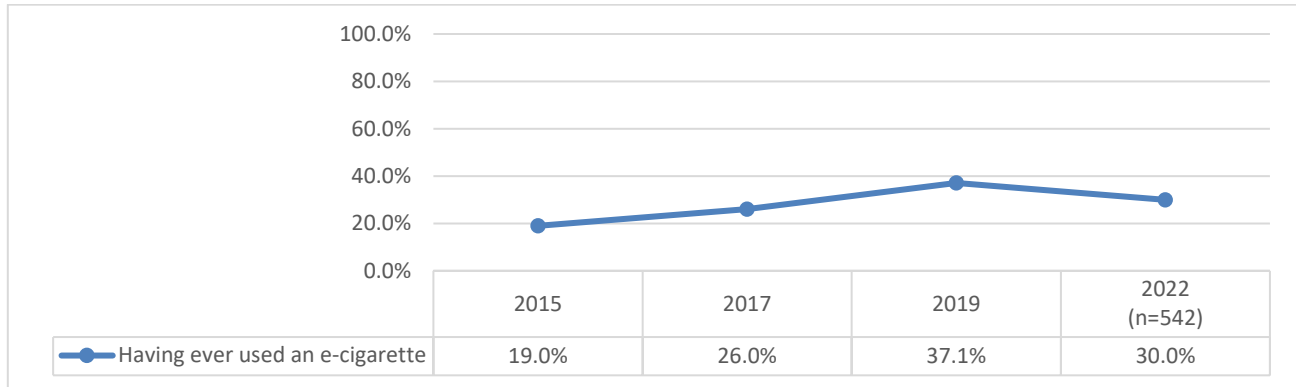
Figure 32: Percentage of Students Curious About Using Smokeless Tobacco by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



Electronic Cigarettes

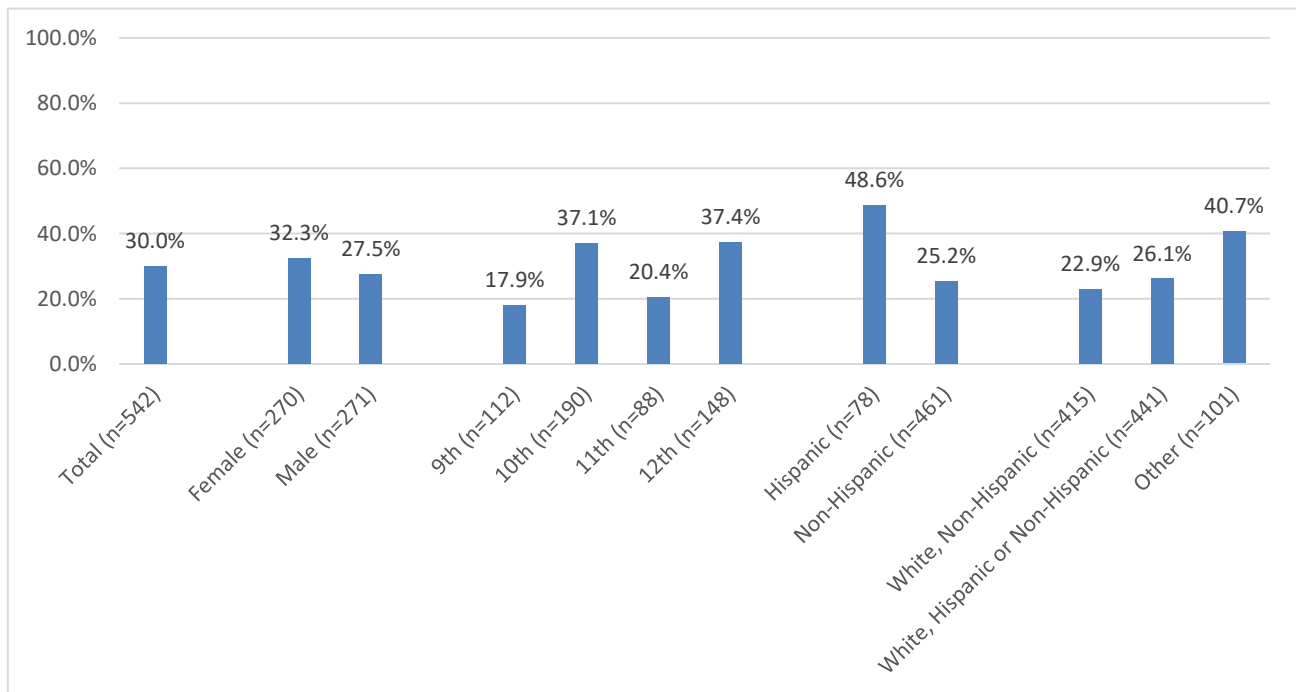
- Figure 33 depicts the trend of lifetime e-cigarette use among students over four YTS administrations. E-cigarette lifetime use has seen an increase every year until a decrease in 2022. Overall, the percentage of students having ever used an e-cigarette increased from 19.0% in 2015 to 30.0% in 2022.

Figure 33: Percentage of Students Having Ever Used an Electronic Cigarette, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



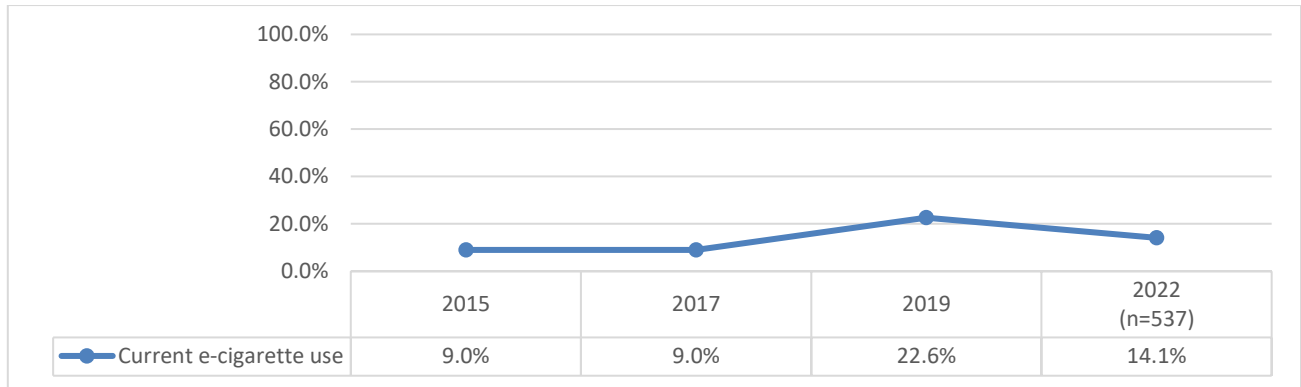
- Breakdowns by demographic variables indicate around one-third (30.0%) of students having ever used an e-cigarette in their lifetime by gender or grade (Figure 34).
- Nearly one in every two Hispanic students (48.6%) reported they had used an e-cigarette in their lifetime.

Figure 34: Percentage of Students Having Ever Used an Electronic Cigarette by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



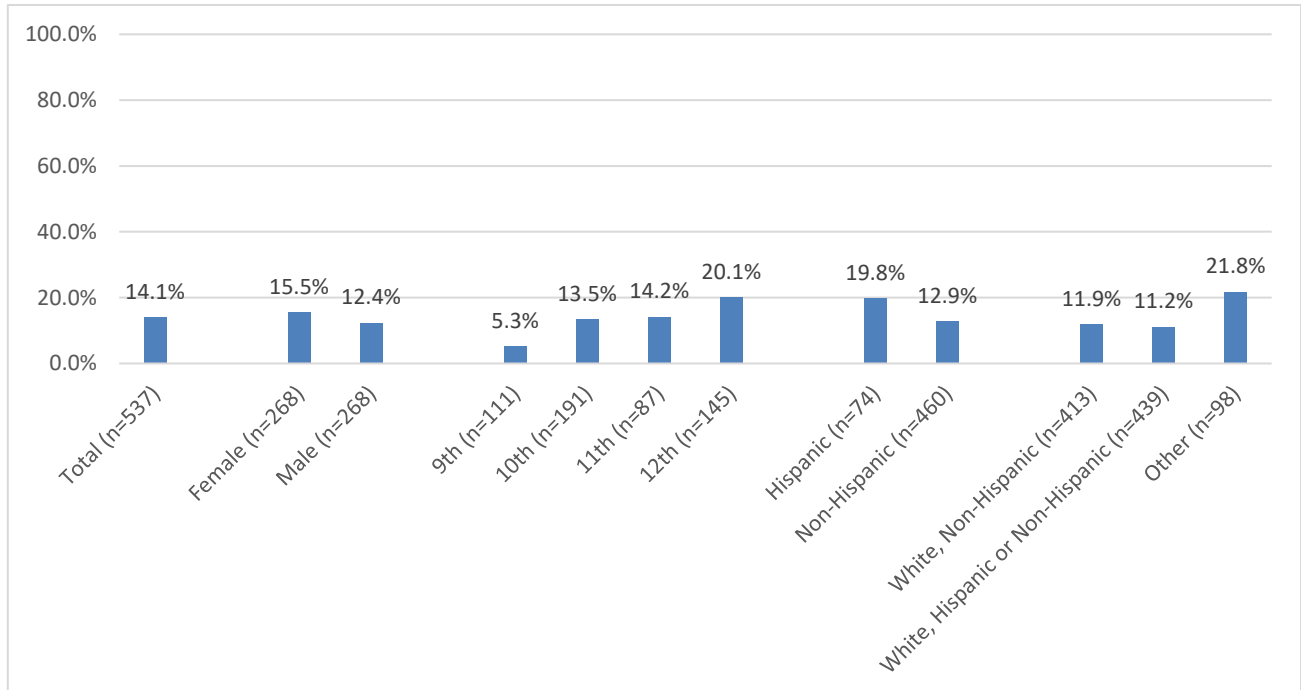
- As shown in Figure 35, while 2019 showed an increase of past 30 day e-cigarette use since 2017, a decrease occurred in 2022, with 14.1% of students reporting current use.

Figure 35: Percentage of Students Reporting Current E-Cigarette Use, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



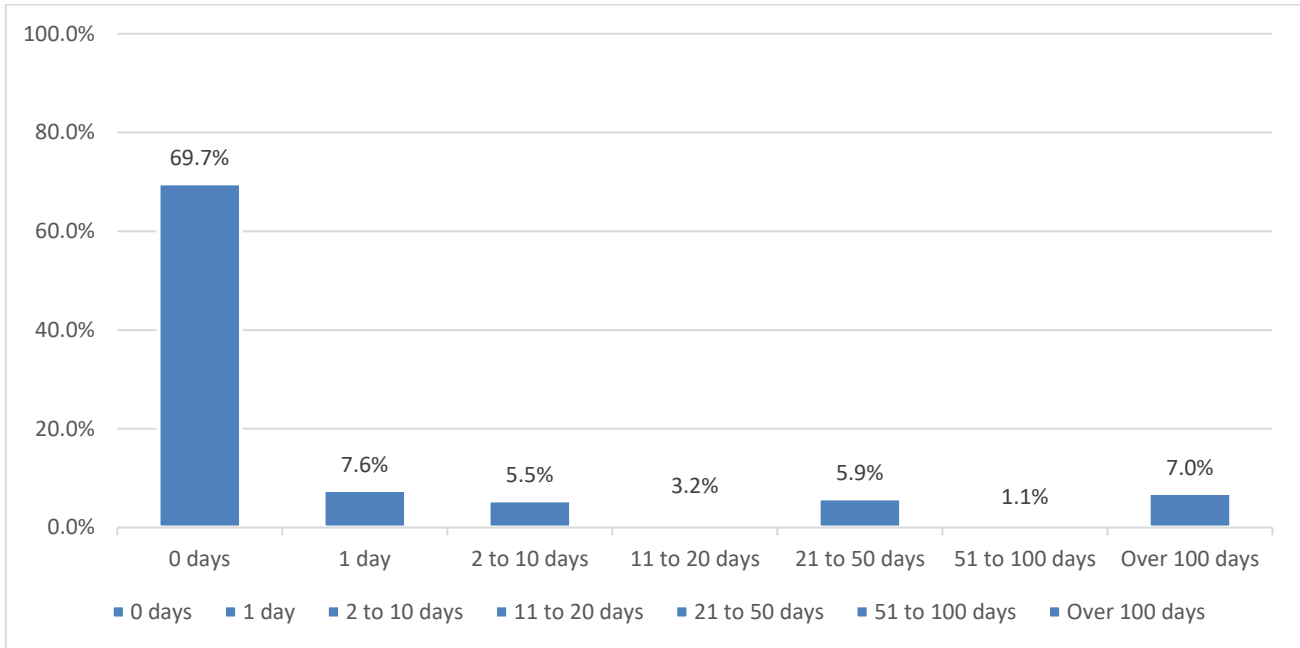
- Small differences were found by gender, ethnicity, or race regarding the prevalence of current e-cigarette use (Figure 36).
- Just over one-fifth of 12th graders (20.1%) reported using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days prior to the survey.

Figure 36: Percentage of Students Reporting Current E-Cigarette Use by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



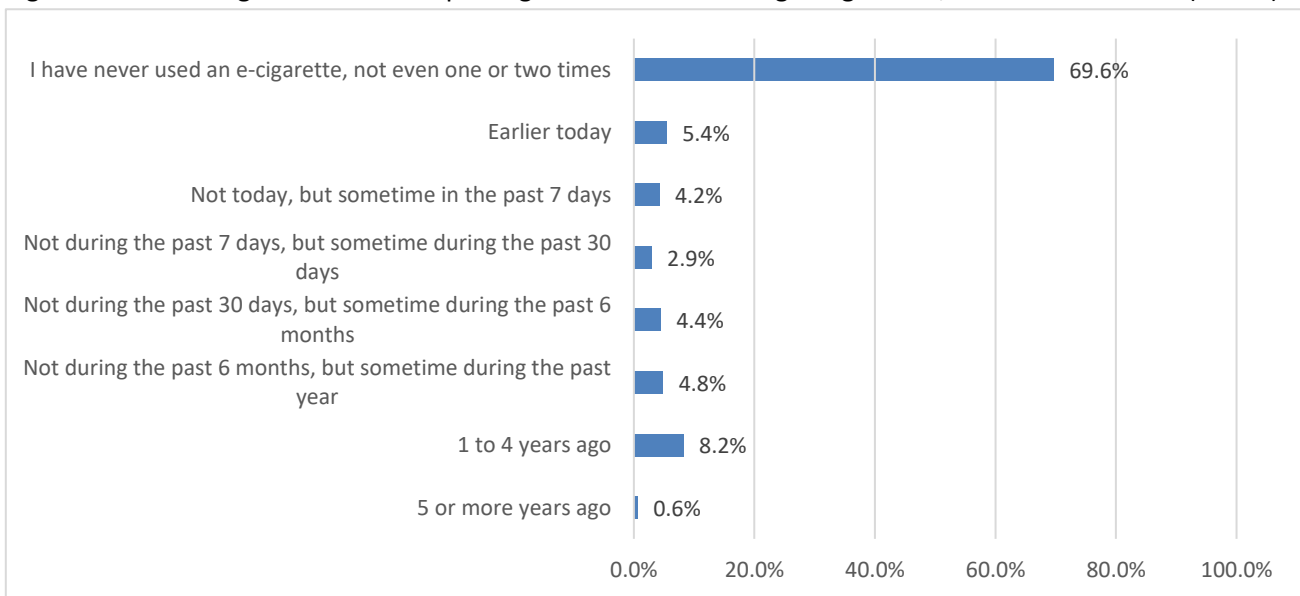
- Figure 37 depicts the distribution of the number of days in a respondent’s lifetime that they used e-cigarettes. Those who had used e-cigarettes were more likely to have used such tobacco products one day in total (7.6%).

Figure 37: Percentage of Students Reporting on How Many Days They Had Used E-Cigarettes in Their Lifetime, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=538)



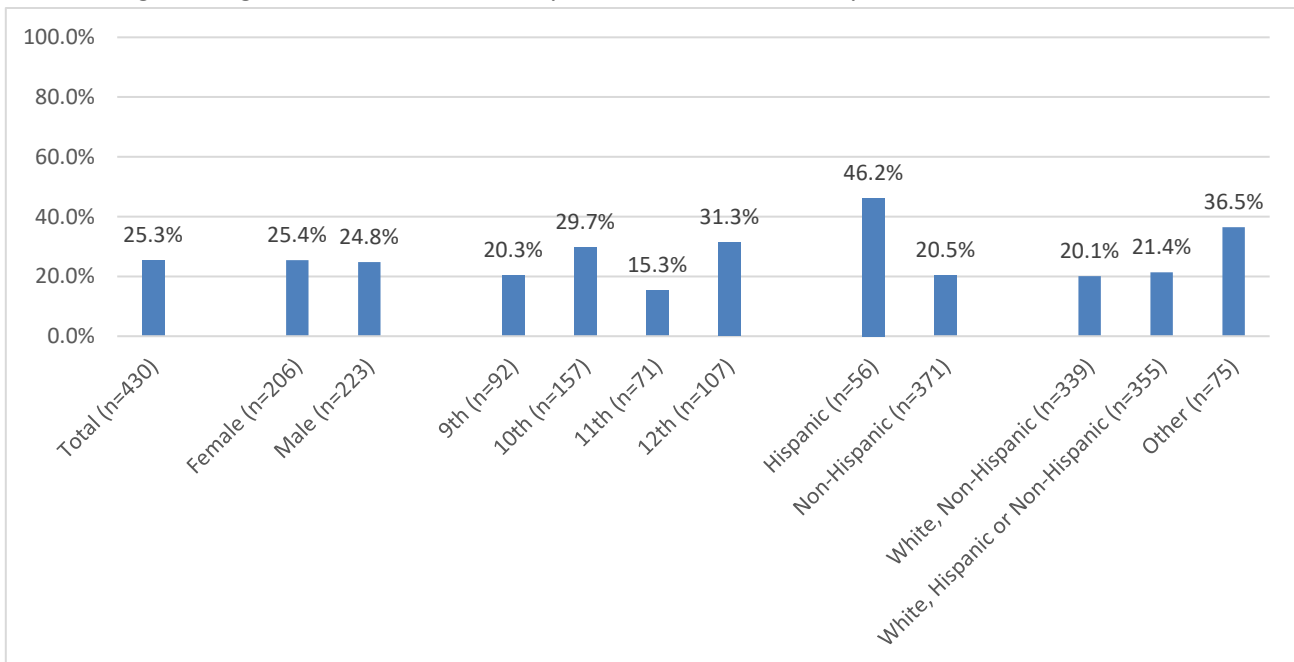
- As seen in Figure 38, students who had used e-cigarettes most commonly reported last using one between one and four years ago (8.2%).

Figure 38: Percentage of Students Reporting their Last Time Using E-Cigarettes, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=534)



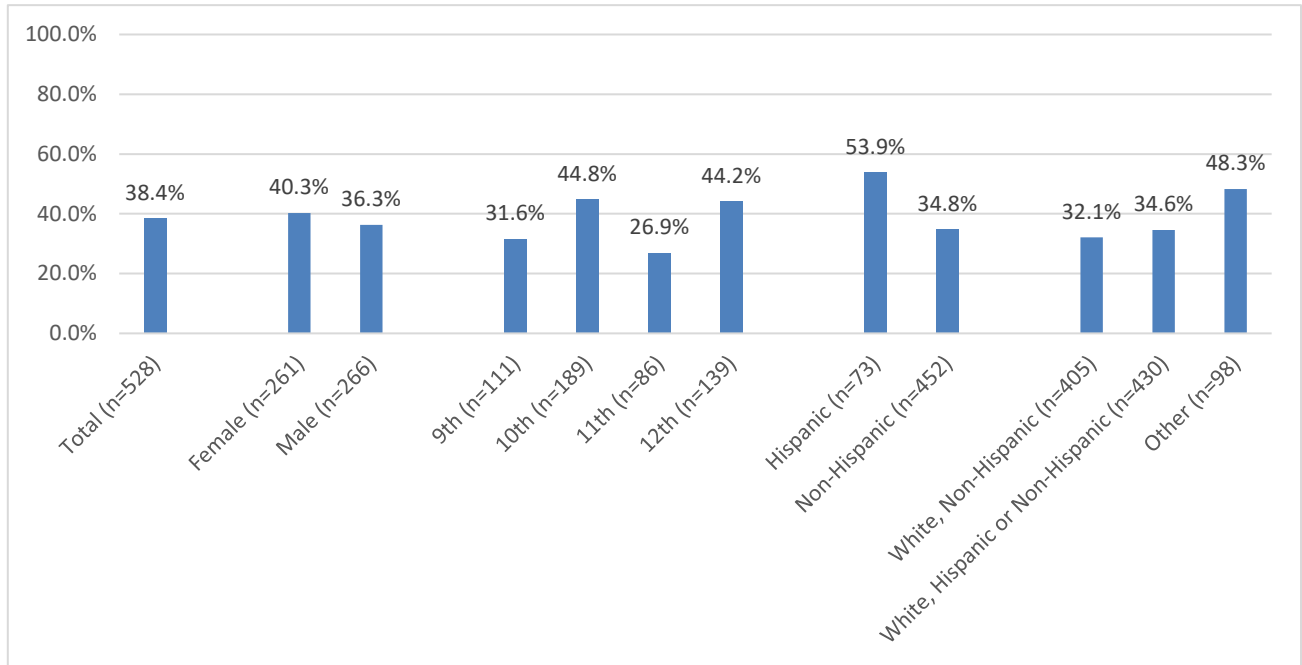
- To assess electronic cigarette susceptibility, students were asked if they would try an e-cigarette soon, would try an e-cigarette in the next year, or would smoke an e-cigarette if offered by a friend.
- Among students who had never used e-cigarettes in their life, 25.3% were susceptible to start using such tobacco products soon (Figure 39).
- Female students (25.4%) and male students (24.8%) showed very similar susceptibilities.
- There were over twice as many Hispanic students (46.2%) that were susceptible to try e-cigarettes compared to non-Hispanic students (20.5%).

Figure 39: Percentage of Students Susceptible to Start Using E-Cigarettes, Among Those who Reported Never Using an E-Cigarette in Their Lifetime by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



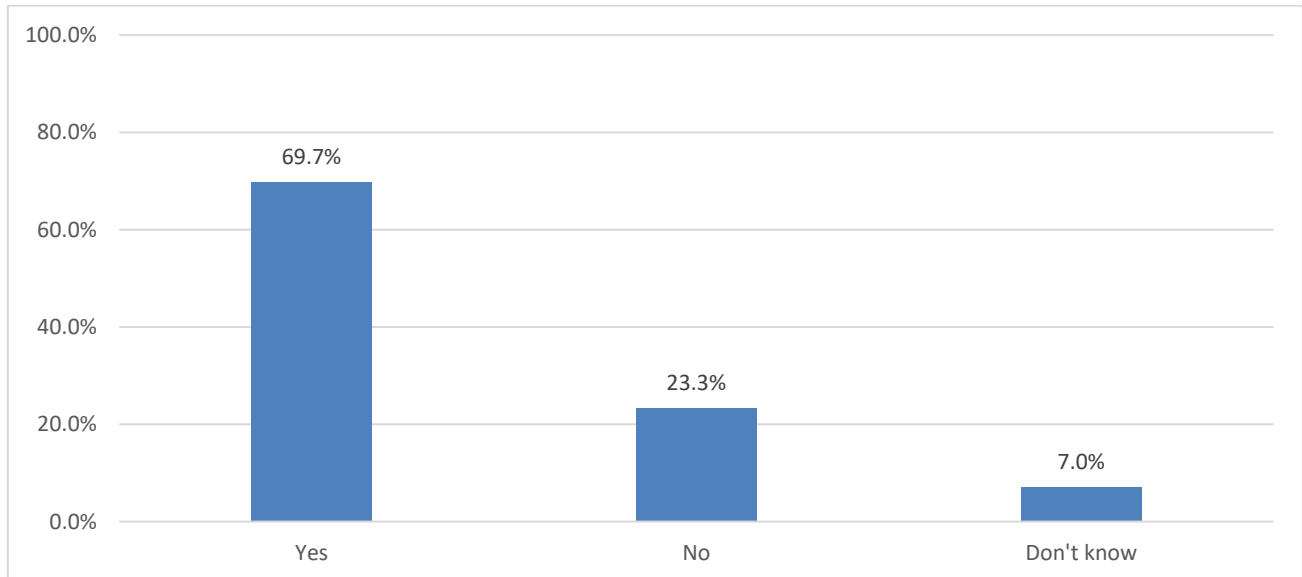
- Almost two-fifths (38.4%) of students were curious about using e-cigarettes (Figure 40).
- The most curiosity was reported by Hispanic students (53.9%) with 34.8% of non-Hispanic students reporting curiosity.

