

# Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)



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## Teenager Vignette

**Think back to when you were 16 or 17.  
Think about what type of risky  
behaviors in which you may have been  
involved during that period!**



## What is the YRBSS?

The YRBSS was developed in 1990 to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute markedly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. These behaviors, often established during childhood and early adolescence, include:

- Tobacco use.
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors.
- Inadequate physical activity.
- Alcohol and other drug use.
- Sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection.
- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence.

Source: CDC, 2008

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## Why was the YRBSS designed?

- Determine the prevalence of health risk behaviors.
- Assess whether health risk behaviors increase, decrease, or stay the same over time.
- Examine the co-occurrence of health risk behaviors.
- Provide comparable national, state, and local data.
- Provide comparable data among subpopulations of youth.
- Monitor progress toward achieving the Healthy People 2010 objectives and other program indicators.



Source: CDC, 2008

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## Mississippi YRBSS

- Questionnaires developed by CDC
  - collaborative effort among federal, state, and private-sectors.
- Survey sampled by MSDH /Westat
  - data tabulated by Westat, Inc., and further analyzed by MSDH.
- Data only collected in odd years (1<sup>st</sup>: 1993)
  - Next collection: Spring 2009

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## YRBSS Discussions/Data Analysis

- Tobacco Use
- Violence
- Sexual Behavior
- Drug Abuse
  - Alcohol Use

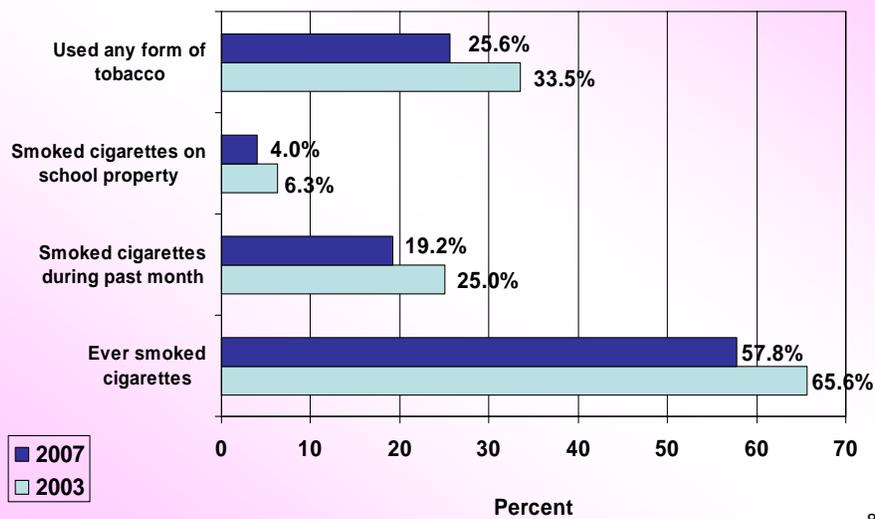


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## Mississippi YRBSS Results (High School)

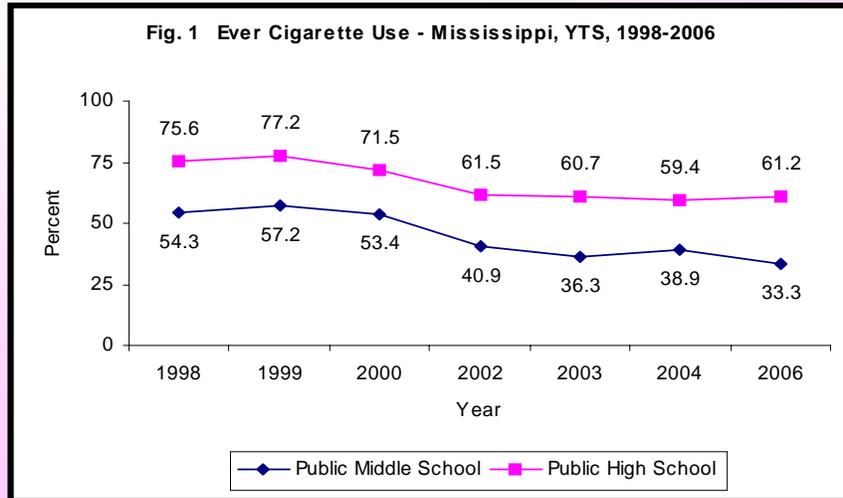
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## Tobacco Use in Mississippi Public High Schools

