OMB Control Number 0910-0932
Expiration Date 05/31/2027

2026 NATIONAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

Dear Principal:

Your school has been selected to participate in the **2026 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)**, sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The NYTS, which has been conducted since 1999, provides important information about students' knowledge of and attitudes towards tobacco, their exposure to secondhand smoke, and their exposure to influences that promote or discourage tobacco use.

Preventing tobacco product use among youth is critical to ending the tobacco epidemic in the United States. Youth use of tobacco products in any form is unsafe. The Surgeon General has written that while considerable progress has been made in reducing cigarette smoking among U.S. youth, the tobacco product landscape continues to evolve to include a variety of new types of products, including electronic vapor products such as e-cigarettes. These products typically contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, can harm the developing adolescent brain, and can prime the brain for addiction to other drugs.

The NYTS has increased the ability to measure changes in tobacco use behaviors and their influences, thereby enabling states, school districts, schools, and community organizations to adapt their prevention and control programs to combat the most prevailing issues at hand.

We will ask your school to administer the NYTS to a sample of your classes in grades 6 through 12. The online survey can be completed from any internet-connected device and typically takes about 20 minutes. Your school can choose the day that is most convenient to administer the survey (between January and May 2026). NYTS staff will prepare parent permission materials and assist your School Coordinator with planning and preparation. It is extremely important to have the participation of all schools sampled for this survey. Otherwise, it is not possible to accurately capture youth tobacco use in the U.S. Your participation will ensure that students from a broad variety of backgrounds and educational settings are represented.

As a symbol of appreciation for contributing their time and support, the FDA will provide each participating school with a monetary award. Schools might decide to use these funds for prevention curriculum and educational materials. However, no restrictions will be placed on how schools can use these funds. Participating schools will also receive an invitation to a webinar discussing the results of the 2026 NYTS.

Next steps:

1. Determine survey date between January and May.
2. Name a "School Coordinator" to work with our team to plan and prepare for NYTS.

If you have questions, please contact the NYTS Team at NYTS@rti.org or 866-354-0987. We will reach out to you soon and look forward to working with you on this important survey.

Sincerely,

Jean Lennon
Project Director
National Youth Tobacco Survey

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U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

NATIONAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

Why Participate?

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability, and death in the United States. Every day, about 1,600 young people under age 18 years smoke their first cigarette, and 235 begin smoking cigarettes daily.

Nicotine can rewire a teen's developing brain. Exposure to nicotine in adolescence is harmful and associated with long-term:

- nicotine addiction
- learning and academic challenges
- behavioral problems

In addition, Nicotine in e-cigarettes can prime the adolescent brain for addiction to other drugs.

It is important to learn about students' tobacco-related beliefs, attitudes, behavior, and exposure to influences that promote or discourage use. Their health and life could depend on it!

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

- Schools choose a date that works best for them
- Students in selected 6th through 12th grade classrooms
- 20-minute online survey during a designated class
- NYTS schools receive a monetary award and access to a webinar to discuss study results

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per survey, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Office of Operations, Food and Drug Administration, Three White Flint North, 10A-12M, 11601 Landsdown St., North Bethesda, MD 20852, PRAStaff@fda.hhs.gov, ATTN: PRA (0910-0932).