Figure 40: Percentage of Students Curious About Using an E-Cigarette by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



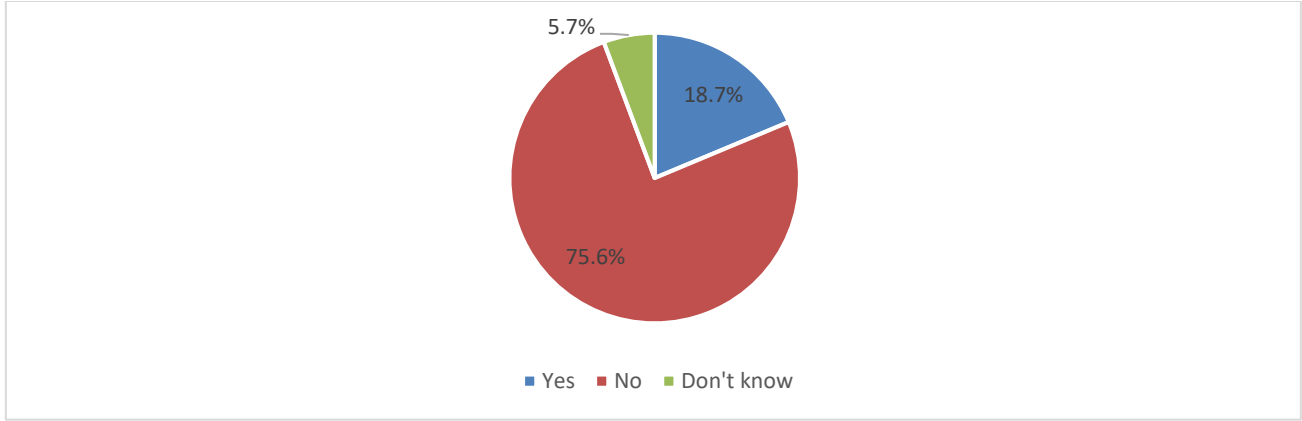
- Figure 41 indicates that over two-thirds (69.7%) of the students who reported using e-cigarettes used an e-cigarette with nicotine in the past 30 days.
- About one out of four e-cigarette users (23.3%) said they did not use them with nicotine.

Figure 41: Students' Frequency of Nicotine Use in E-Cigarettes, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=79)



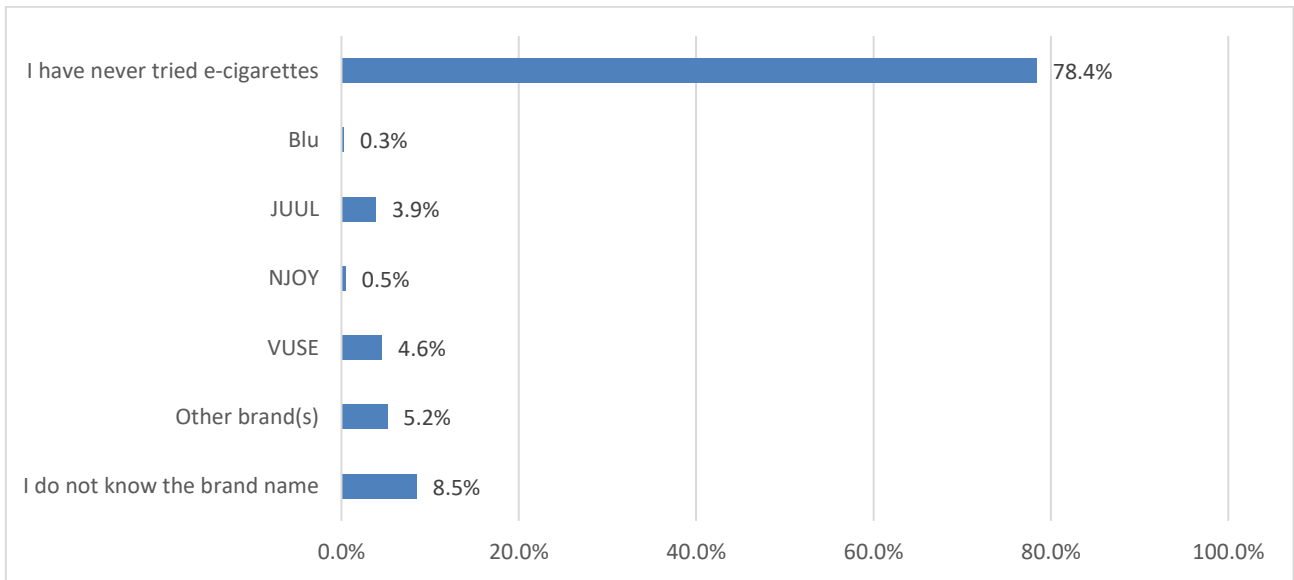
- Among student e-cigarette users, slightly under one-fifth (18.7%) reported using marijuana, marijuana concentrates, marijuana waxes, or hash oils in an e-cigarette (Figure 42).

Figure 42: Percentage of Students Who Used an E-Cigarette with Marijuana, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=529)



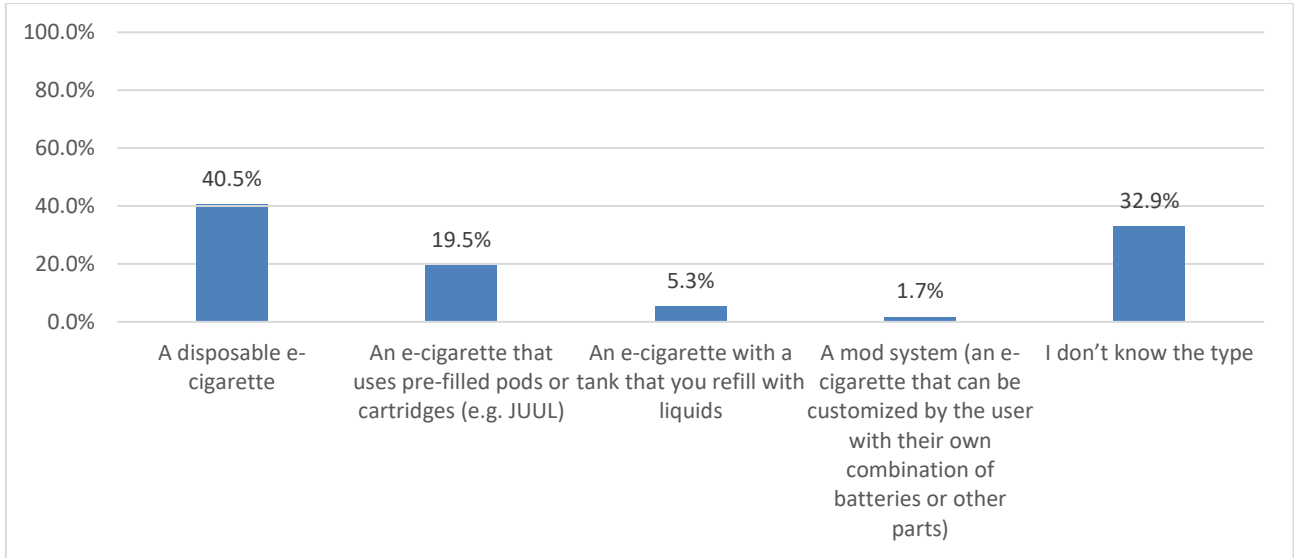
- As shown in Figure 43, the most common named brand choice of e-cigarette brand among student smokers was VUSE (4.6%).
- About one in every twelve students (8.5%) indicated not knowing the brand name of the e-cigarettes they used.

Figure 43: Brands of E-Cigarettes Students Used in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



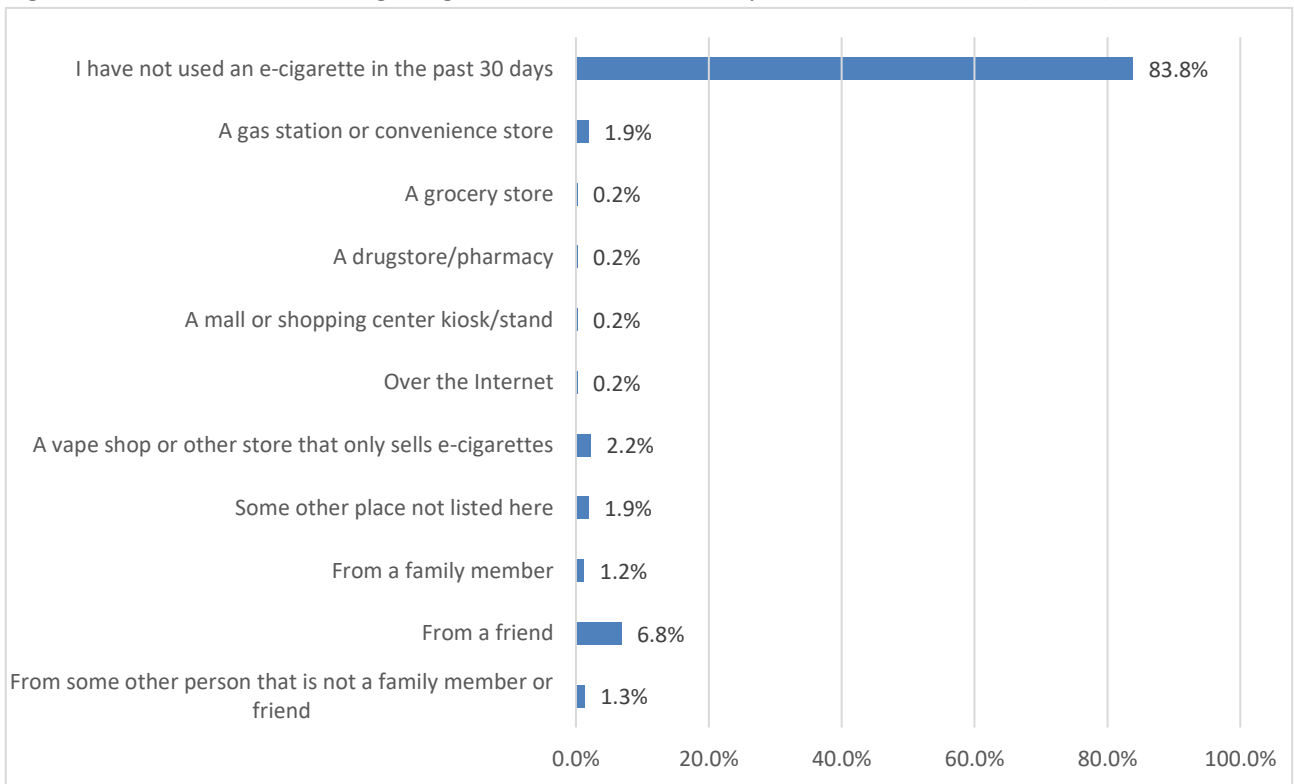
- As Figure 44 demonstrates, student e-cigarette users were more likely to have used the disposable kind of e-cigarettes (40.5%), and least likely to use e-cigarettes with a mod system (1.7%).

Figure 44: Types of E-Cigarettes Students Have Used, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=78)



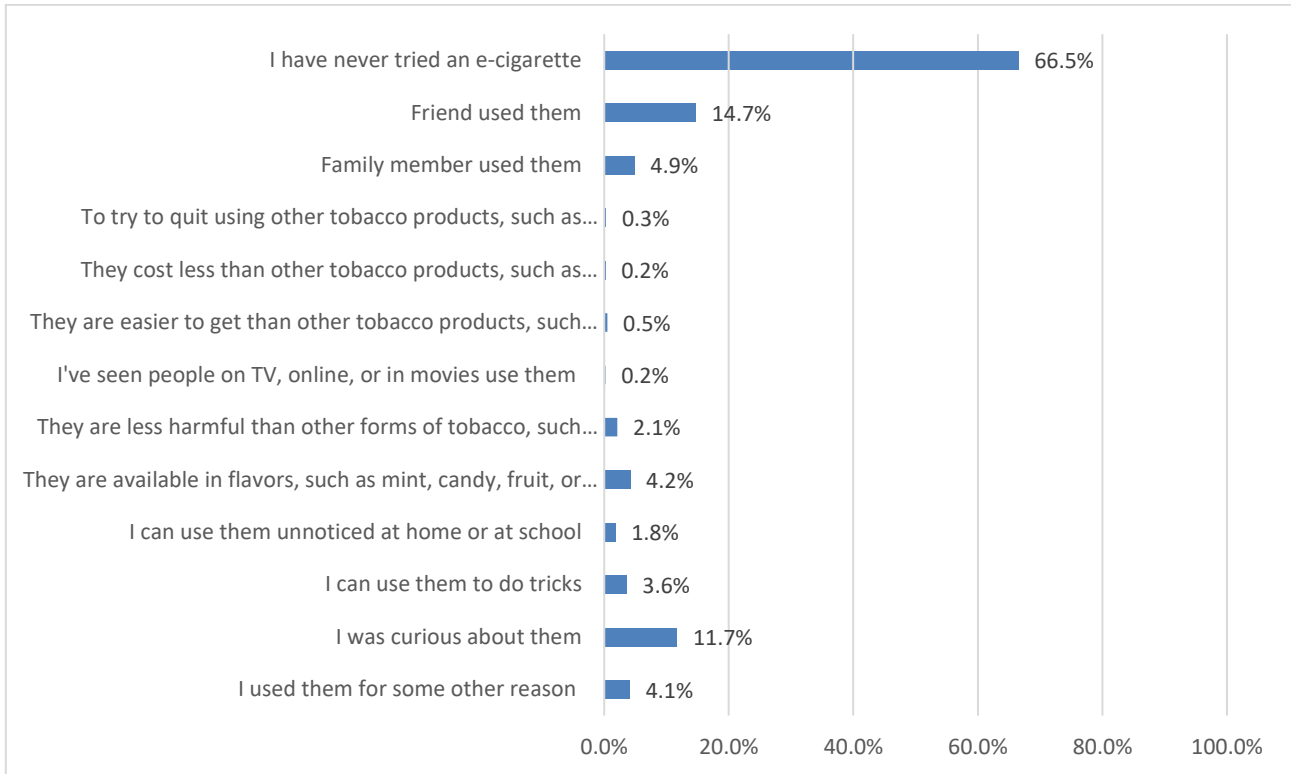
- Among all respondents, 6.8% reported that they got e-cigarettes from a friend (Figure 45), whereas all other sources listed had a smaller proportion of students reporting accessing e-cigarettes in that way.
- Students were least likely to obtain e-cigarettes from a grocery store (0.2%) or over the Internet (0.2%).

Figure 45: Sources for Obtaining E-Cigarettes in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



- Figure 46 reveals reasons for students using e-cigarettes. Out of all respondents, seeing friends using e-cigarettes (14.7%) was the most widely chosen reason to account for their behavior.
- Other reasons not listed were checked by 4.1% of all students.

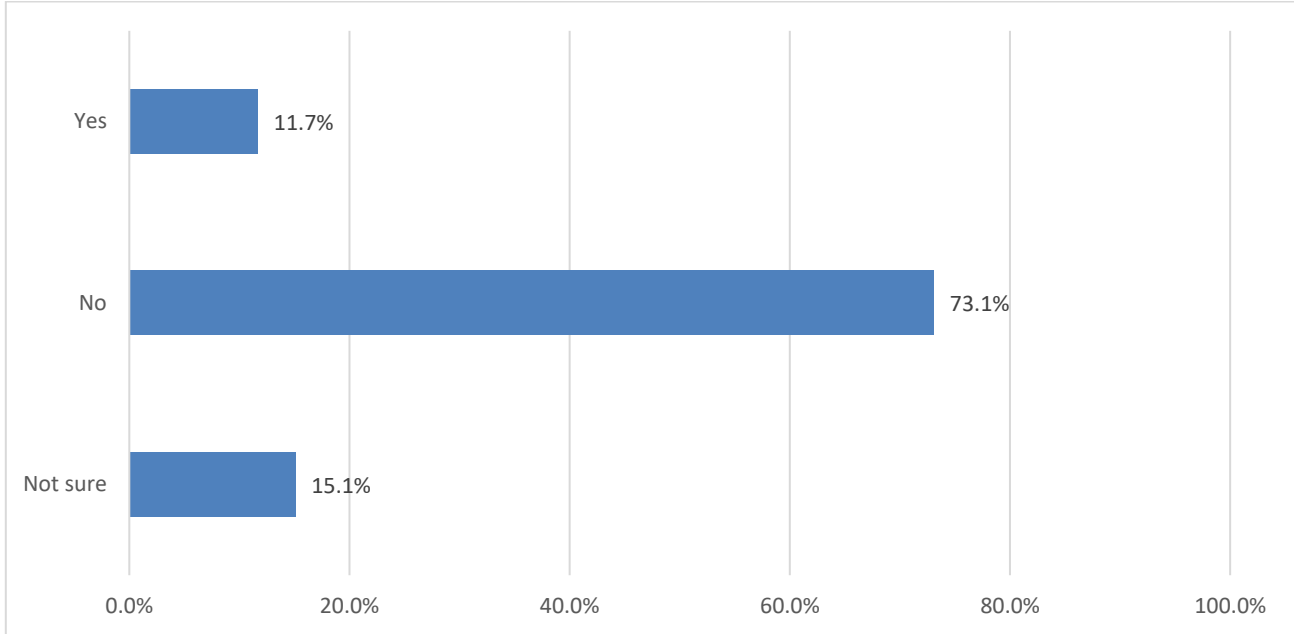
Figure 46: Reasons for Using E-Cigarettes, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



Heated Tobacco Products

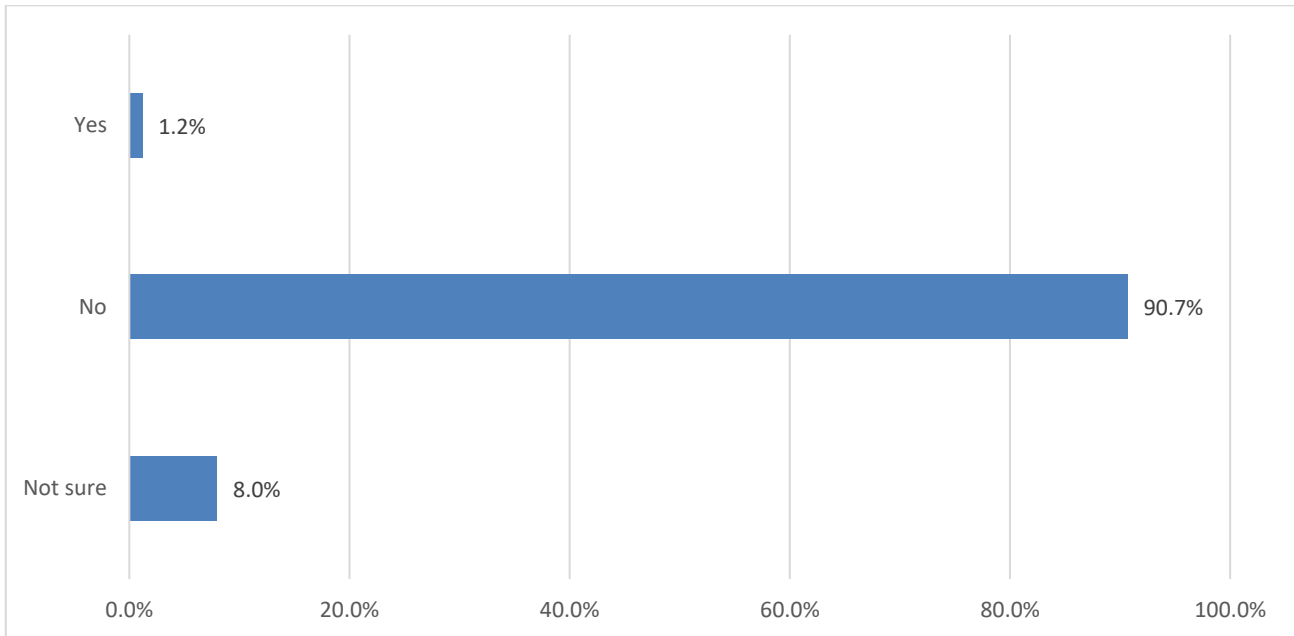
- Just under three quarters of students (73.1%) indicated that they had not heard of heated tobacco products (Figure 47).

Figure 47: Heard of Heated Products, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=526)



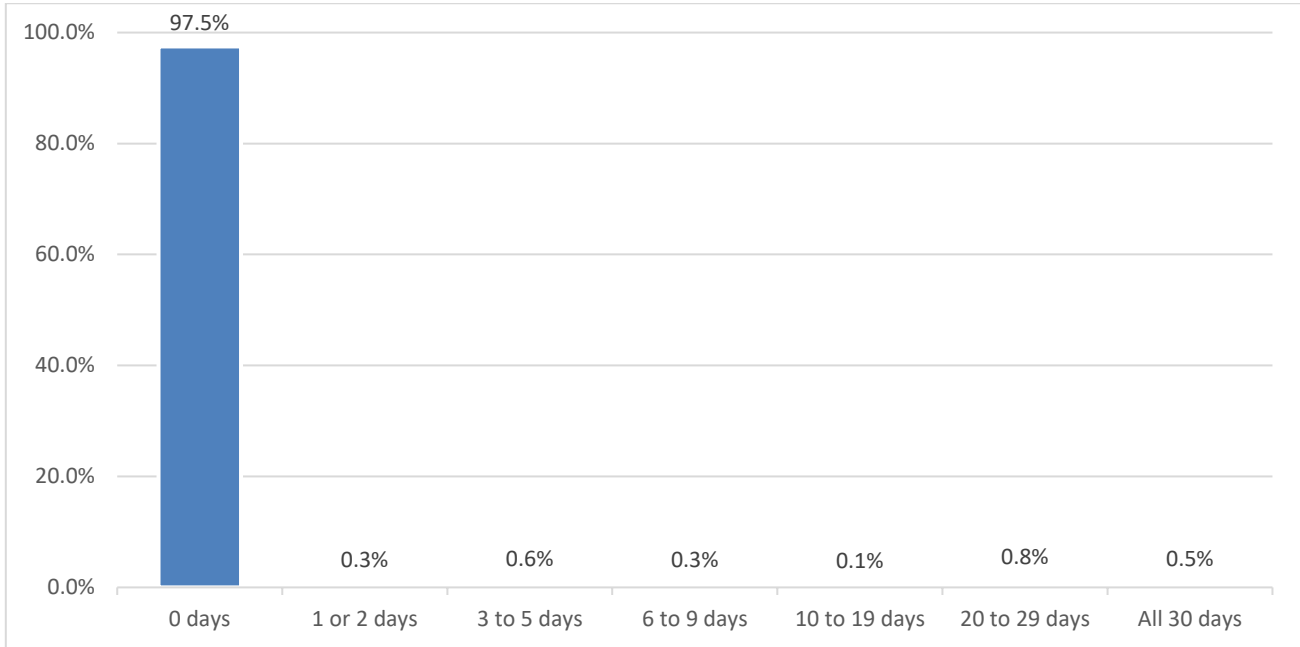
- As indicated in Figure 48, the majority of students (90.7%) reported never using heated tobacco products in their lifetime.

