

Public School Supports for Nicotine Prevention

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.
- The majority of daily smokers (82 percent) began smoking before age 18, and more than 3,000 young persons begin smoking each day.
- Schools play an important role in promoting the health and safety of children and adolescents by helping them to establish lifelong health patterns, including those that help prevent chronic health conditions later in life.

Public School Approaches for Nicotine Prevention

Best practice framework* for nicotine prevention in schools that guides our efforts:

- Develop and enforce a **school policy** on tobacco and nicotine use.
- Provide **instruction** in K–12 about the short- and long-term negative consequences of nicotine use, social influences, peer norms, and refusal skills.
- Provide **training** for educators that supports cessation efforts.
- **Assess** nicotine-use prevention at regular intervals.

* U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Initiatives for Schools: Assessment and Training

- Ongoing support and implementation of the **New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS)** (captures nicotine-related risk data for youth) and School Health Profiles (captures data about nicotine prevention policies and health education)
- Ongoing support and implementation of the **National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)** in New Mexico
- Statewide **professional development and technical assistance** opportunities for educators (i.e., Head 2 Toe Conference)
- Partnering in the dissemination of effective curriculum, including the Department of Health, NUPAC “*You and Me, Together Vape-Free*” curriculum and toolkit, and professional development opportunities



Initiatives for Schools: Policy Supports

- **Tobacco Free Schools Rule, 6.12.4 NMAC:** In the past year, the PED repealed and replaced 6.12.4 NMAC, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Free Schools. The update to existing rule reflected contemporary terminology regarding tobacco delivery devices and added language detailing enforcement of the rule.
- **Content and Performance Standards, Section 22-13-1 NMSA 1978, 16.29.1.11 NMAC, and 6.29.6.8 NMAC:** New Mexico's health education is guided by the Content Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards, which includes age- and grade-appropriate nicotine prevention knowledge, skills, and performance standards as a requirement for graduation.
- **Local Wellness Policies, 6.12.6 NMAC:** The PED provides guidance and professional development to schools to develop effective local wellness policies, including strategies for reducing nicotine use on school property for staff and students.

Initiatives for Schools: Funding

- Federal funding, available through the Public Education Department's Title IV, Part A program, is available to schools to support nicotine and drug prevention and education, as well as vaping detection technologies.
- Examples of funding for vaping programs: Capitan Municipiple Schools and Mountainair Public Schools.
- Schools may also purchase curricula and educational resources with their instructional material funds.