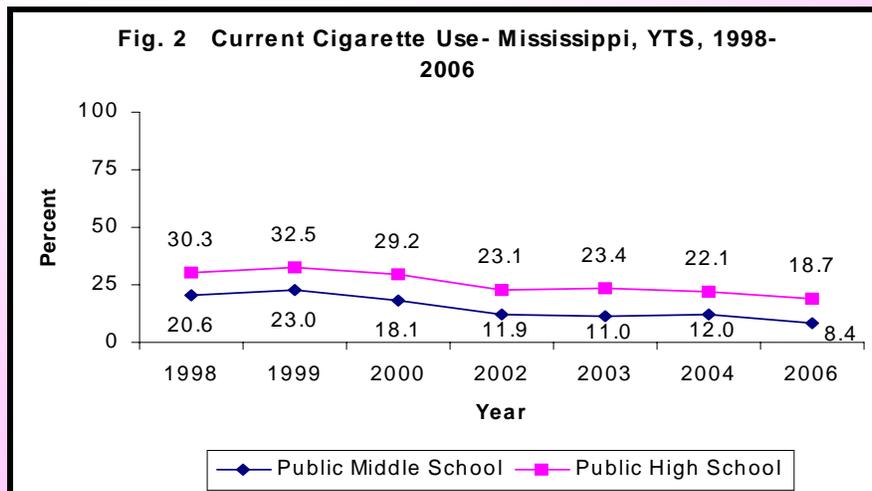


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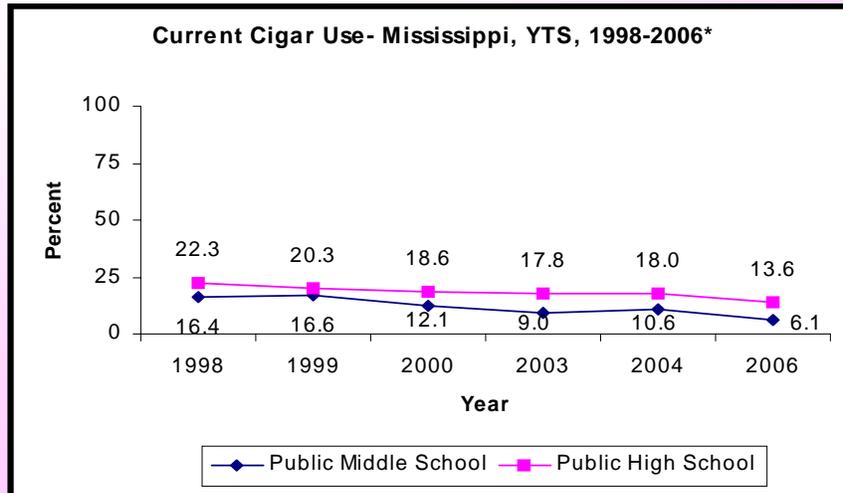
## Supplemental Data: Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) Public Middle & High School Students