Figure 48: Ever Used Heated Tobacco Product, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=526)



- Figure 49 shows that students most commonly reported not using heated tobacco products in the past 30 days (97.5%).

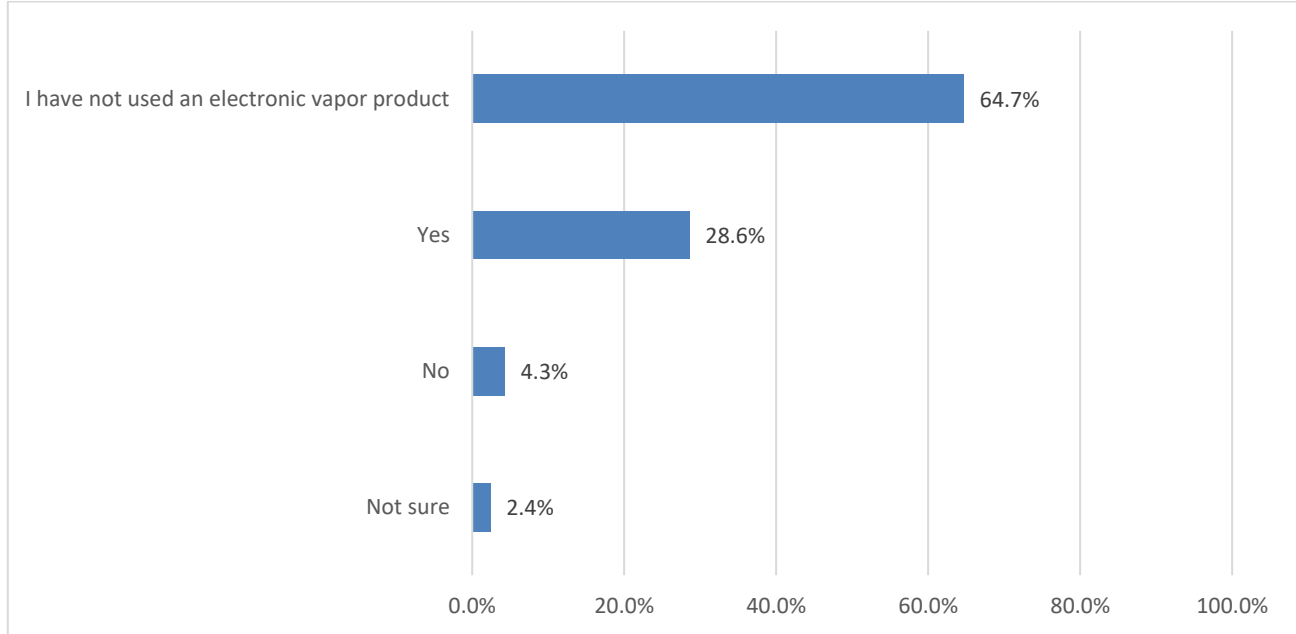
Figure 49: Percentage of Students Reporting on How Many Days They Had Used Heated Tobacco Products in Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=522)



Flavors

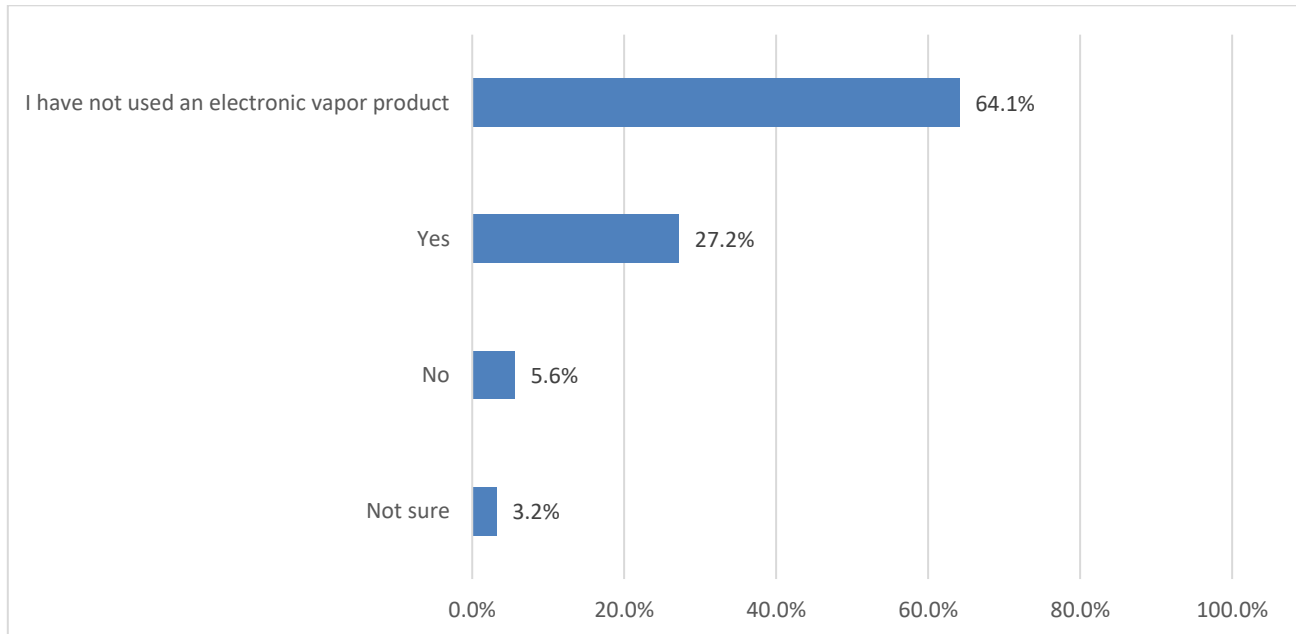
- One quarter (28.6%) of students indicated that they had used flavored electronic vapor products in their lifetime (Figure 50).

Figure 50: Flavored Electronic Vapor Products Used in Lifetime, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=539)



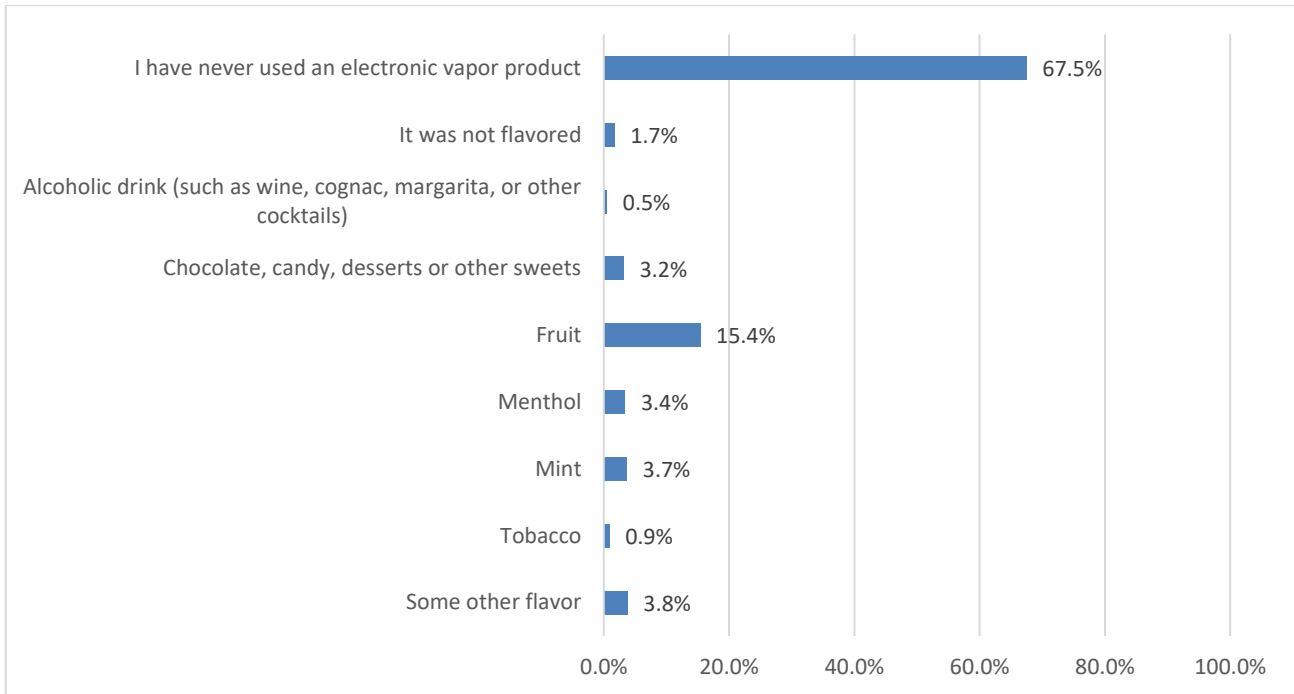
- As indicated in Figure 51, one in four students (27.2%) reported using flavored electronic vapor products the first time they tried one.

Figure 51: First Electronic Vapor Product Flavored, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=538)



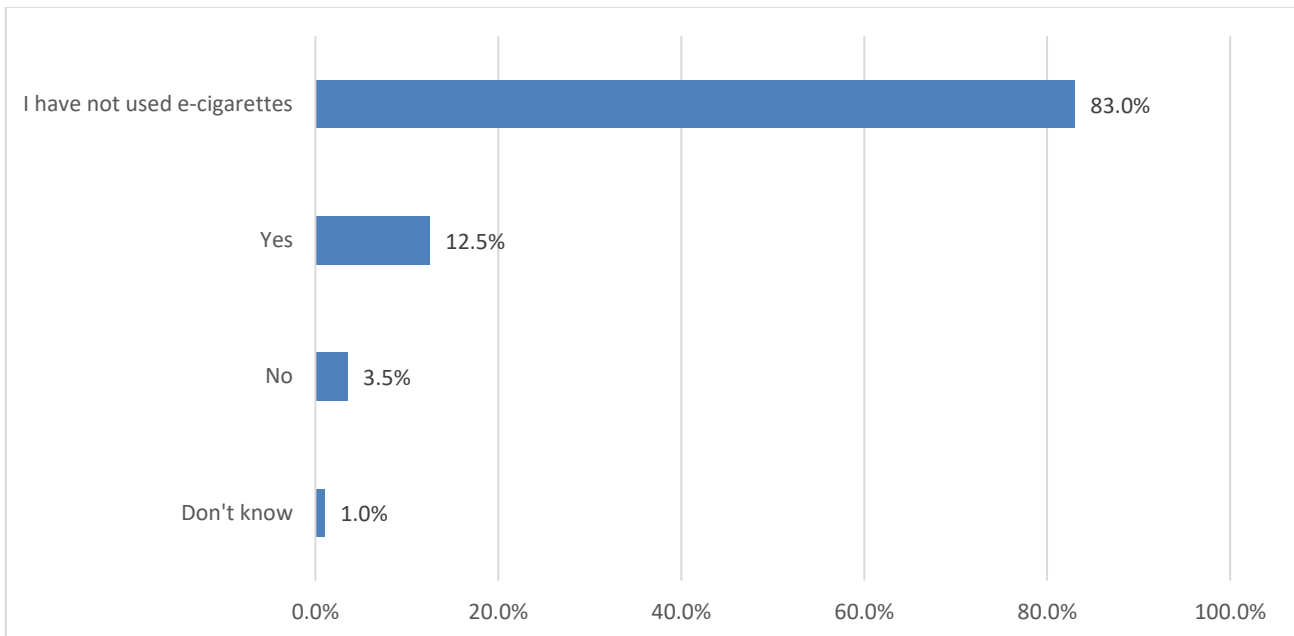
- Fruit (15.4%) was the most commonly chosen flavor among students who reported using a flavored electronic vapor product the first time (Figure 52).

Figure 52: Flavors of First Electronic Vapor Product, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=538)



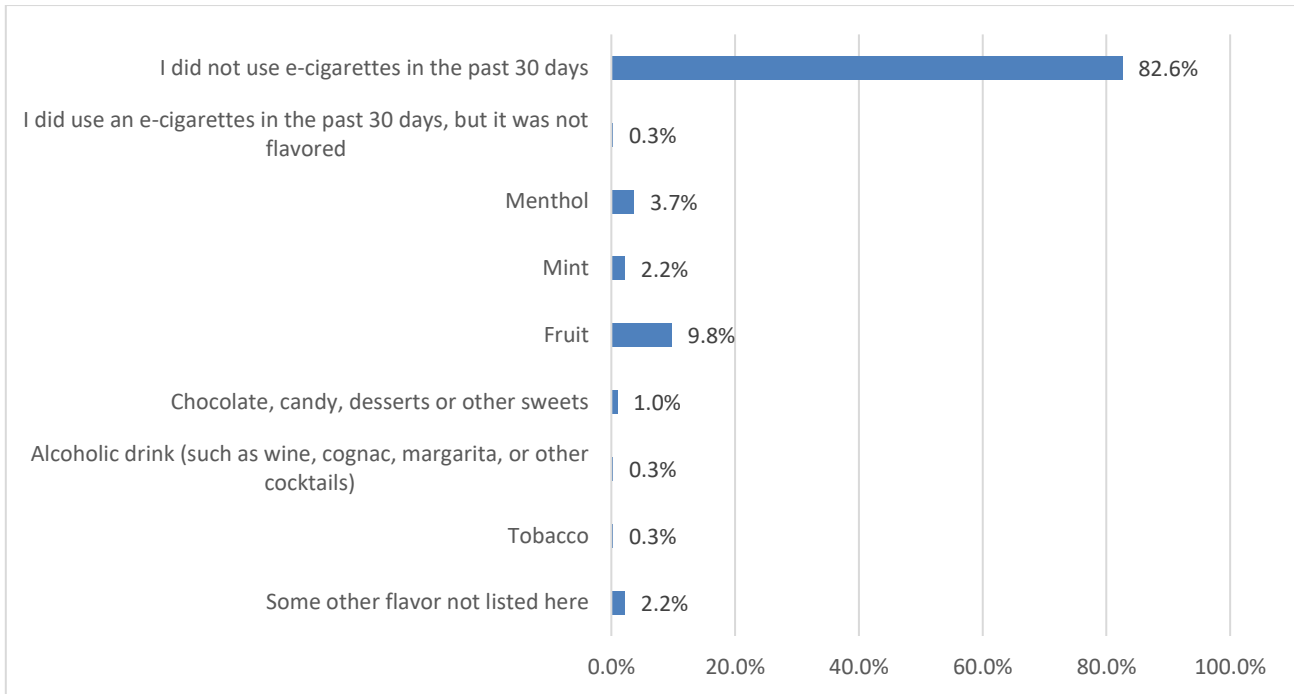
- As indicated in Figure 53, students that used e-cigarettes were most likely to report using flavored e-cigarettes in the 30 days prior to the survey (12.5%).

Figure 53: Flavored E-Cigarettes Used in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=531)



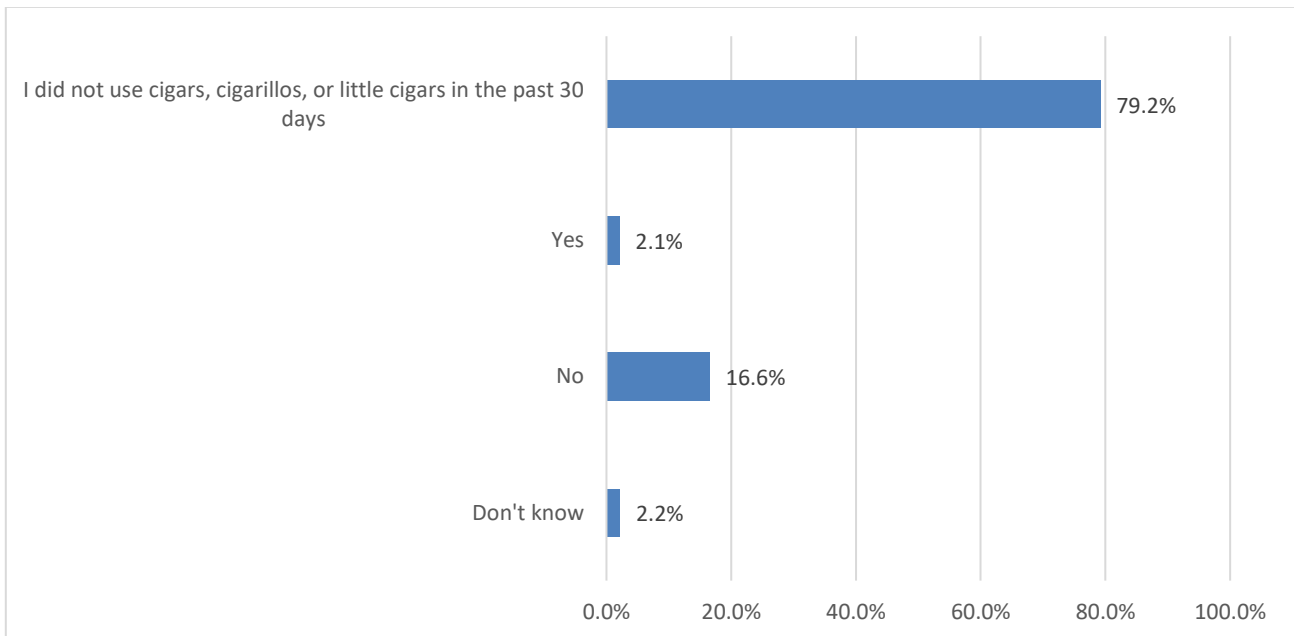
- Similar to first-time use, fruit (9.8%) was the most commonly chosen flavor among students who reported using flavored e-cigarettes in the past 30 days (Figure 54).

Figure 54: Flavors of E-Cigarettes Used in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



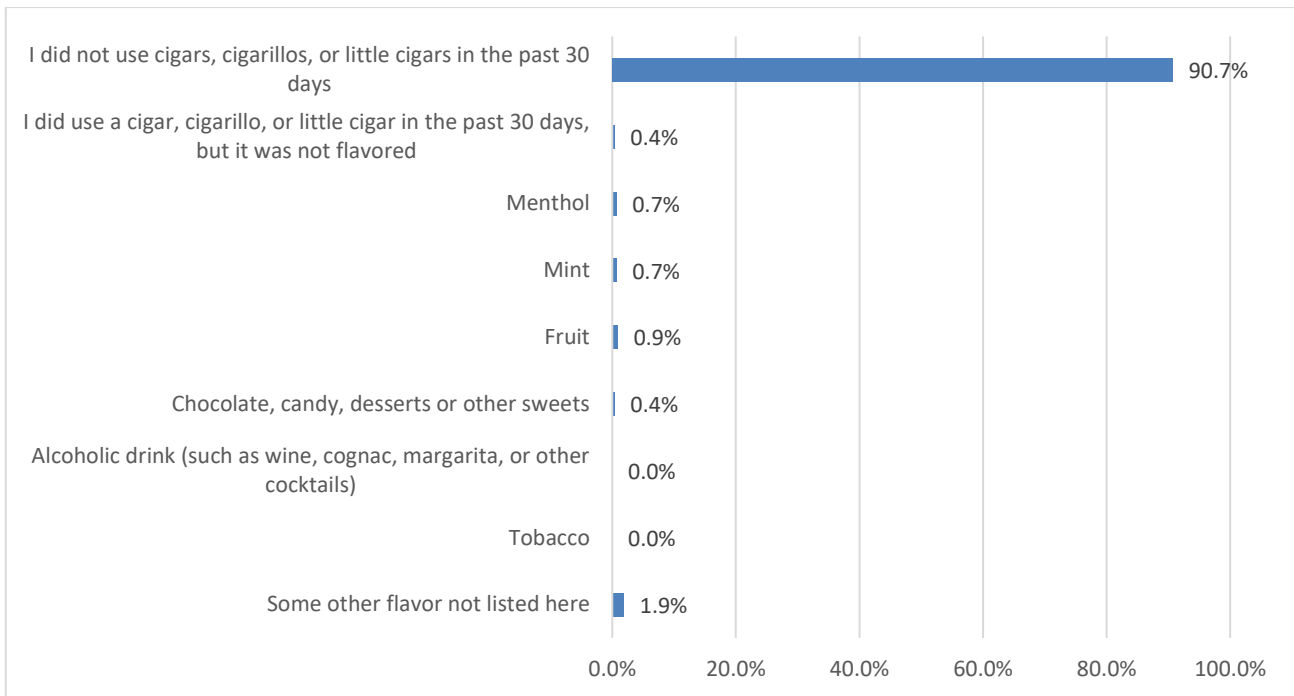
- As indicated in Figure 55, students were most likely to report using unflavored cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars in the 30 days prior to the survey (16.6%).

Figure 55: Flavored Cigars, Cigarillos, or Little Cigars Used in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=522)



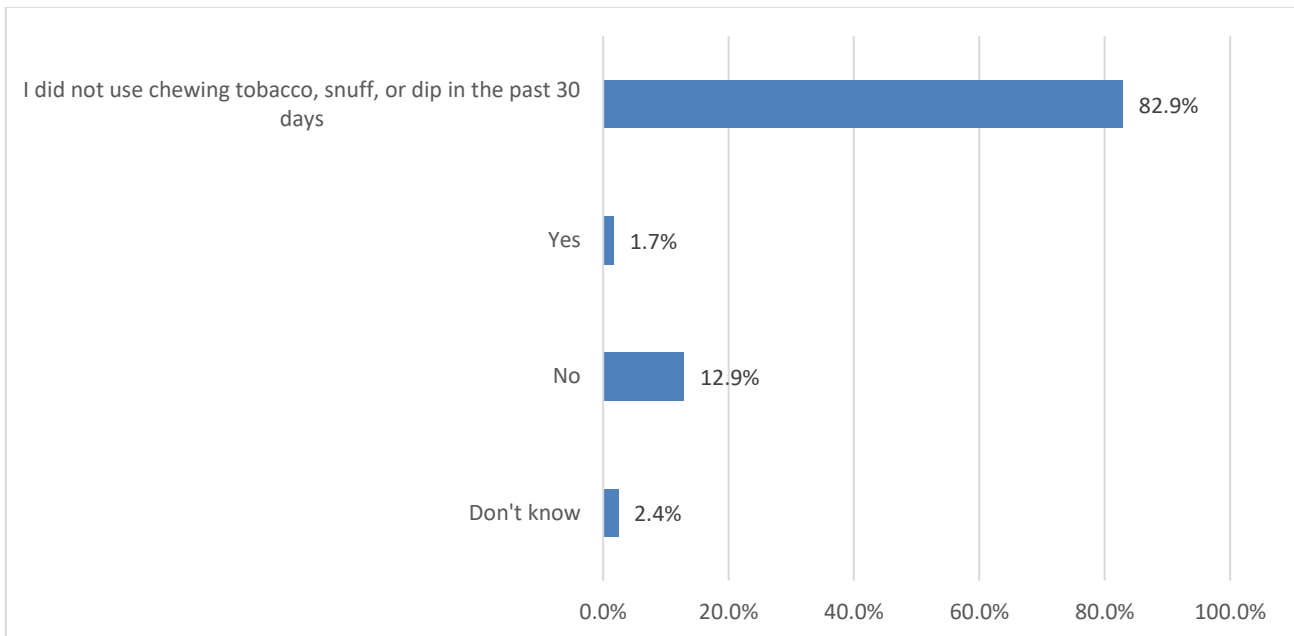
- Among all options, flavors not listed (1.9%) was the most commonly chosen choice among students (Figure 56), followed by fruit (0.9%).

Figure 56: Flavors of Cigars, Cigarillos, or Little Cigars Used in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



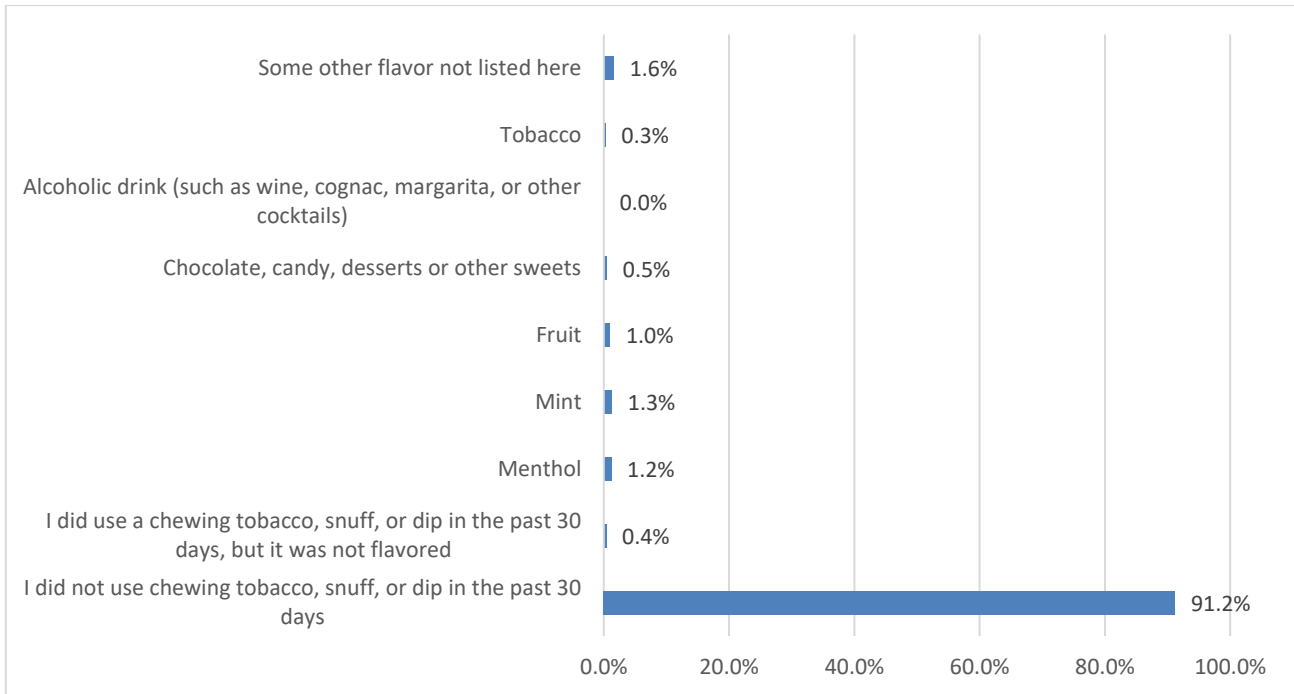
- Much like cigars, cigarillos, and little cigars, Figure 57 shows that students were most likely to report using unflavored smokeless tobacco in the past 30 days (12.9%).

Figure 57: Flavored Chewing Tobacco, Snuff, or Dip Used in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=521)



- Flavors not listed (1.6%) was the most commonly chosen choice among students (Figure 58), followed by mint (1.3%).

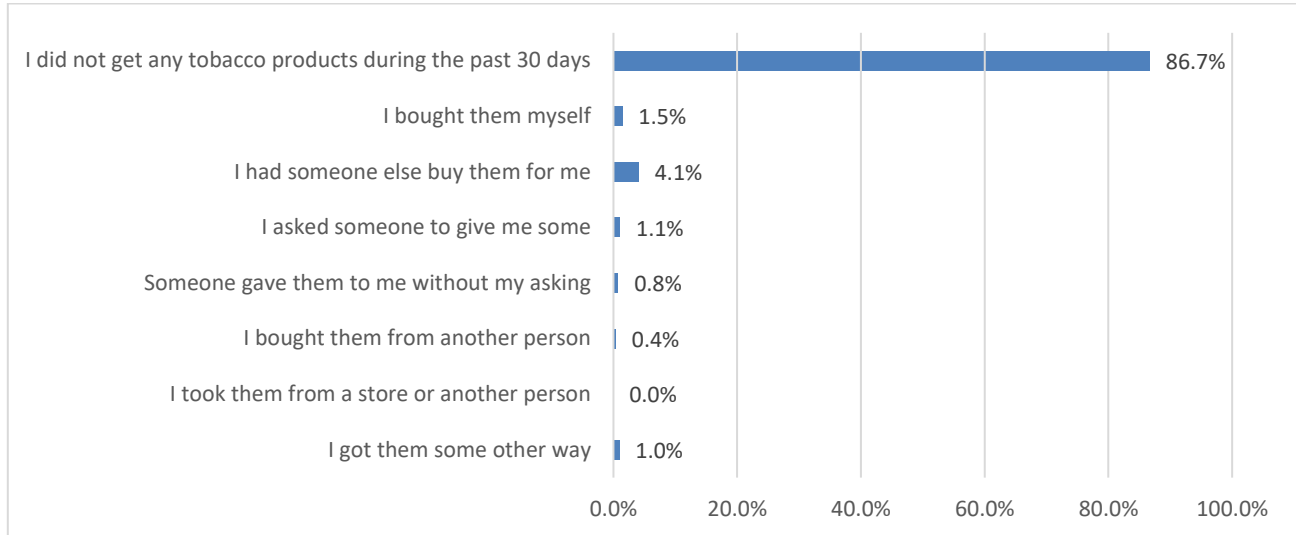
Figure 58: Flavors of Chewing Tobacco, Snuff, or Dip Used in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



Sources of Tobacco Products

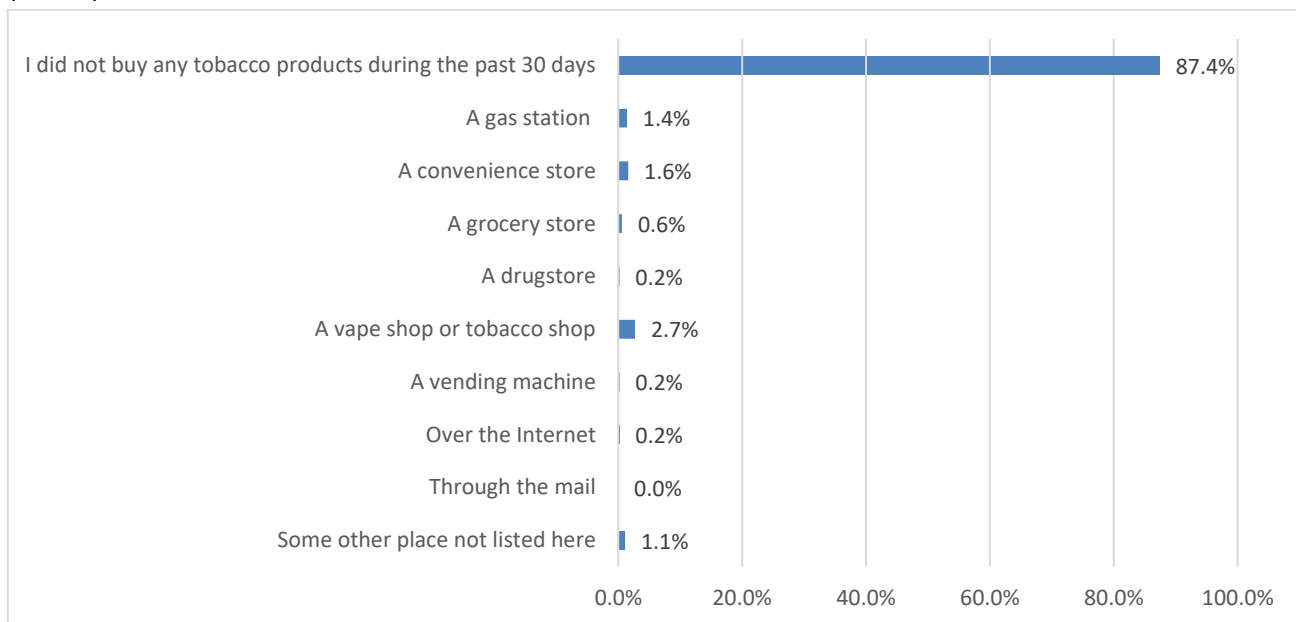
- Students reporting current tobacco use were most likely to have had someone buy tobacco products for them (4.1%) or to have bought them themselves (1.5%) (Figure 59).

Figure 59: Ways Students Obtained Tobacco Products during the Past 30 days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



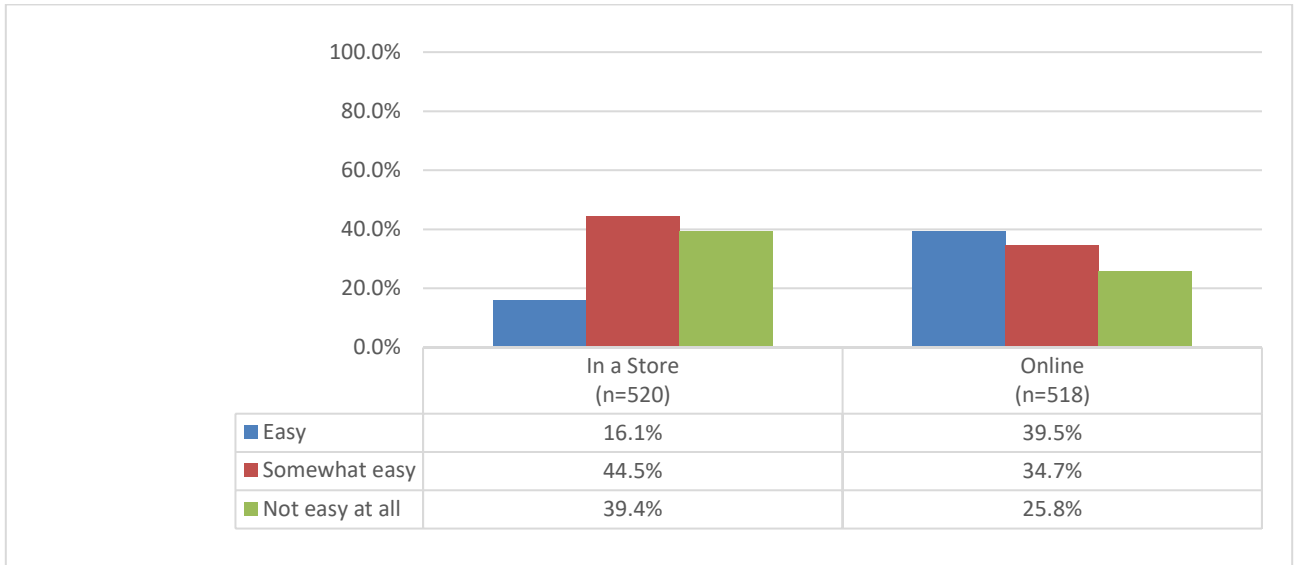
- As seen in Figure 60, purchasing tobacco products from a vape shop or tobacco shop (2.7%) was more prevalent than other places listed. A small proportion of respondents also reported buying tobacco products somewhere not listed (1.1%).

Figure 60: Places Where Students Purchased Tobacco Products during the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



- Figure 61 showed that students perceived a higher ease of access to tobacco products online than in a store. In 2022, almost two in five students (39.5%) felt it would be easy for them to get tobacco products online.

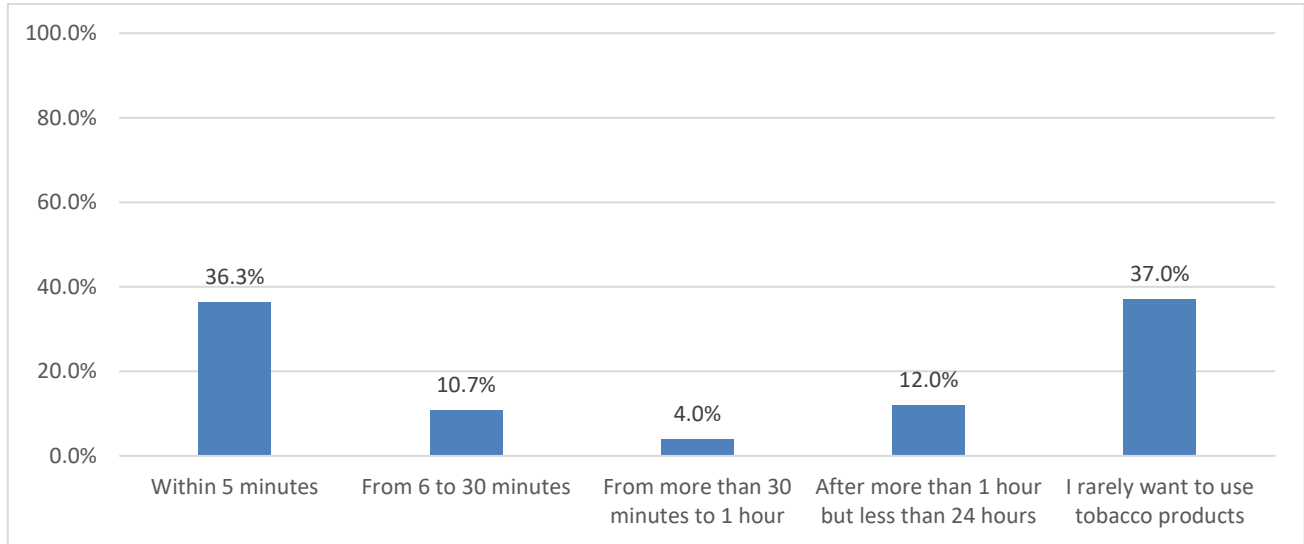
Figure 61: Percentage of Students Reporting the Ease of Getting Tobacco Products in a Store and Online, Nebraska YTS 2022



Quitting Tobacco Products

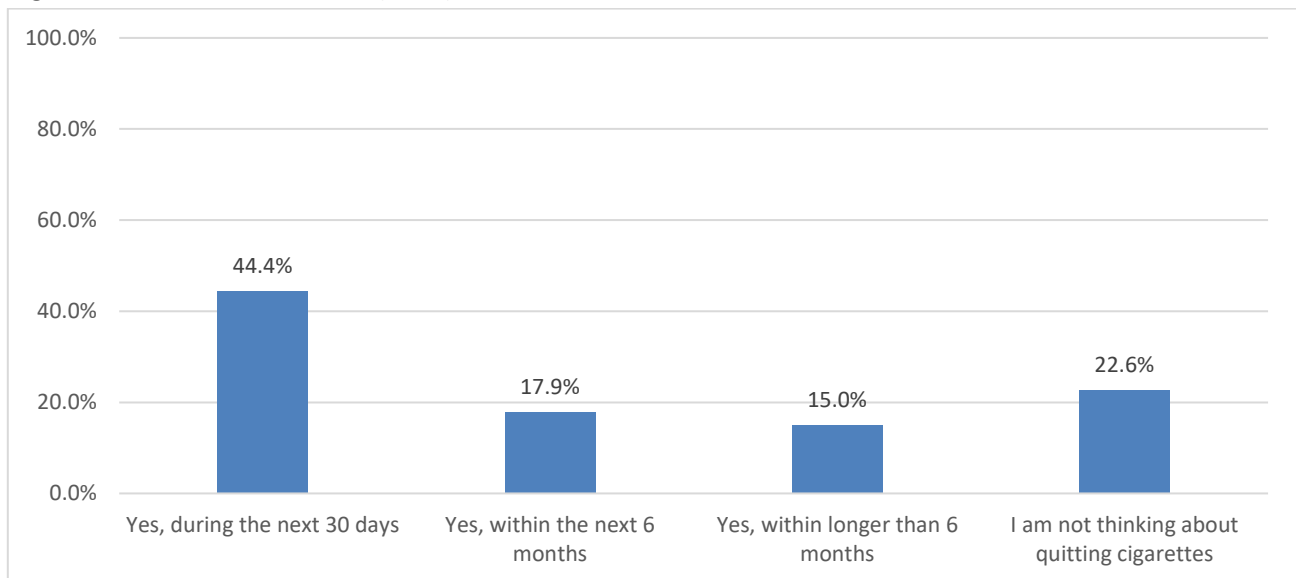
- Among student tobacco users, more than one-third (37.0%) indicated they rarely wanted to use tobacco products after waking up. However, the same holds true for 36.3% of students who reported they wanted tobacco products within 5 minutes after waking up (Figure 62).

Figure 62: How Soon Students Want Tobacco Products after Waking Up, Among Students who Reported Using Tobacco Products, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=48)



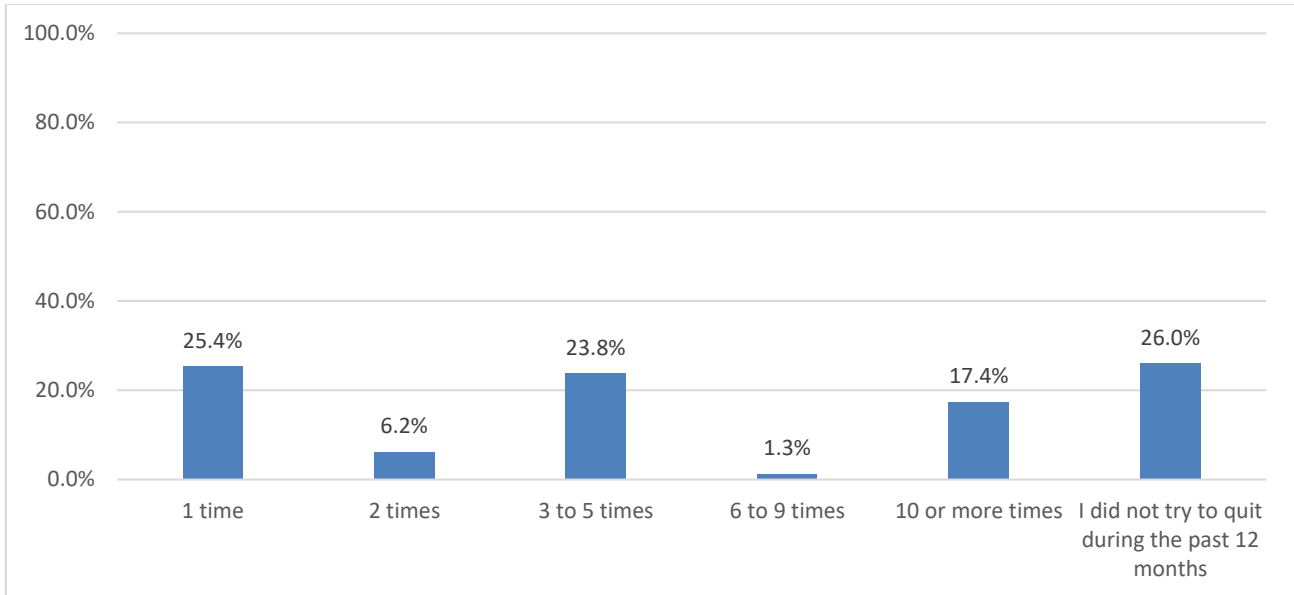
- Close to one quarter of student smokers (22.6%) expressed no intention to quit cigarettes (Figure 63).
- 44.4% of student smokers that reported considering quitting cigarettes in the next 30 days.

Figure 63: Students Seriously Thinking About Quitting Cigarettes, Among Students who Reported Smoking Cigarettes, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=15)



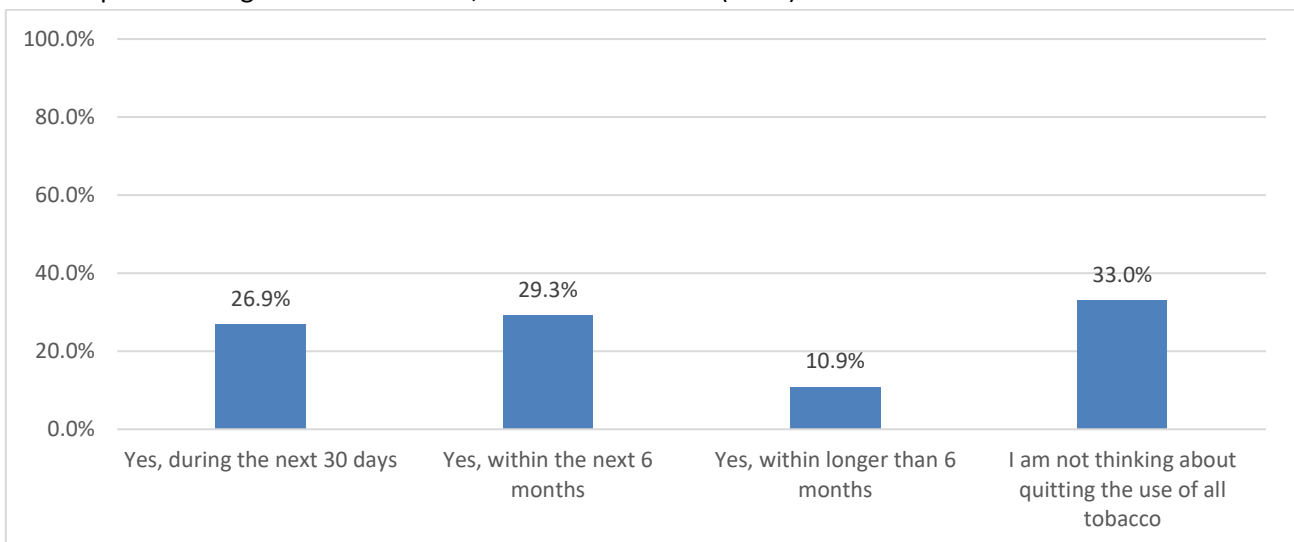
- About one-fourth of the student smokers (26.0%) indicated they did not try to quit smoking cigarettes on a single day during the past 12 months (Figure 64).
- Close to one-fifth (17.4%) reported having tried 10 or more times during that period.