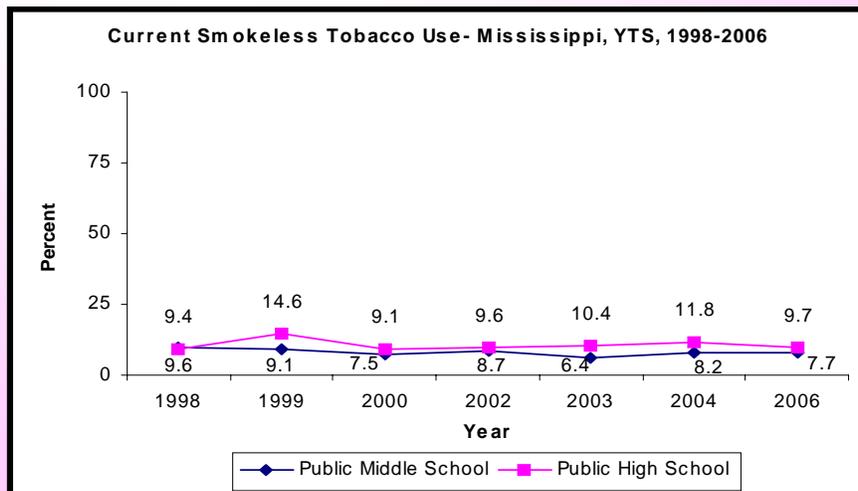
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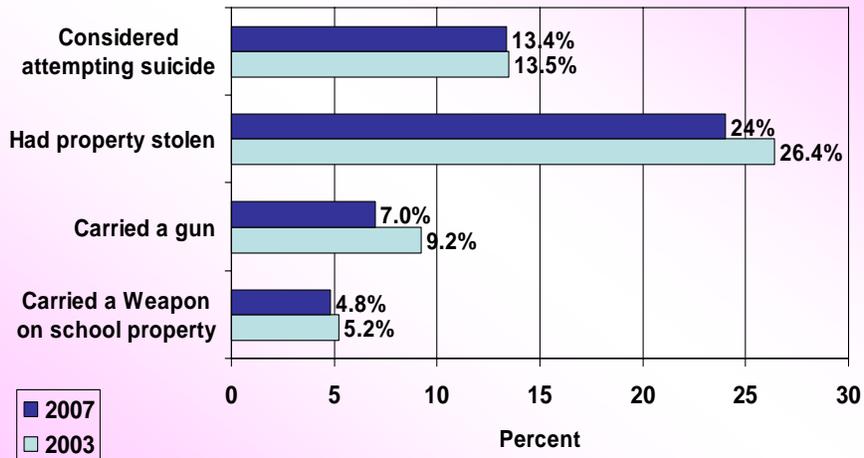
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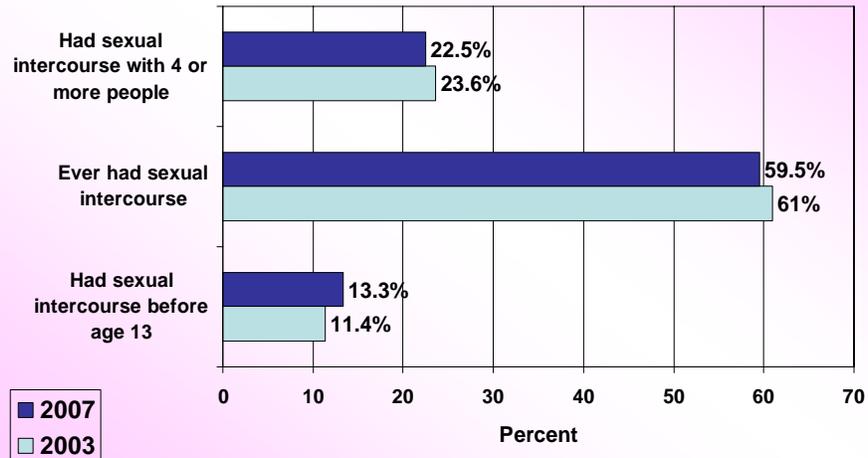


## Violence in Mississippi Public High Schools



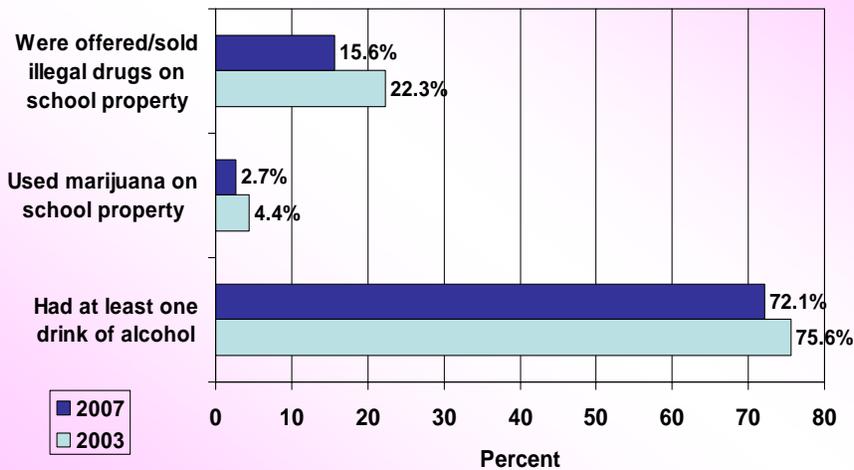
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## Sexual Behavior in Mississippi Public High Schools



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## Drug Abuse in Mississippi Public High Schools



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## YRBSS Quick Stats/Facts

- The percentage of students carrying a weapon on school property during the past 30 days has decreased from 9.8% in 1997 to 4.8% in 2007.
- The percentage of students who had property stolen or deliberately damaged on school property one or more times during the past 12 months has decreased from 36.2% in 1997 to 24.0% in 2007.
- The percentage of students who have smoked cigarettes on school property during the past 30 days has decreased from 13.2% in 1997 to 4.0% in 2007.

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## YRBSS Quick Stats/Facts

(continued)

- The percentage of students who have used marijuana on school property during the past 30 days has decreased from 5.2% in 1997 to 2.7% in 2007.
- The percentage of students who were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the past 12 months has decreased from 24.1% in 1997 to 15.6% in 2007.

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## Contact Information

For more information on YRBSS and/or YTS results,  
please contact:

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