Figure 64: How Often Students Stopped Smoking Cigarettes for One Day or Longer to Try to Quit for Good, Among Student who Reported Smoking Cigarettes, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=21)



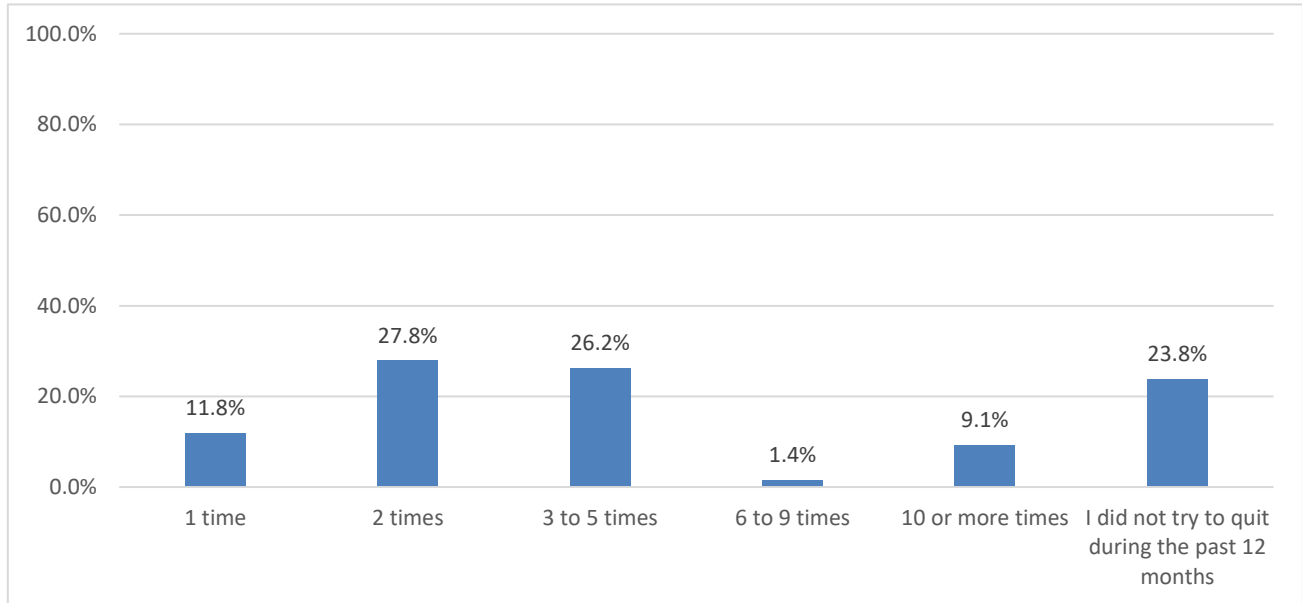
- Figure 65 showed that about one-third (33.0%) of student tobacco users were not thinking about quitting the use of all tobacco products.
- About one in ten (10.9%) reported they would think about quitting, but not in the next 6 months.

Figure 65: Students Seriously Thinking About Quitting the Use of All Tobacco Products, Among Students Who Reported Using Tobacco Products, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=31)



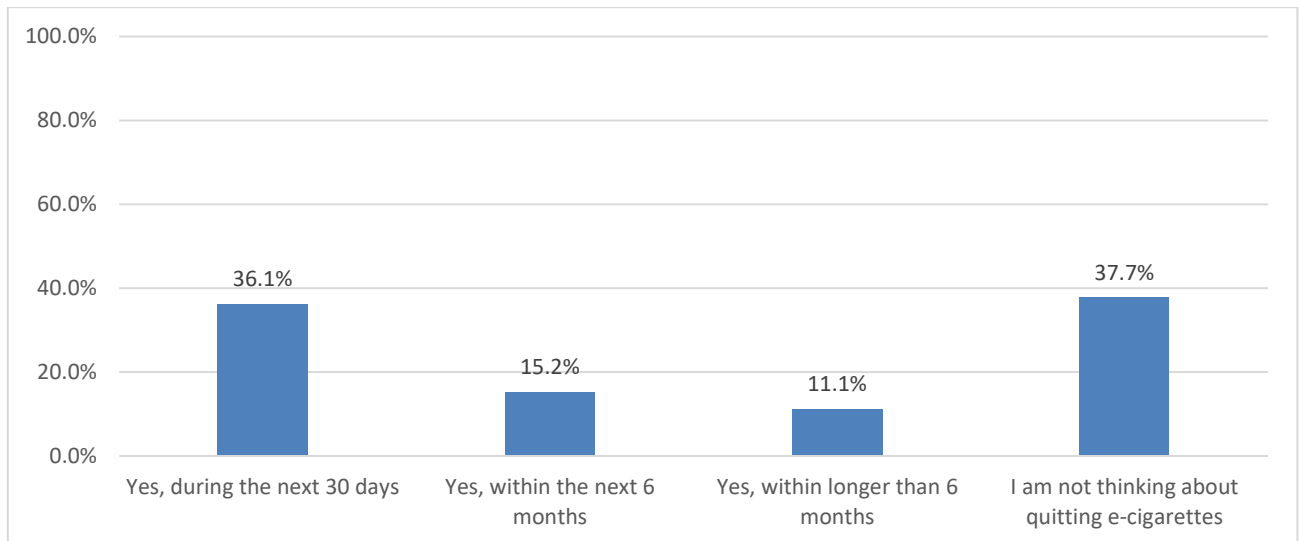
- As seen in Figure 66, 9.1% of students who reported using some form of tobacco indicated they stopped using all tobacco products for one day or longer 10 or more times in the past 12 months to try to quit using for good.

Figure 66: Percentage of Students Who Stopped Using All Tobacco for One Day or Longer to Try to Quit Using for Good, Among Student Smokers, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=43)



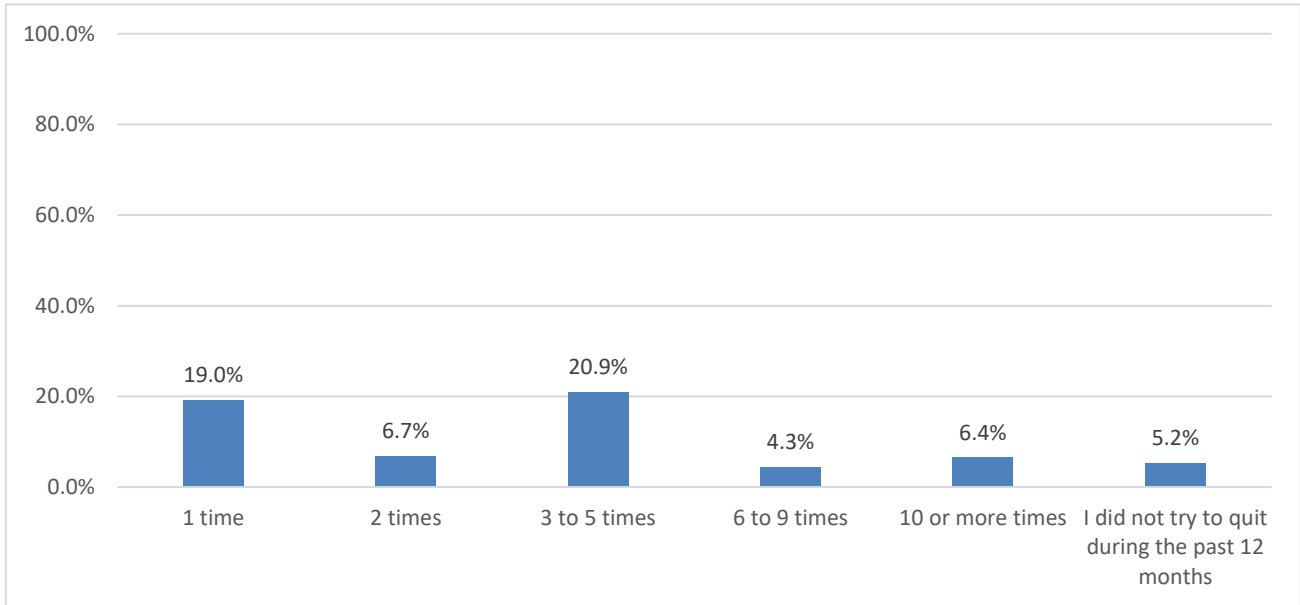
- Figure 67 showed that about two-fifths (37.7%) of student e-cigarette users were not thinking about quitting the use of e-cigarettes.
- About one in ten (11.1%) reported they would think about quitting, but not in the next 6 months.

Figure 67: Students Seriously Thinking About Quitting the Use of E-Cigarettes, Among Students Who Reported Using Tobacco Products, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=55)



- As seen in Figure 68, 19.0% of students who reported using e-cigarettes indicated they stopped using e-cigarettes for one day or longer one time in the past 12 months to try to quit using for good.

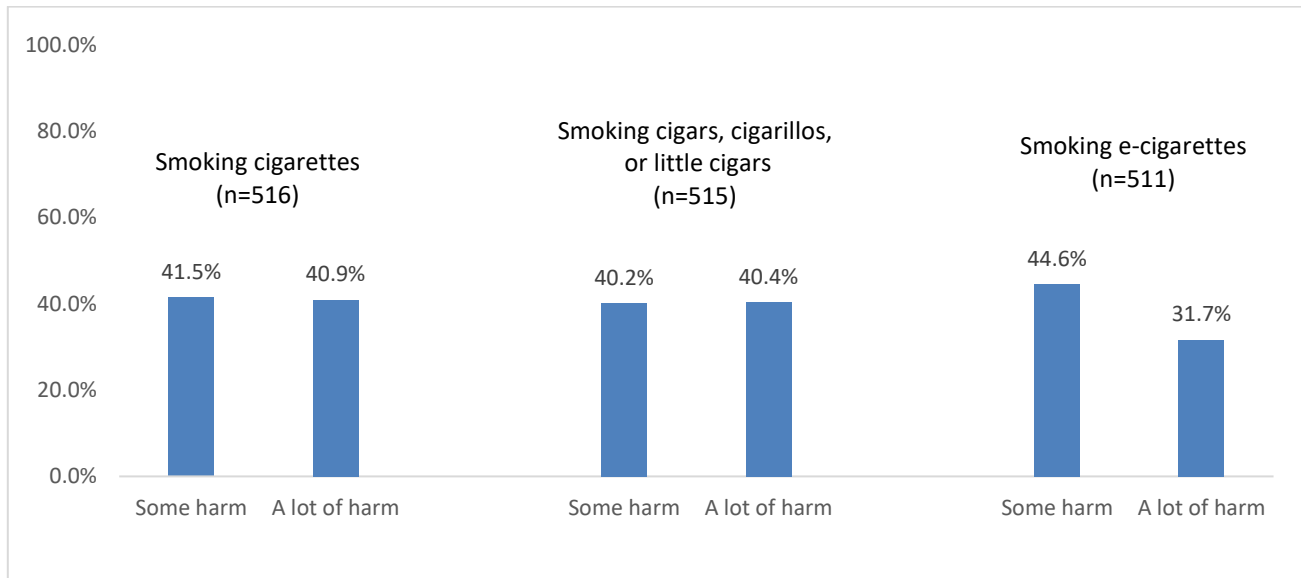
Figure 68: Percentage of Students Who Stopped Using E-Cigarettes for One Day or Longer to Try to Quit Using for Good, Among Student Smokers, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=64)



Perceptions of Tobacco Health Risk and Peer Utilization

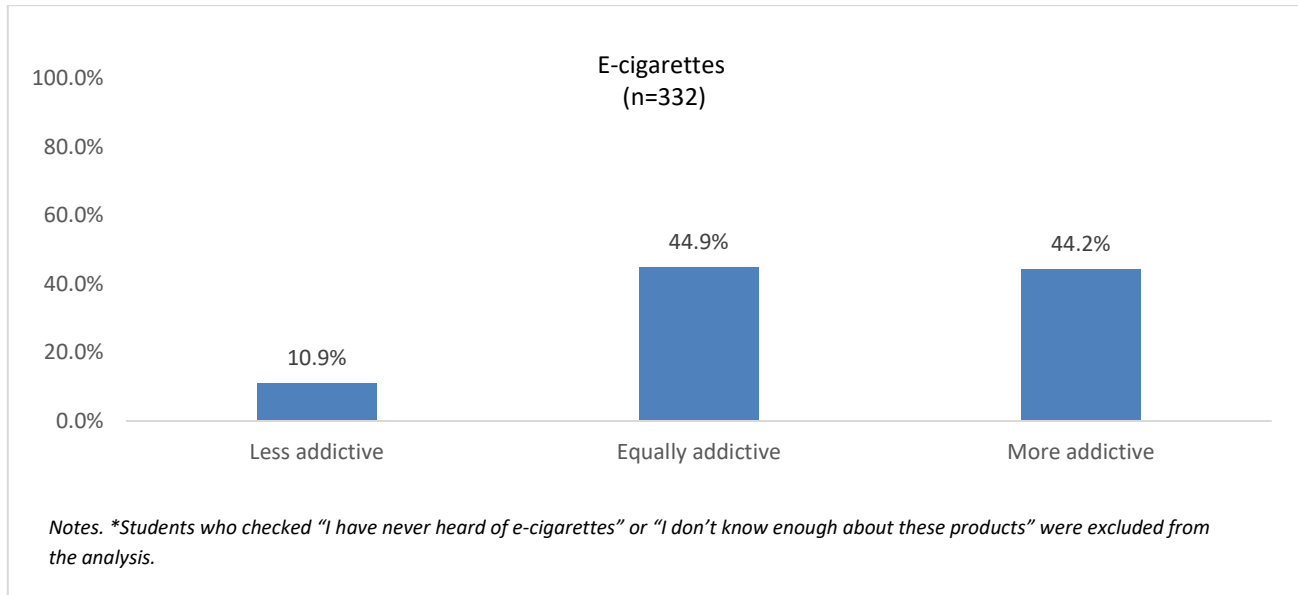
- Figure 69 shows that rates were comparable across various tobacco products regarding students' perceptions on each products' harmfulness.
- Students perceive e-cigarettes as putting users at more risk of "some harm" (44.6%) compared to "a lot of harm" (31.7%).

Figure 69: Percentage of Students Reporting People Harm Themselves Some or a Lot When Using Tobacco Products Some Days, Nebraska YTS 2022



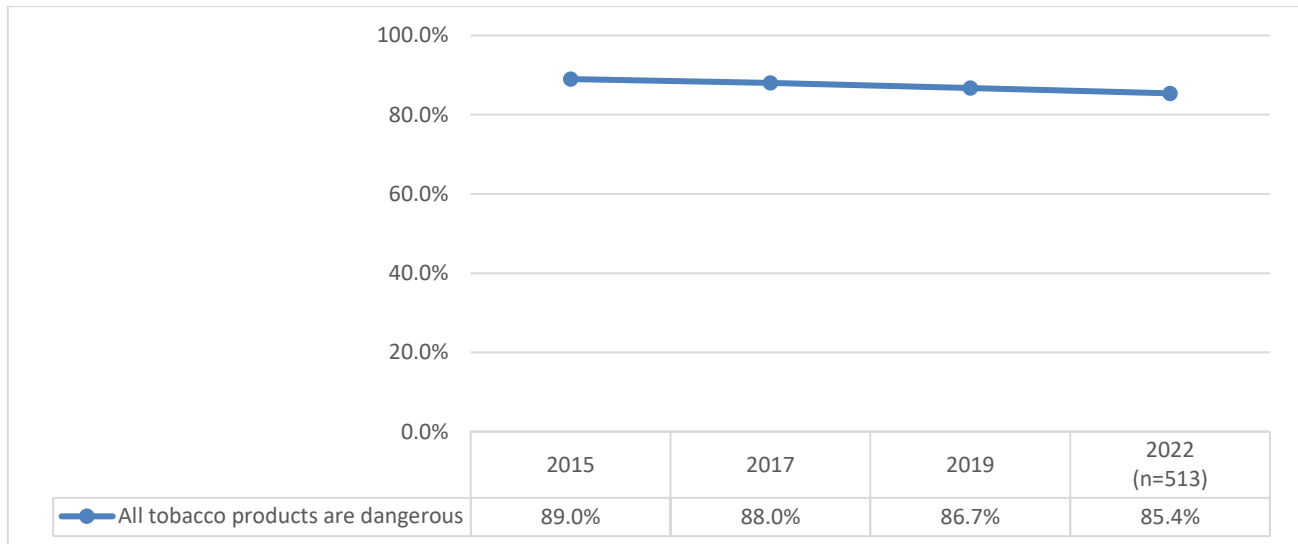
- Among respondents (Figure 70), almost half perceived e-cigarettes to be equally addictive as cigarettes (44.9%).
- One in ten students (10.9%) felt that e-cigarettes are less addictive than cigarettes.

Figure 70: Percentage of Students Reporting How Addictive E-Cigarettes are Compared to Cigarettes*, Nebraska YTS 2022



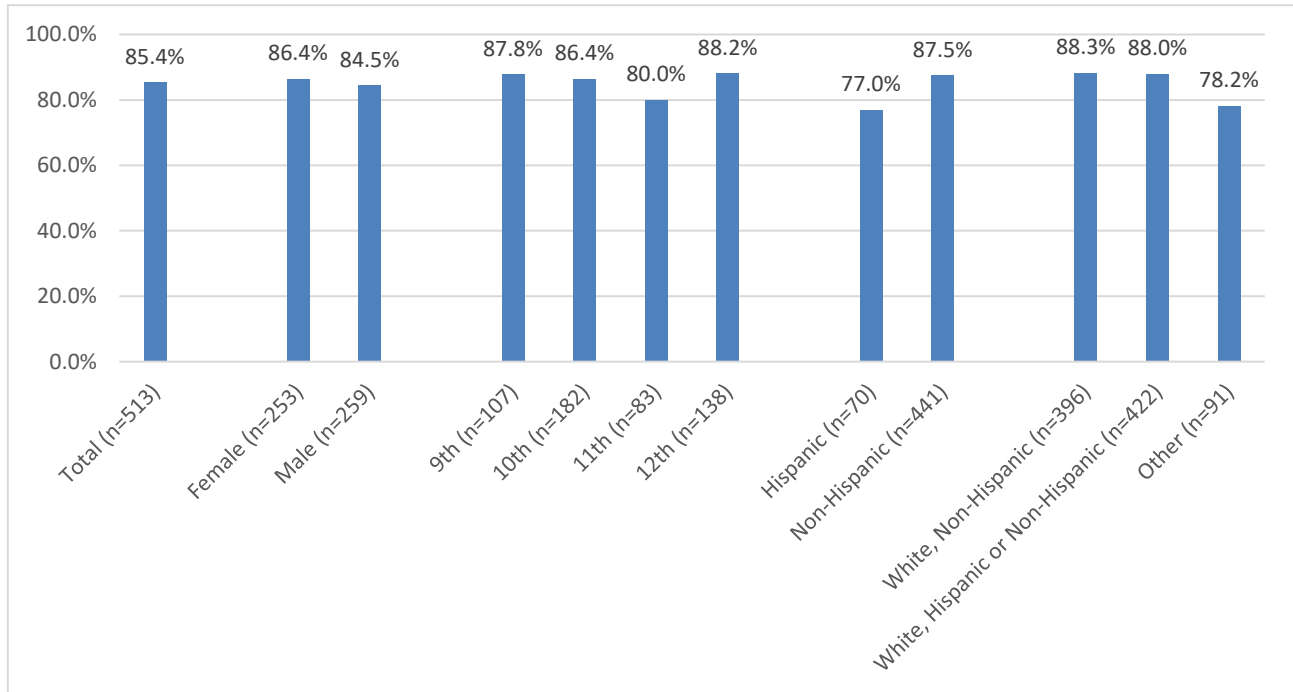
- The percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "all tobacco products are dangerous" decreased slightly from 2015 (89.0%) to 2022 (85.4%) (Figure 71).

Figure 71: Percentage of Students Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed with the Statement "All tobacco products are dangerous"*, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



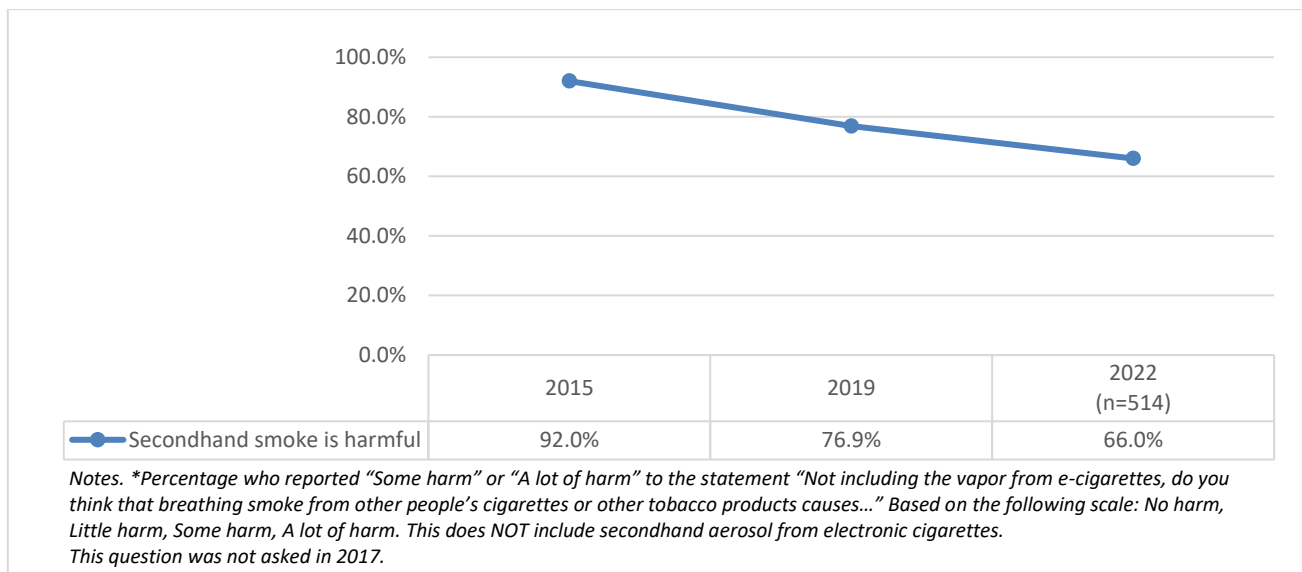
- The majority of students either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "all tobacco products are dangerous" regardless of gender, grade, ethnicity, or race (Figure 72).
- Non-Hispanic students (87.5%) were more likely than Hispanic students (77.0%) to believe all tobacco products are dangerous.

Figure 72: Percentage of Students Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed with the Statement “All tobacco products are dangerous” by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



- Compared to earlier YTS administrations, the percentage of students who believe that secondhand smoke is harmful decreased from 92.0% in 2015 to 66.0% in 2022 (Figure 73).

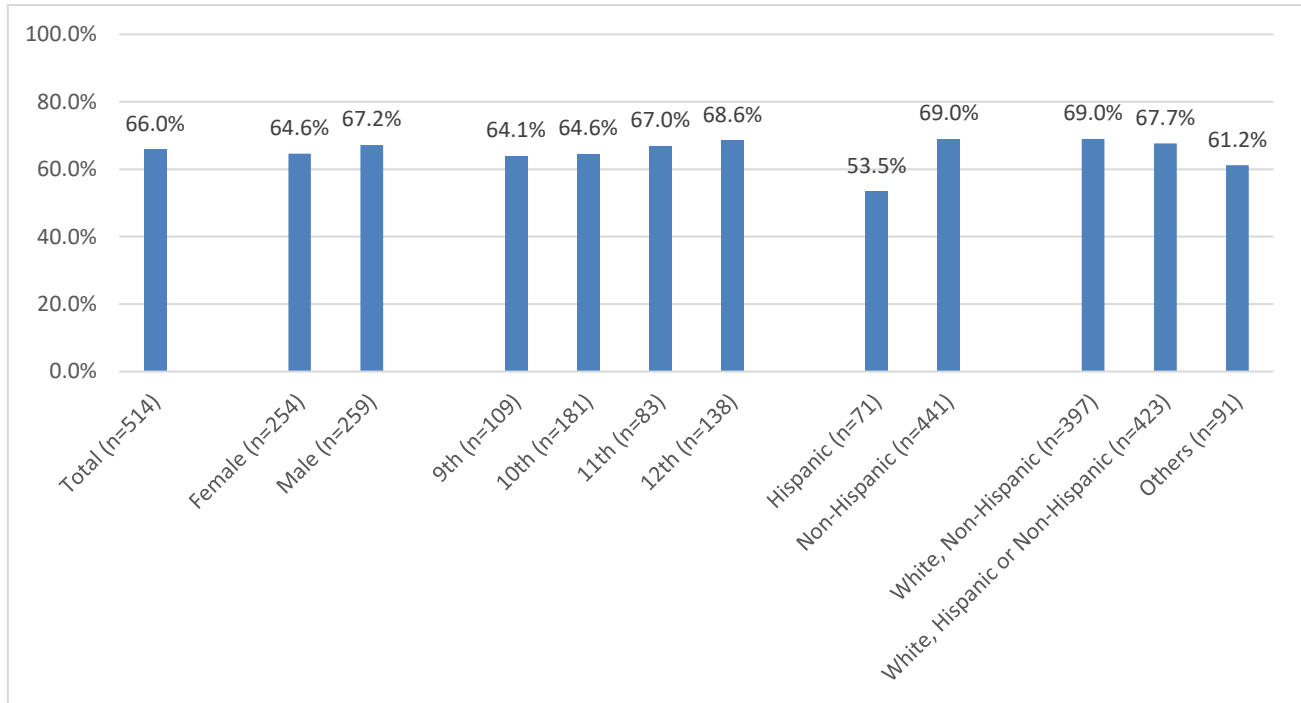
Figure 73: Percentage of Students who Believed that Secondhand Smoke is Harmful*, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



- Non-Hispanic students reported a higher percentage of believing that secondhand smoke is harmful (69.0%) compared to Hispanic students (53.5%).

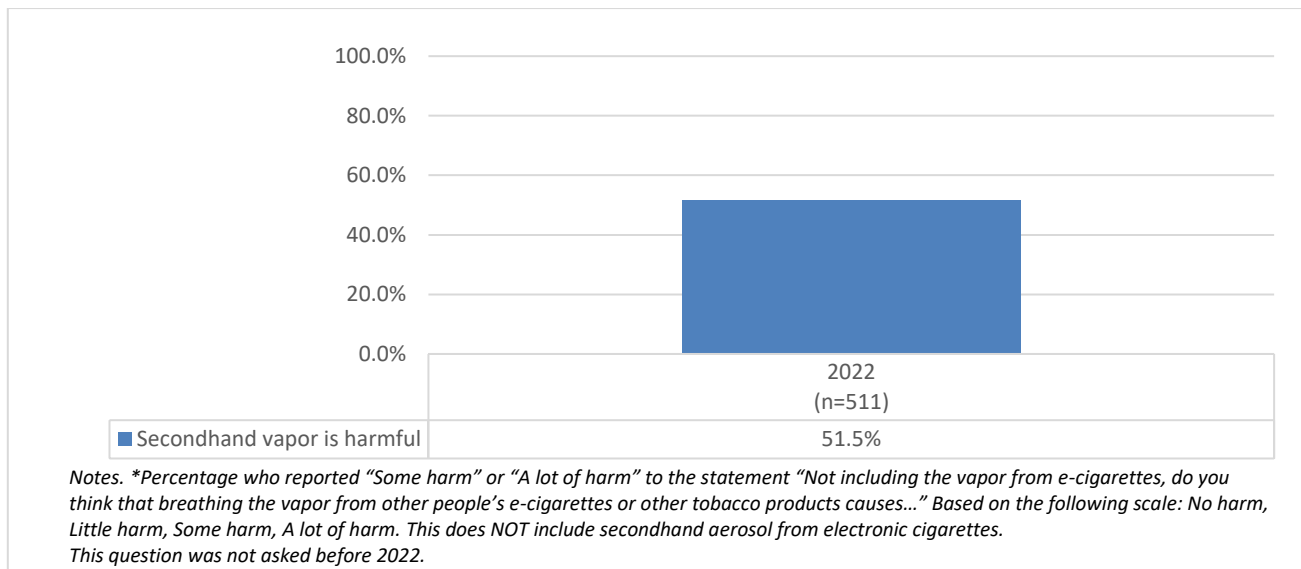
- Rates were similar when measured by gender, grade, or race albeit small differences (Figure 74).

Figure 74: Percentage of Students who Believed that Secondhand Smoke is Harmful by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



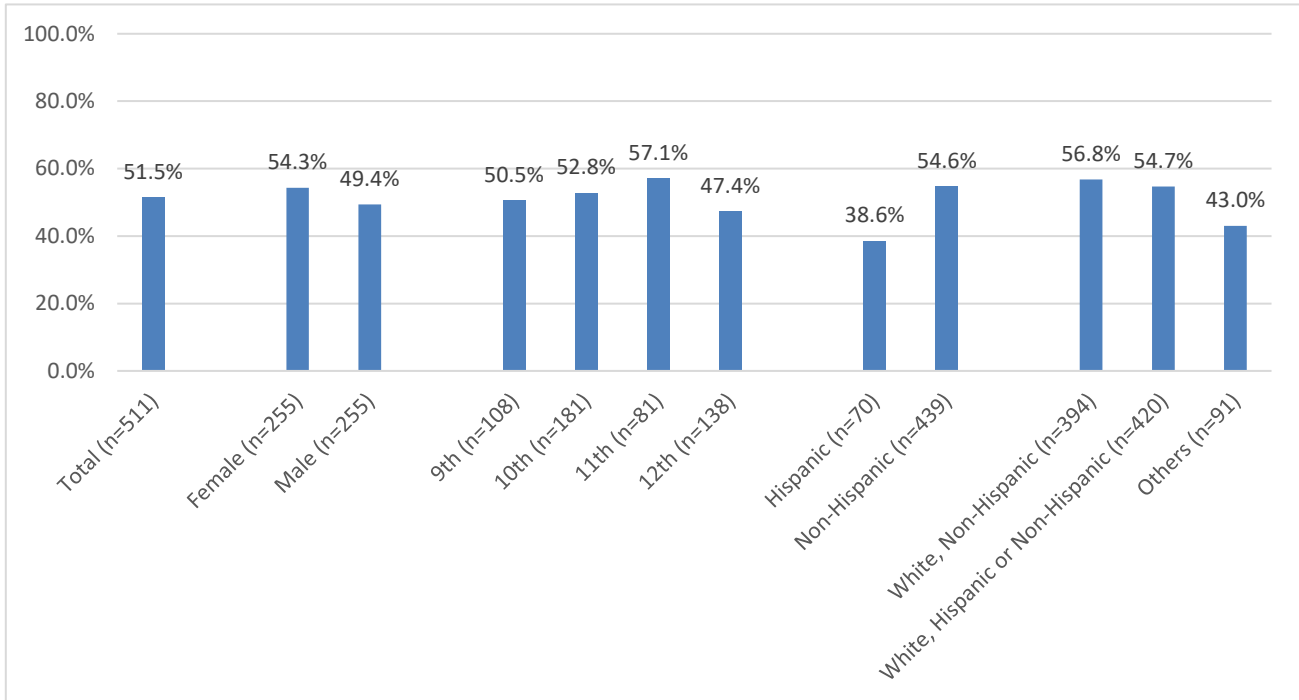
- Half of students (51.5%) reported believing that secondhand vapor from e-cigarettes is harmful in 2022 (Figure 75).

Figure 75: Percentage of Students who Believed that Secondhand Vapor from E-Cigarettes is Harmful*, Nebraska YTS 2022



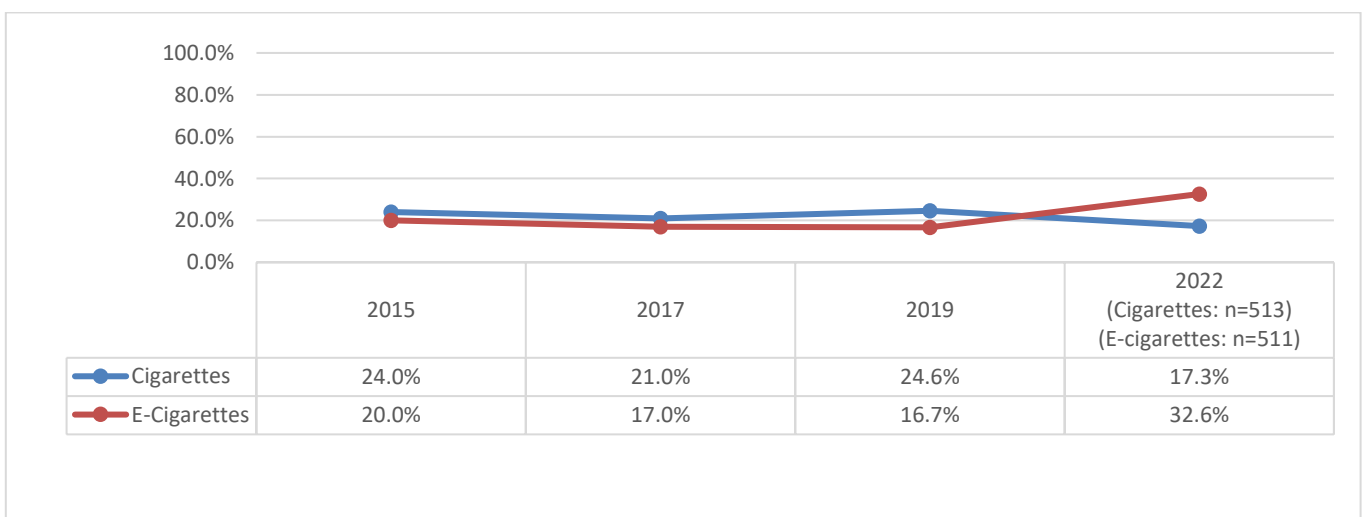
- Similar to secondhand smoke, Figure 76 shows that non-Hispanic students reported a higher percentage of believing that secondhand e-cigarette vapor is harmful (54.6%) compared to Hispanic students (38.6%).

Figure 76: Percentage of Students who Believed that Secondhand Smoke from E-Cigarettes is Harmful by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



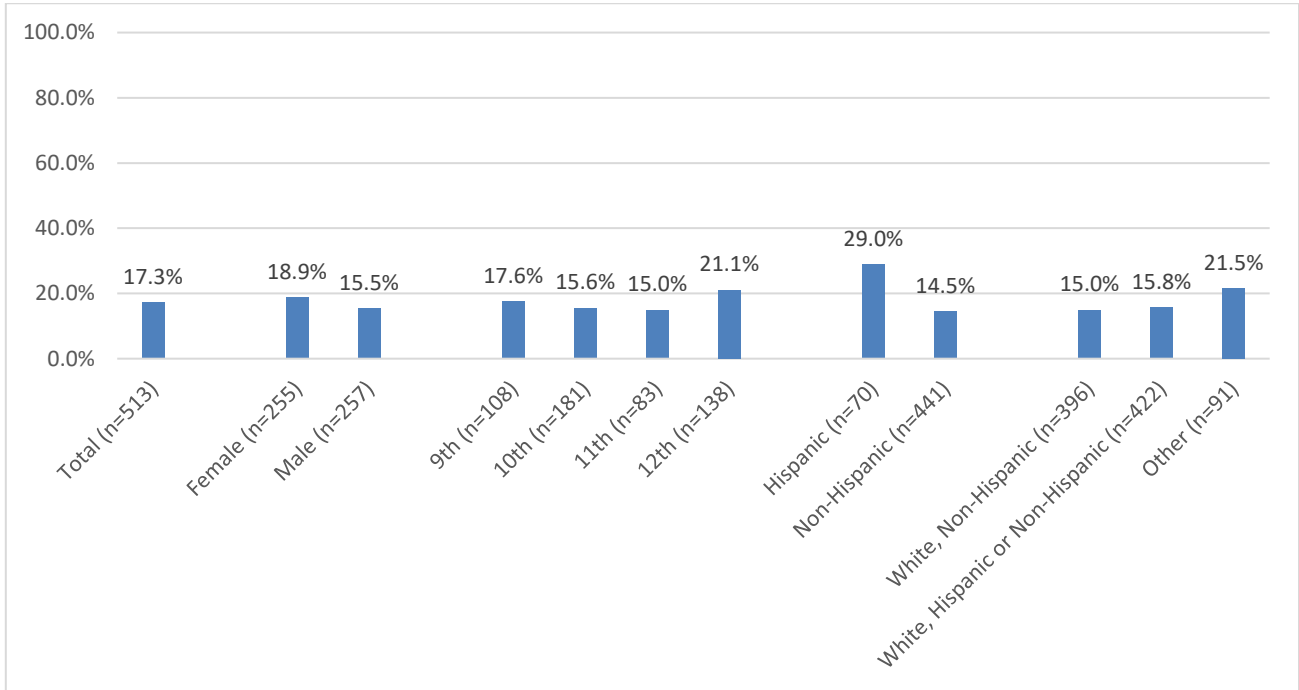
- As seen in Figure 77, the percentage of students reporting one or more of their four closest friends smoked cigarettes went up from 2017 to 2019, and then decreased in 2022 (17.3%).

Figure 77: Percentage of Students Reporting One or More of Their Four Closest Friends Smoked Cigarettes, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



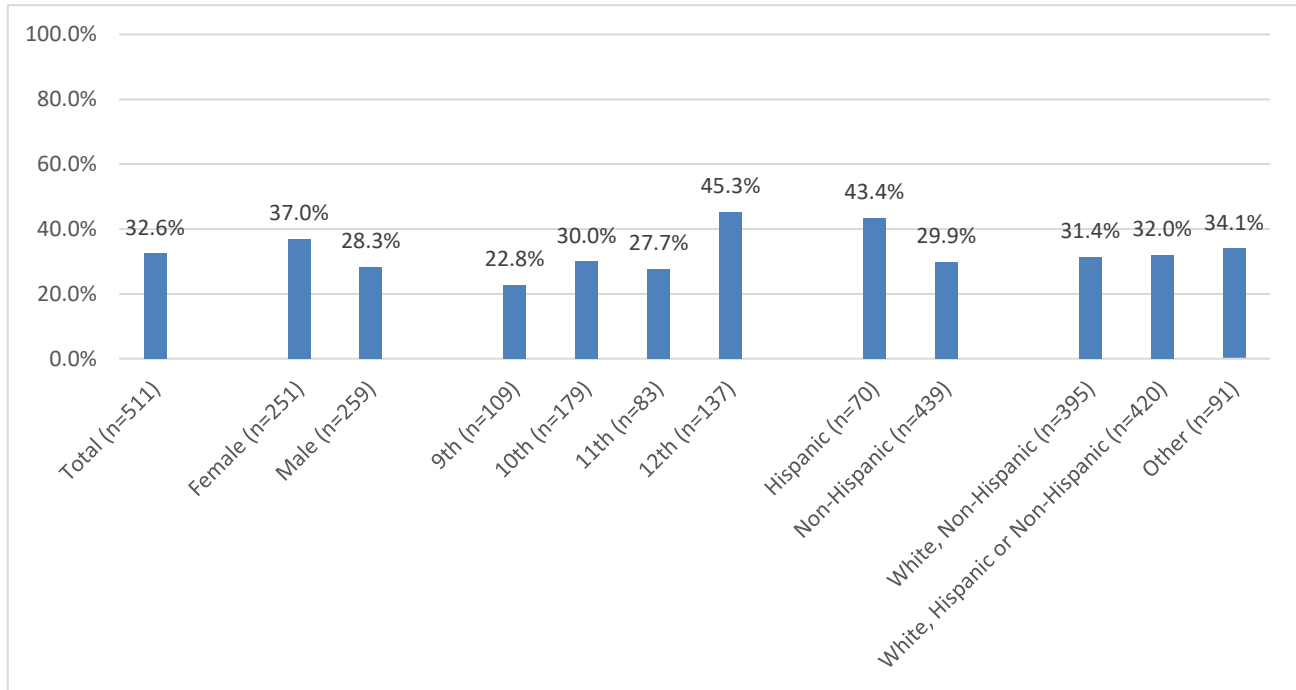
- As seen in Figure 78, the percentage of students reporting one or more of their four closest friends smoked cigarettes was slightly higher among female students (18.9%) than male students (15.5%).

Figure 78: Percentage of Students Reporting One or More of Their Four Closest Friends Smoked Cigarettes by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



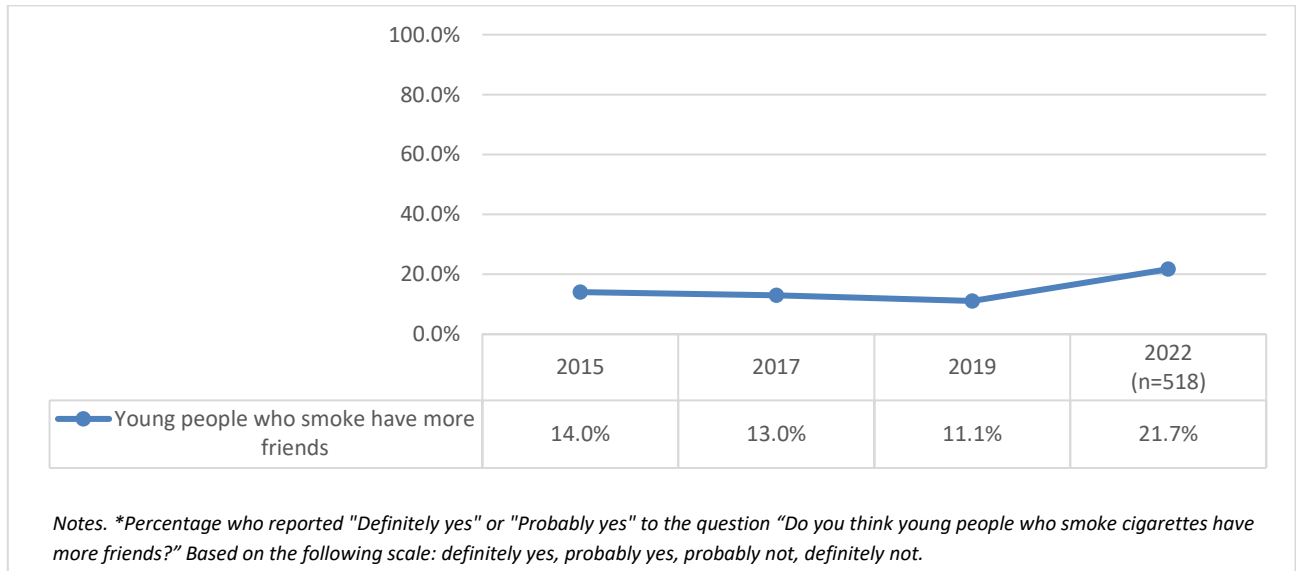
- Approximately one-third (32.6%) of students reported that one or more of their four closest friends used e-cigarettes (Figure 79).

Figure 79: Percentage of Students Reporting One or More of Their Four Closest Friends Used E-Cigarettes by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



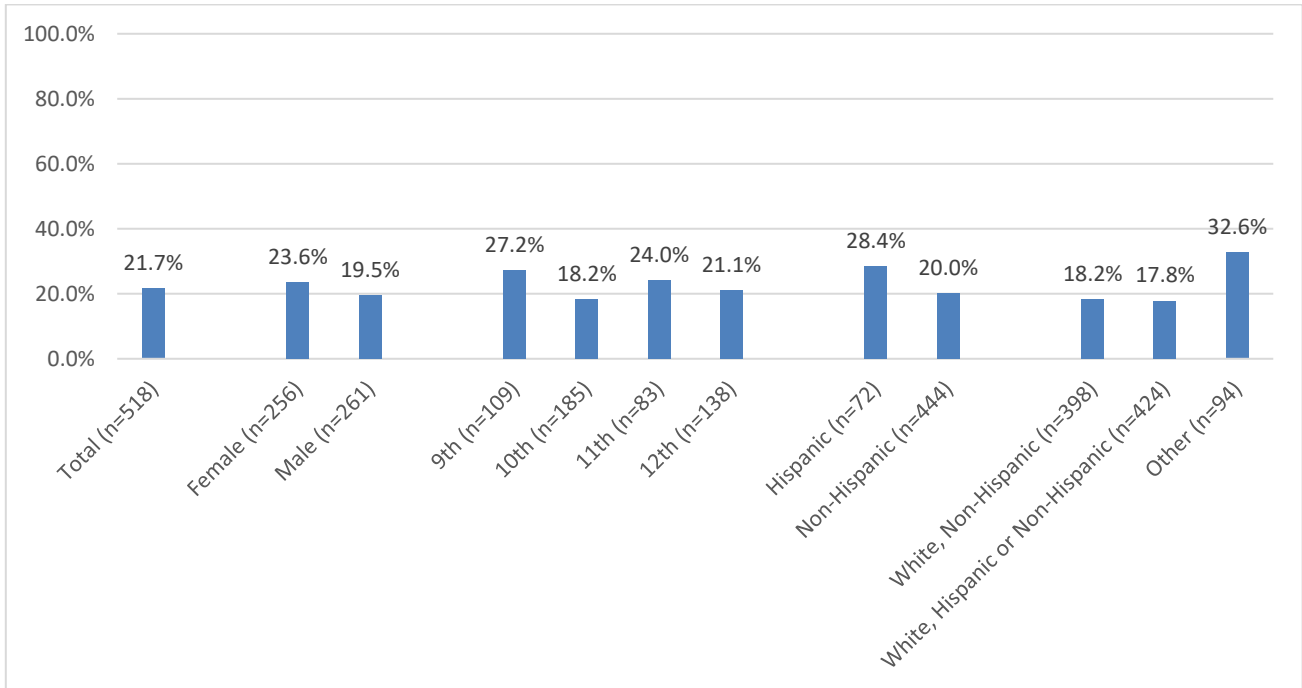
- As observed in Figure 80, the portion of students who believe that young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends declined between 2015 and 2019, before almost doubling in 2022 (21.7%).

Figure 80: Percentage of Students Who Agree That Young People Who Smoke Cigarettes Have More Friends*, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



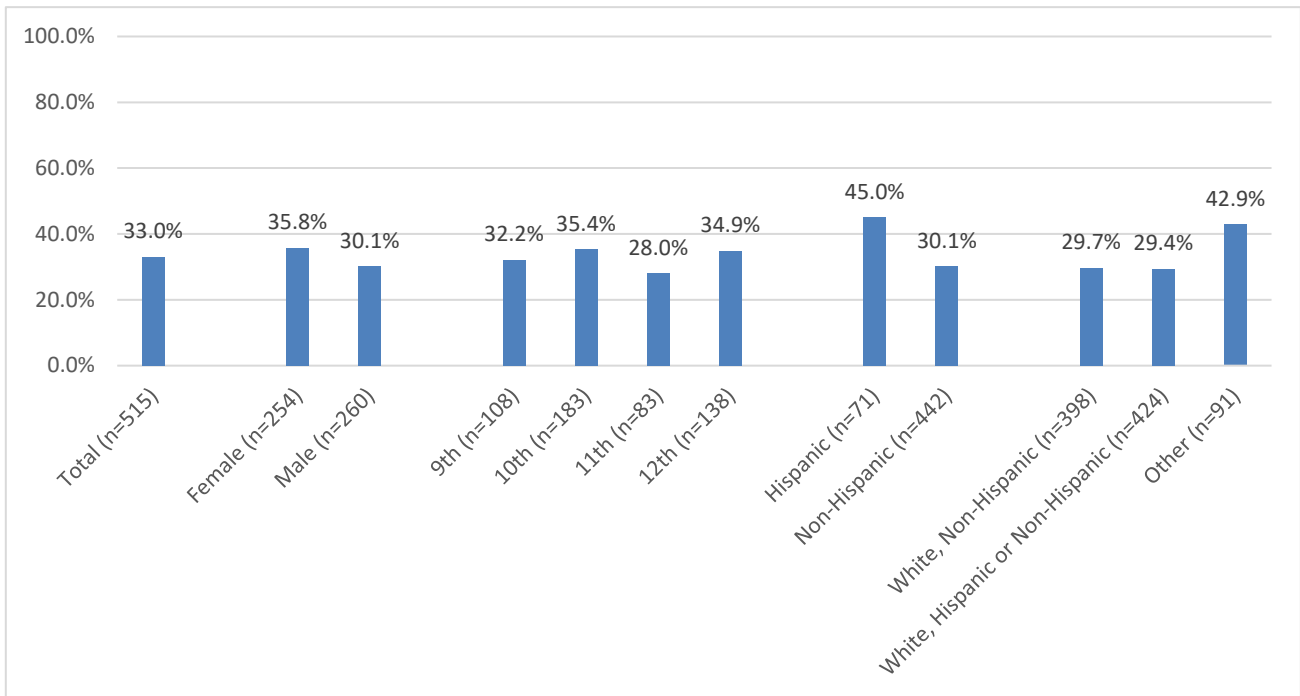
- Hispanic students (28.4%) were more likely than non-Hispanic counterparts (20.0%) to believe cigarette smokers have more friends, and white students (Hispanic or non-Hispanic) were less likely than those of other races to believe this (Figure 81).

Figure 81: Percentage of Students Who Agreed That Young People Who Smoke Cigarettes Have More Friends by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



- As shown in Figure 82, compared to cigarettes (Figure 81, considerably more students regardless of gender, grade, ethnicity, or race thought young people using e-cigarettes have more friends.

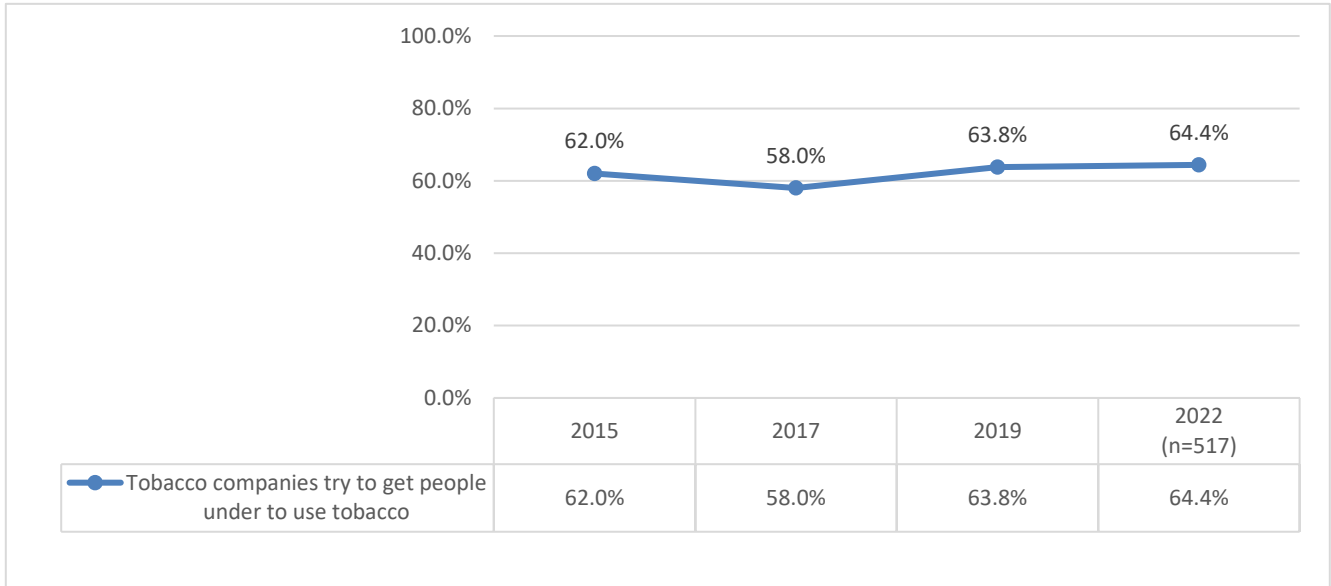
Figure 82: Percentage of Students Who Agreed That Young People Who Use E-Cigarettes Have More Friends by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



Tobacco Advertisements

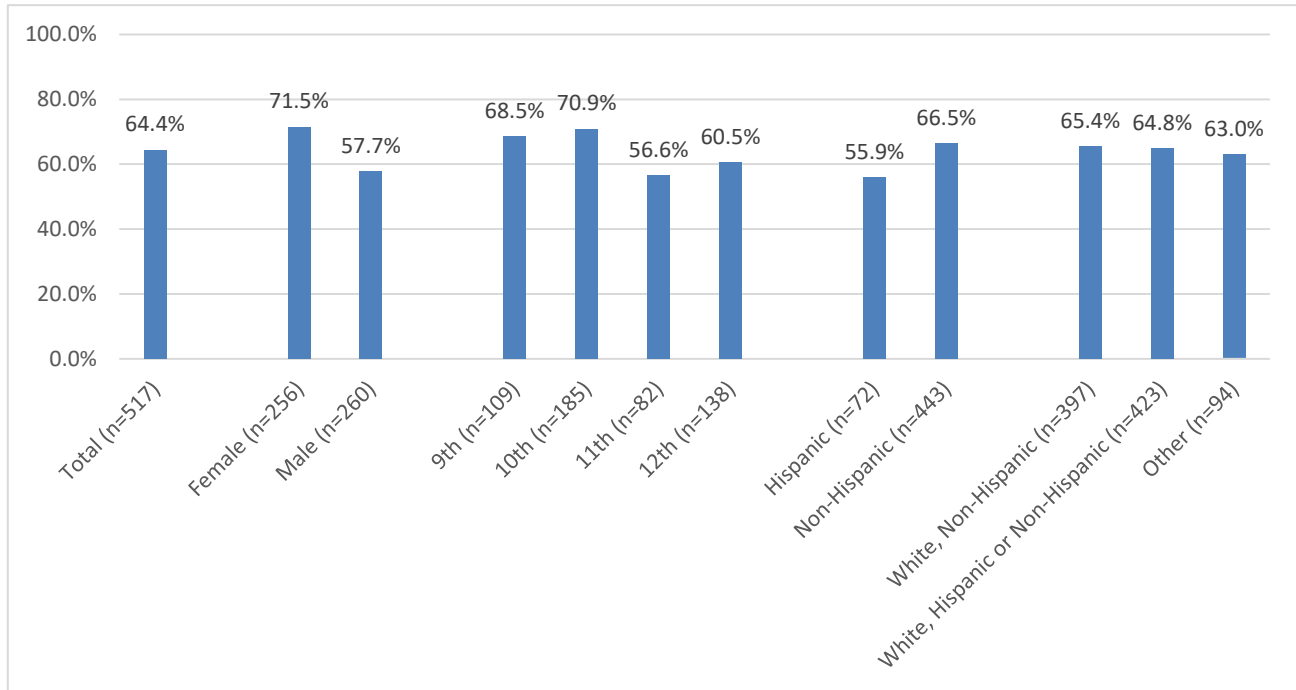
- As shown in Figure 83, after previous years of decline, the percentage of students who believe that tobacco companies try to get people under the legal age to use tobacco products increased slightly to 64.4% in 2022 from 63.8% in 2019.

Figure 83: Percentage of Students Who Believed Tobacco Companies Try to Get People Under 21 to Use Tobacco Products, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



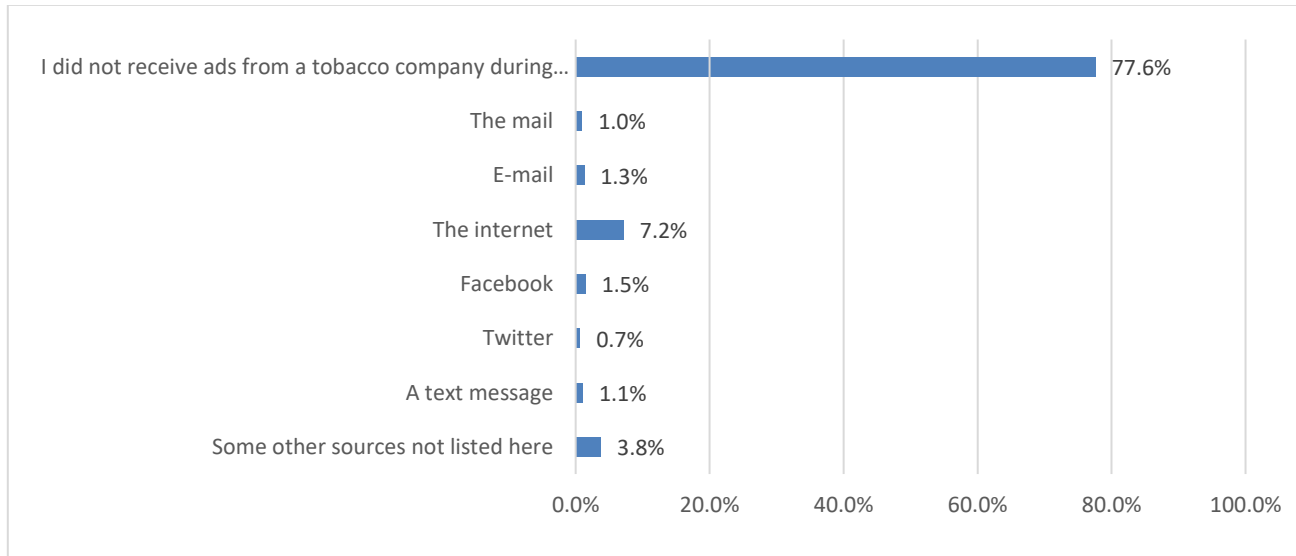
- Female students (71.5%) were more likely than male students (57.7%) to believe that tobacco companies try to get underage youths to use their products (Figure 84).

Figure 84: Percentage of Students Who Believed Tobacco Companies Try to Get People Under 21 to Use Tobacco Products by Grade, Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, Nebraska YTS 2022



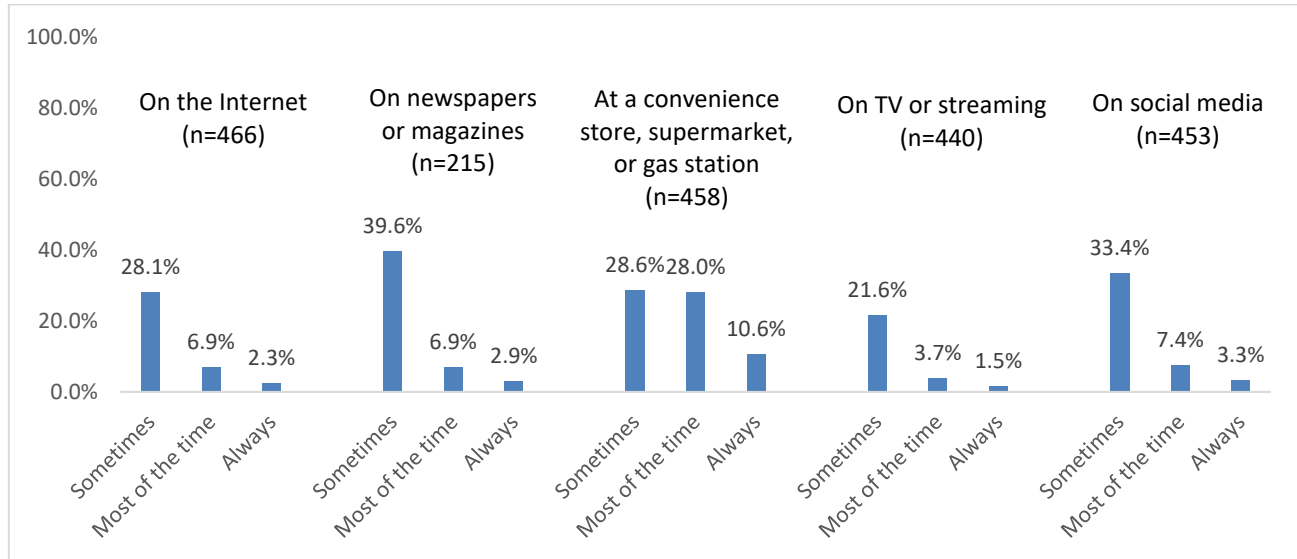
- Out of all respondents, three quarters (77.6%) indicated they did not receive ads from a tobacco company during the past 30 days (Figure 85).
- Students were more likely to receive tobacco ads on the internet (7.2%) compared to other means.

Figure 85: Ways That Students Received Tobacco Advertisements in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



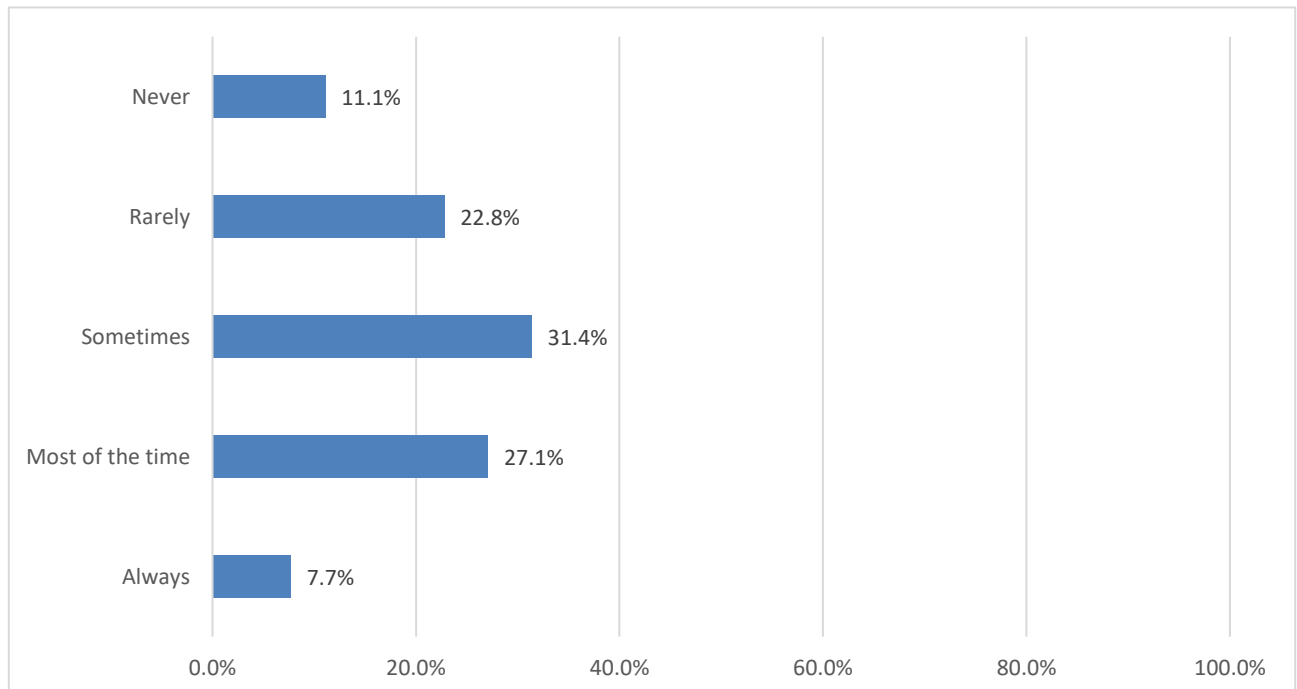
- Students were most likely to see advertisements or promotions for e-cigarettes at a convenience store, supermarket, or gas station (67.2%), compared to on the Internet (37.3%), on TV or streaming (26.8%), on social media (44.1%) or in newspapers or magazines (49.4%) (Figure 86).

Figure 86: How Often Students Saw Advertisements or Promotions for E-Cigarettes in Different Places, Nebraska YTS 2022



- One-third of students (31.4%) reported sometimes seeing ads for cigarettes and other tobacco products in a convenience store, supermarket or gas station, as shown in Figure 87.

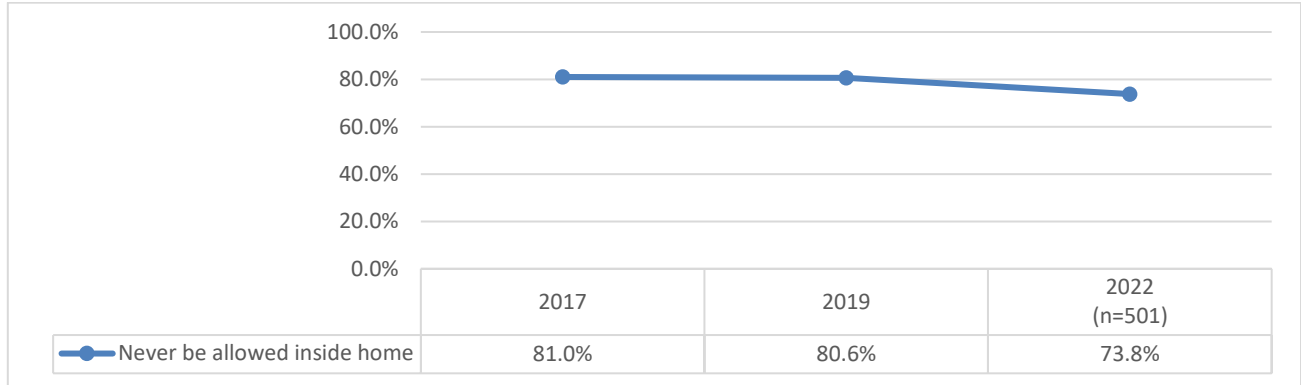
Figure 87: How Often Students Reported Seeing Ads for Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products in a Convenience Store, Supermarket, or Gas Station, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=459)



Exposure to Tobacco Smoke

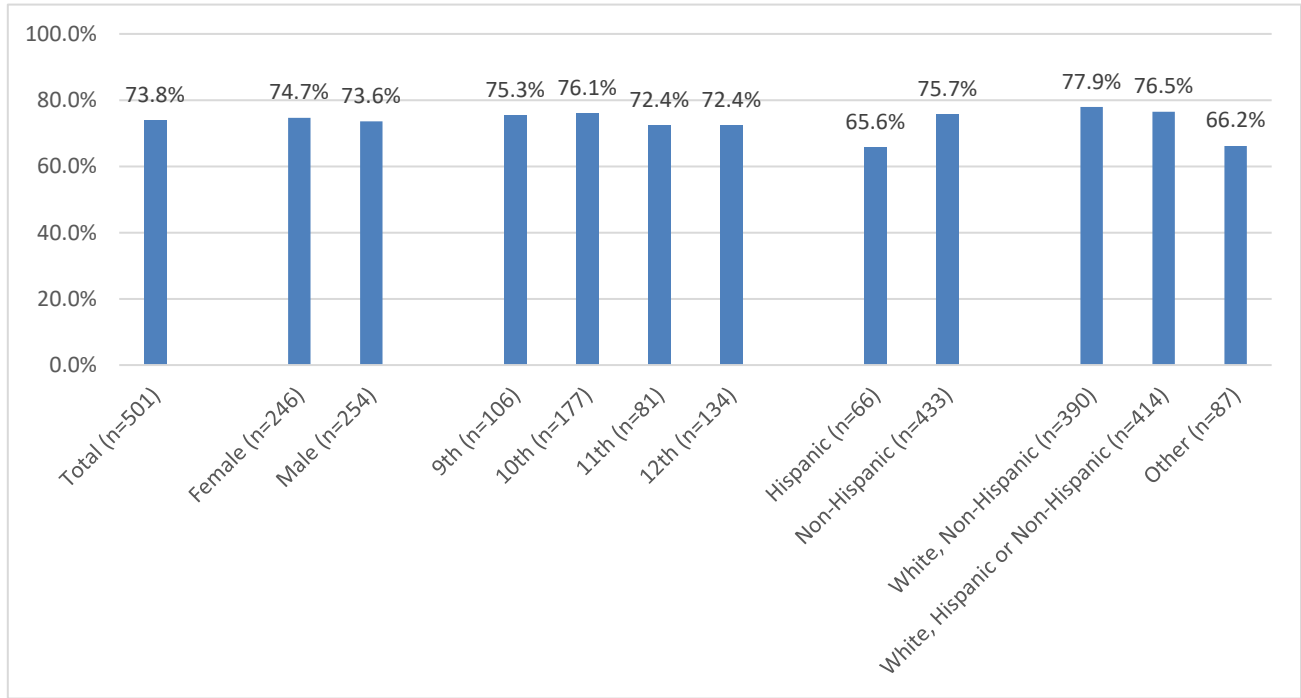
- Seven in ten (73.8%) students believed that smoking should never be allowed inside their home. This was a decline from 80.6% in 2019 (Figure 88).

Figure 88: Percentage of Students Who Believed Smoking Should Never be Allowed in Their Home, Nebraska YTS 2017-2022



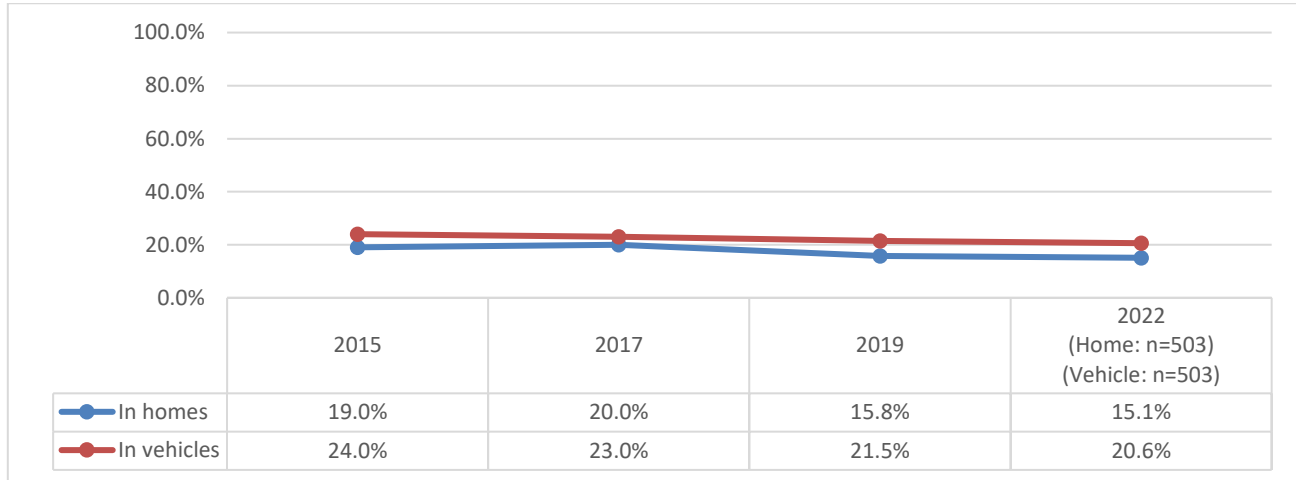
- As shown in Figure 89, non-Hispanic students (75.7%) were more likely than their Hispanic counterparts (65.6%) to believe the use of smoking tobacco products should never be allowed inside their home.
- Little variation was found by gender, grade, or race.

Figure 89: Percentage of Students Who Believed Smoking Should Never be Allowed in Their Home by Gender, Grade, Ethnicity, and Race, Nebraska YTS 2022



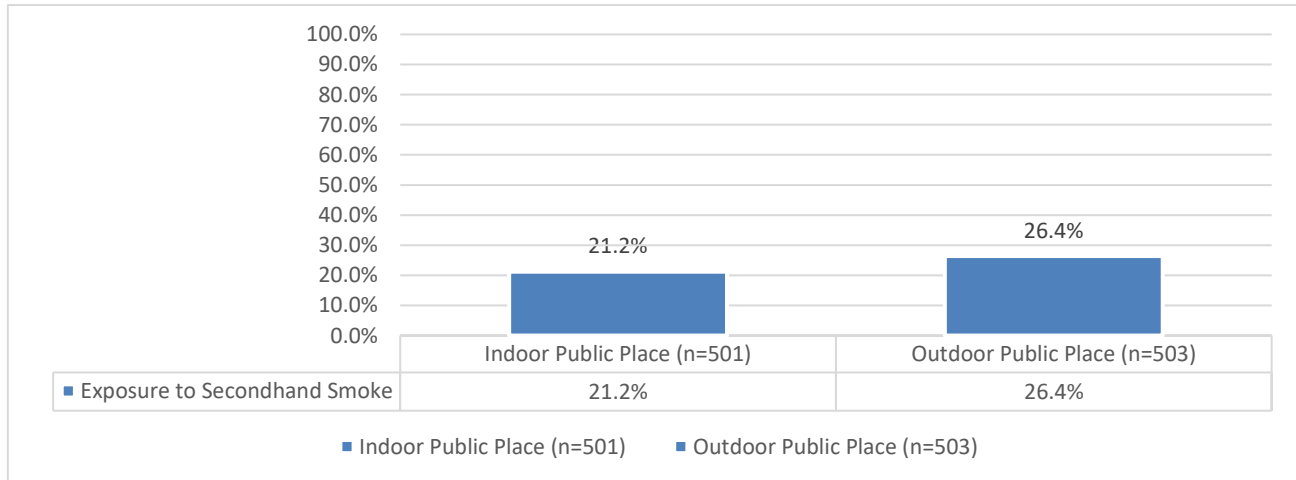
- As seen in Figure 90, from 2015, high school students were more likely to experience secondhand smoking in vehicles versus in their home.

Figure 90: Exposure to Secondhand Smoke in Their Homes or Vehicles During the Past 7 Days, Nebraska YTS 2015-2022



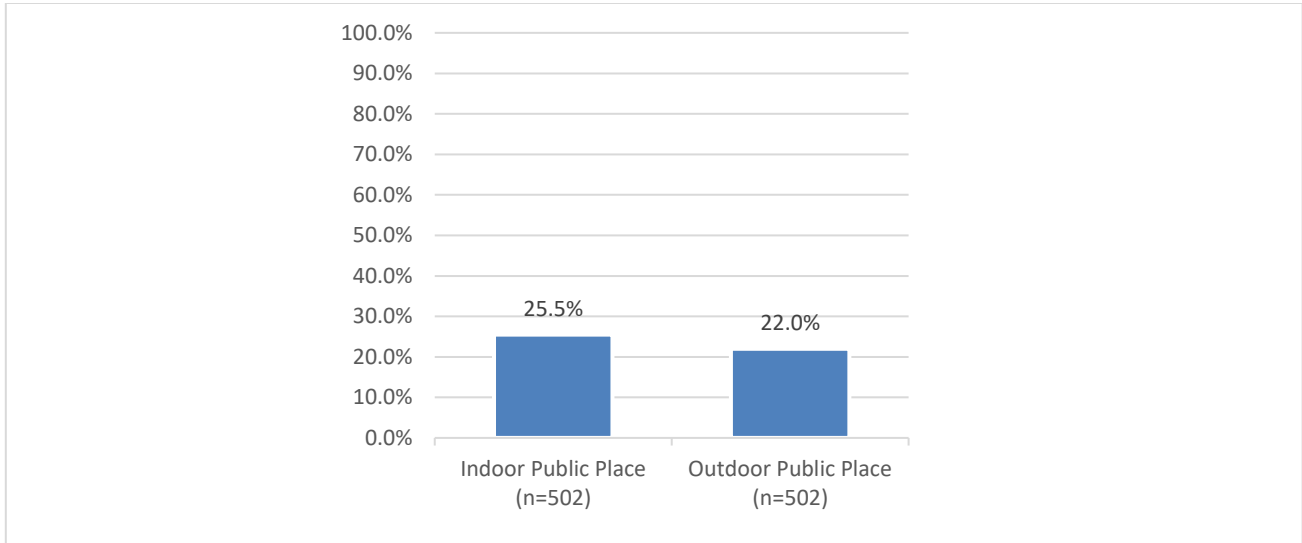
- Figure 91 illustrates that the rates of students reporting exposure to secondhand in indoor (21.2%) and outdoor public places (26.4%) were very similar in 2022.

Figure 91: Exposure to Secondhand Smoke in Public Places During the Past 7 days, Nebraska YTS 2022



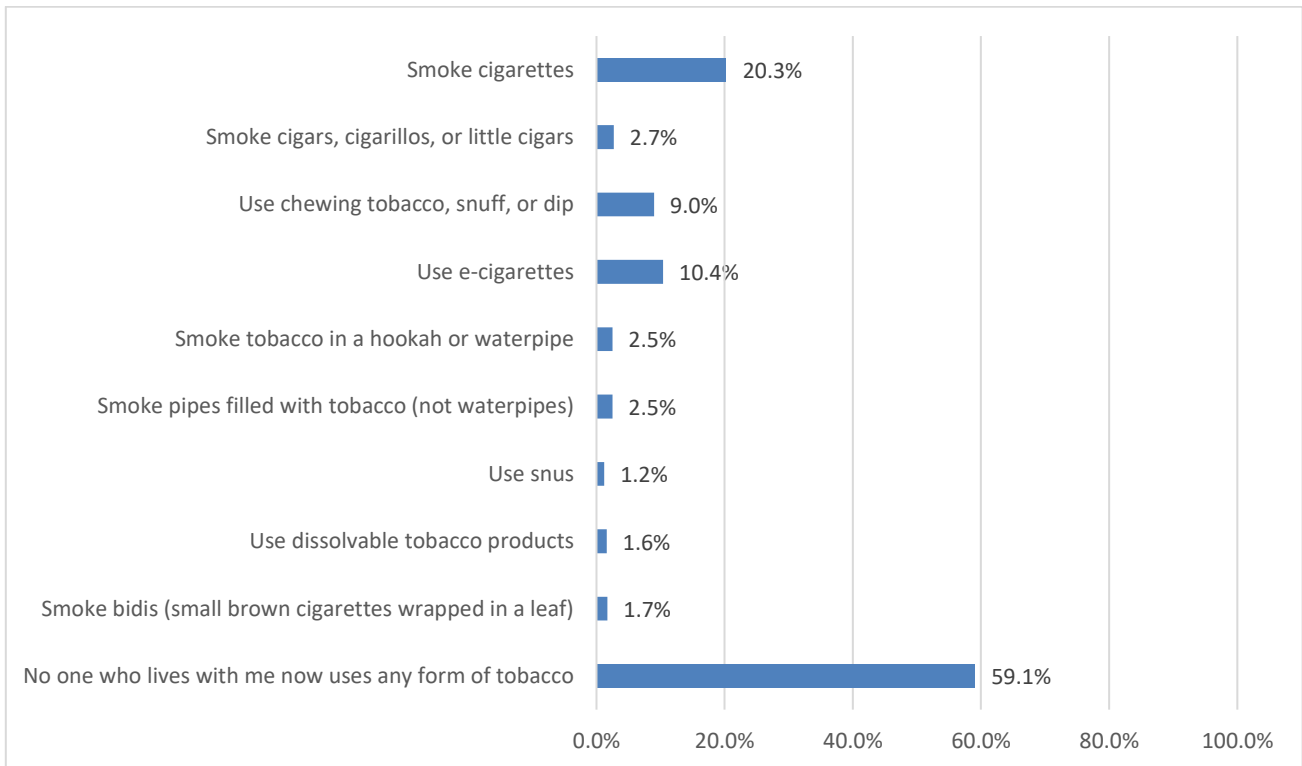
- About one quarter of students (25.5%) reported exposure to secondhand aerosol in an indoor public place and just over one-fifth of students (22.0%) reported secondhand aerosol exposure in an outdoor public place during the past 30 days (Figure 92).

Figure 92: Exposure to Secondhand Aerosol in Public Places during the Past 7 days, Nebraska YTS 2022



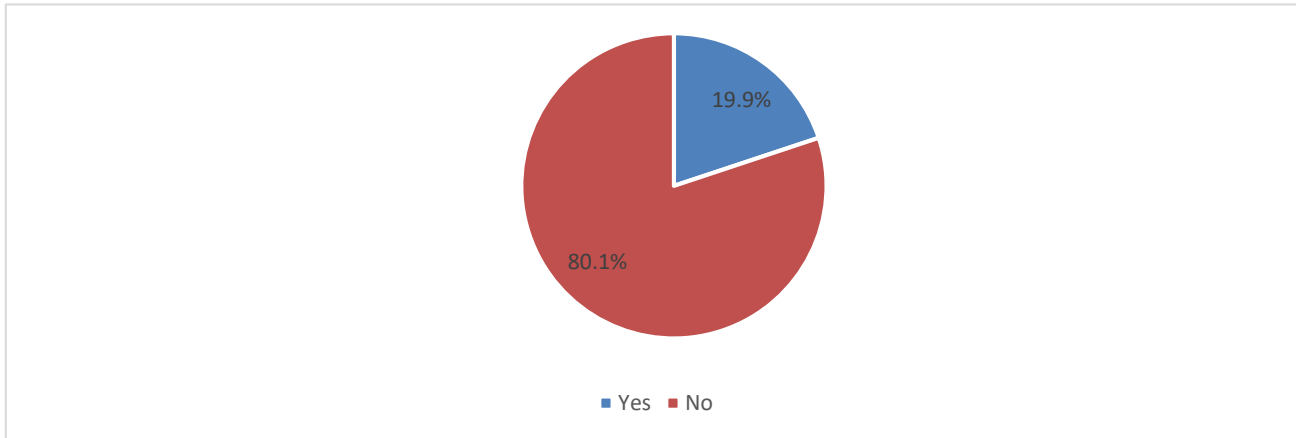
- As seen in Figure 93, close to three-fifths of students (59.1%) reported that they were not currently living with anyone who uses tobacco products.
- The top three tobacco products someone in their home were most likely to use were cigarettes (20.3%), e-cigarettes (10.4%), and smokeless tobacco (9.0%).

Figure 93: Type of Tobacco Used by Someone Who Student Lives With, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=548)



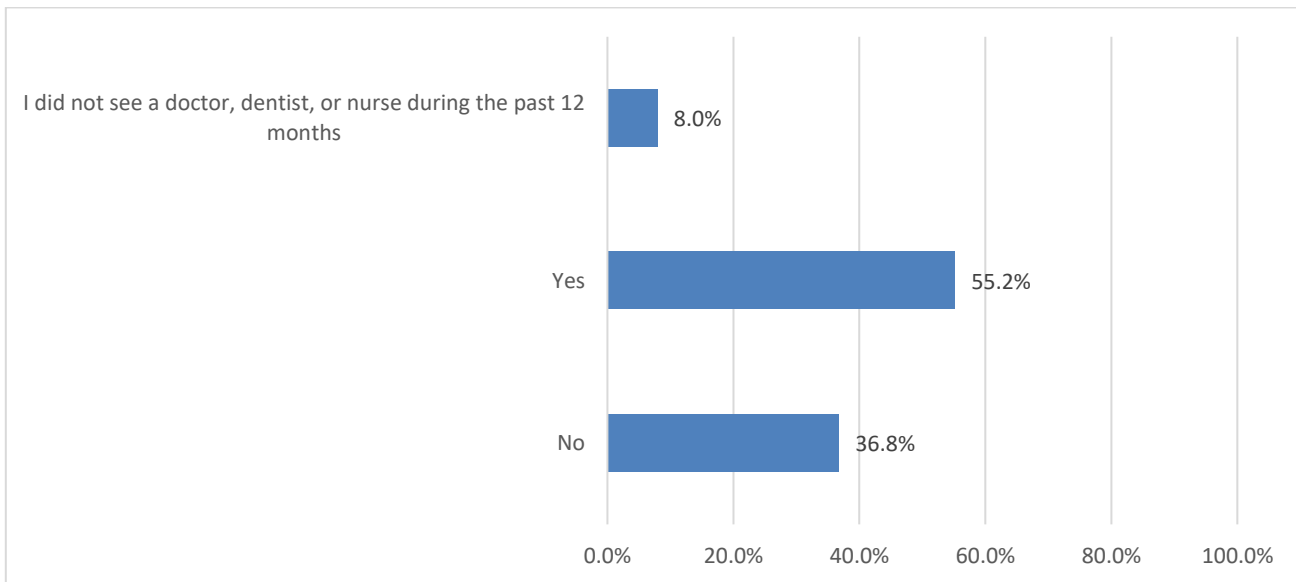
- About one in five students (19.9%) reported knowing someone, including themselves, using tobacco products on school property when they were not allowed to do so in the past 30 days (Figure 94).

Figure 94: Percentage of Students Reporting Knowledge of Tobacco Use on School Property When It was Not Allowed in the Past 30 Days, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=498)



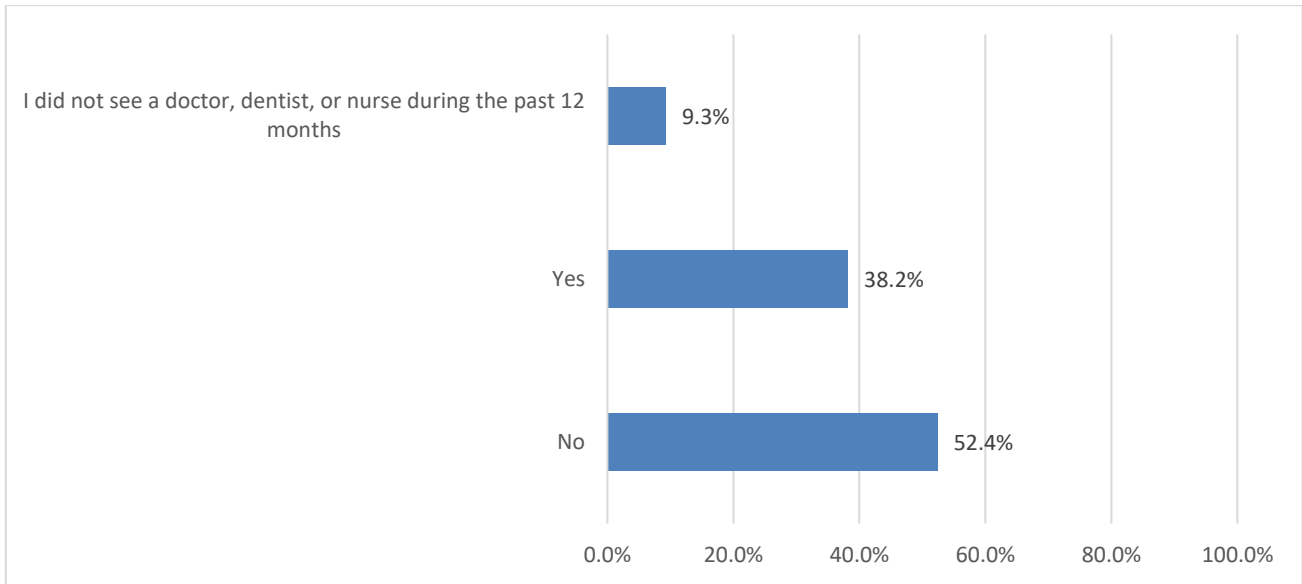
- As seen in Figure 95, over half of students (55.2%) reported that a health professional asked them about tobacco use.

Figure 95: Percentage of Students Reporting That A Health Professional Asked About Tobacco Use, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=500)



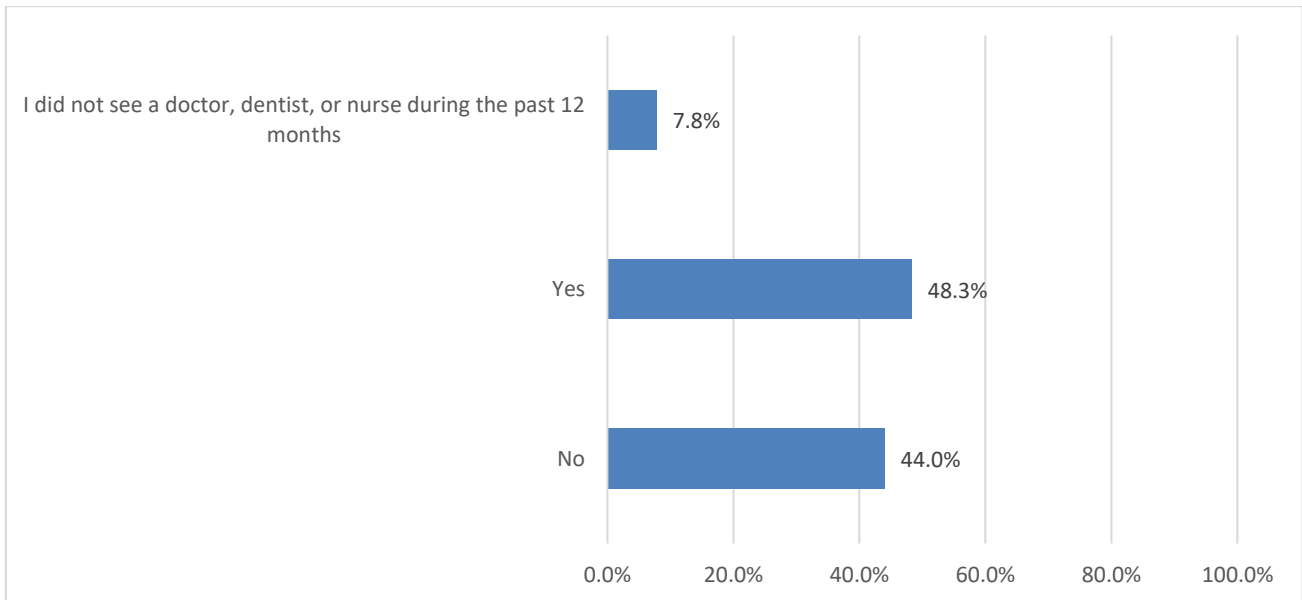
- One in three students (38.2%) reported that a health professional advised them to not use tobacco products (Figure 96).

Figure 96: Percentage of Students Reporting That A Health Professional Advised Not to Use Tobacco, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=496)



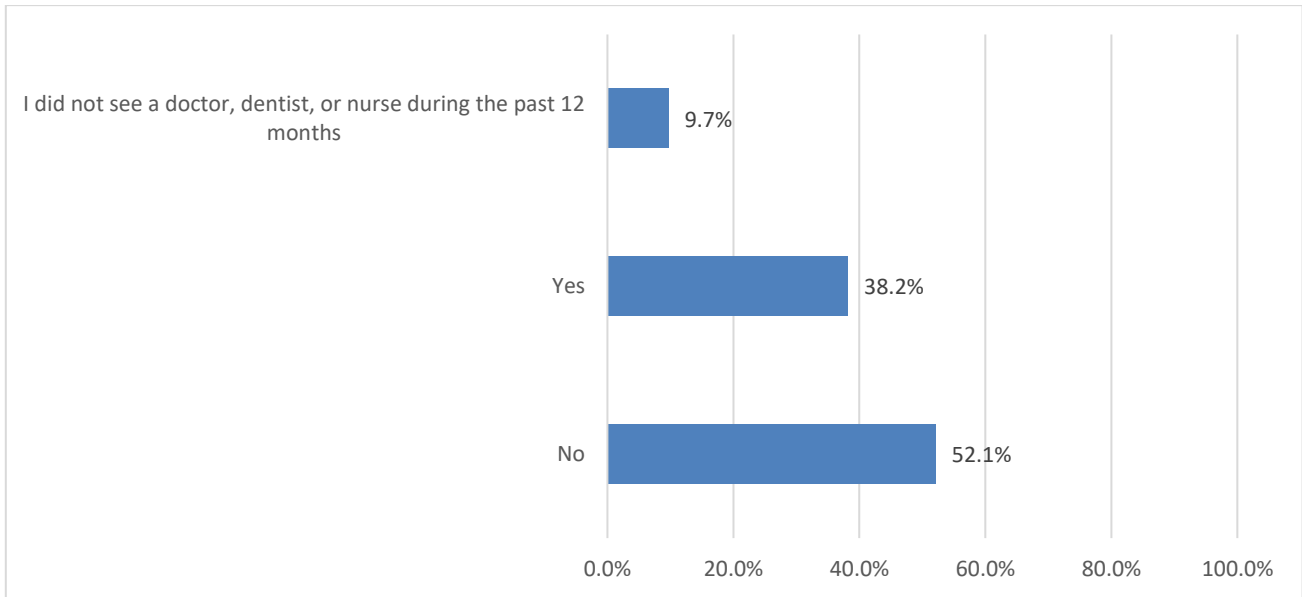
- Just under half of students (48.3%) reported that a health professional asked them about e-cigarette use (Figure 97).

Figure 97: Percentage of Students Reporting That A Health Professional Asked About E-Cigarette Use, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=498)



- As seen in Figure 98, over one-third of students (38.2%) reported that a health professional did not advise them against using e-cigarettes.

Figure 98: Percentage of Students Reporting That A Health Professional Advised Not to Use E-Cigarettes, Nebraska YTS 2022 (n=496)



Appendix A: Terms and Definitions

Throughout this report, the following terms and concepts were used to describe tobacco use among Nebraska high school students. Please refer to these definitions for clarification when reviewing results.

Forms of Tobacco Products

Bidis: small, brown, hand-rolled cigarettes, primarily made in India and other Southeast Asian countries.

Kreteks: cigarettes imported from Indonesia that typically contain a mixture of tobacco, cloves, and other additives.

E-cigarettes (e-cig): A device that heats a liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales. The liquid usually has nicotine and flavoring in it, and other additives. E-cigarettes are also commonly called vape pens, e-cigs, tank systems, and mods.

Categorization of Smoking Status

Ever smoked/used: defined as students who had ever tried a tobacco product, even one or two puffs or a small amount.

Current smoker/user: defined as students who smoked a cigarette or used tobacco on at least one of 30 days preceding the survey.

Frequent smoker/user: defined as students who smoked or used tobacco on 20 or more days of the 30 days preceding the survey.

Never smoked/used: defined as students who had never tried a tobacco product, even just one or two puffs or a small amount.

Terms, Acronyms and Definitions

Attitudes: Biases, inclinations or tendencies that influence a person's response to situations, activities, other people, or program goals.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Indicator: An observable and measurable characteristic or change that shows the progress a program is making toward achieving a specified outcome.

Prevalence: The proportion of a population that has a particular attribute (e.g., tobacco use) at a specified point in time or during a specified period.

Secondhand smoke (SHS): a mixture of the smoke from the burning ends of tobacco products and the smoke exhaled by someone who is smoking.

Tobacco Free Nebraska (TFN): TFN is the state's comprehensive tobacco prevention program, and is housed in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NE DHHS), Division of Public Health. TFN works to:

- 1) Help people quit,
- 2) Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke,
- 3) Keep youth from starting, and
- 4) Reach underserved populations.

Appendix B: References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014). Fast Fact.

http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/, Retrieved March 2020.