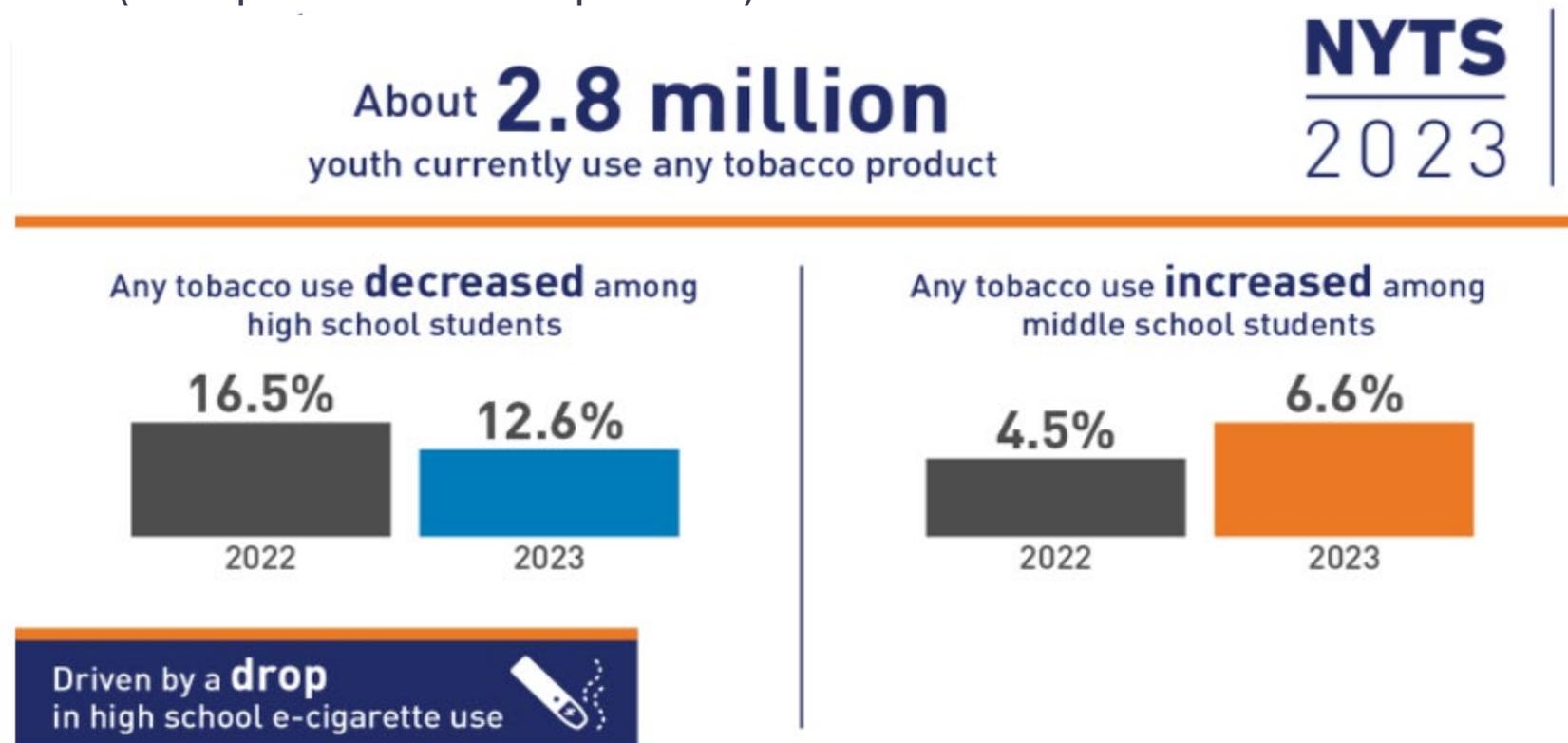
Title IV, Part A

Student Support and Academic Enrichment

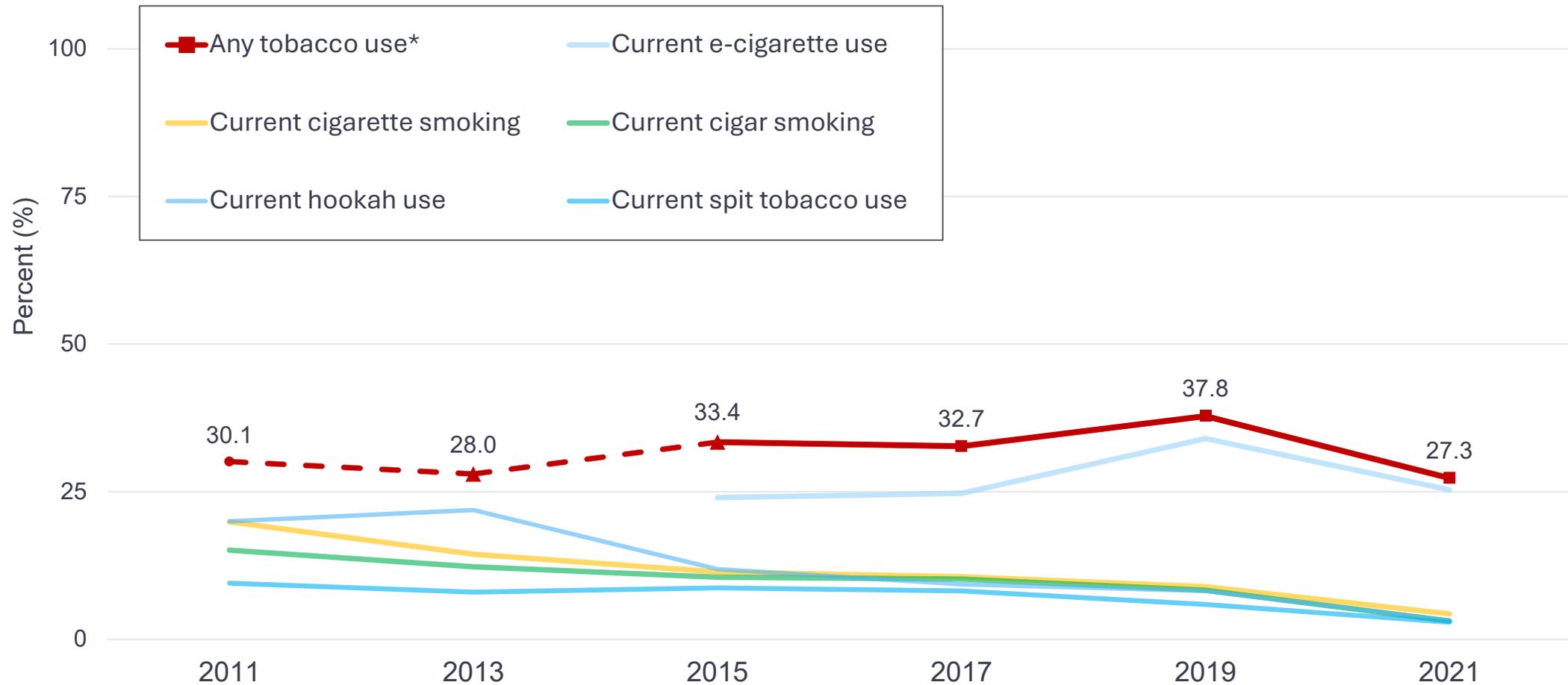
Assessment of Nicotine Prevention Strategy

According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS):

- Among U.S. high school students, current overall tobacco product use declined during 2022–2023 (16.5 percent to 12.6 percent).



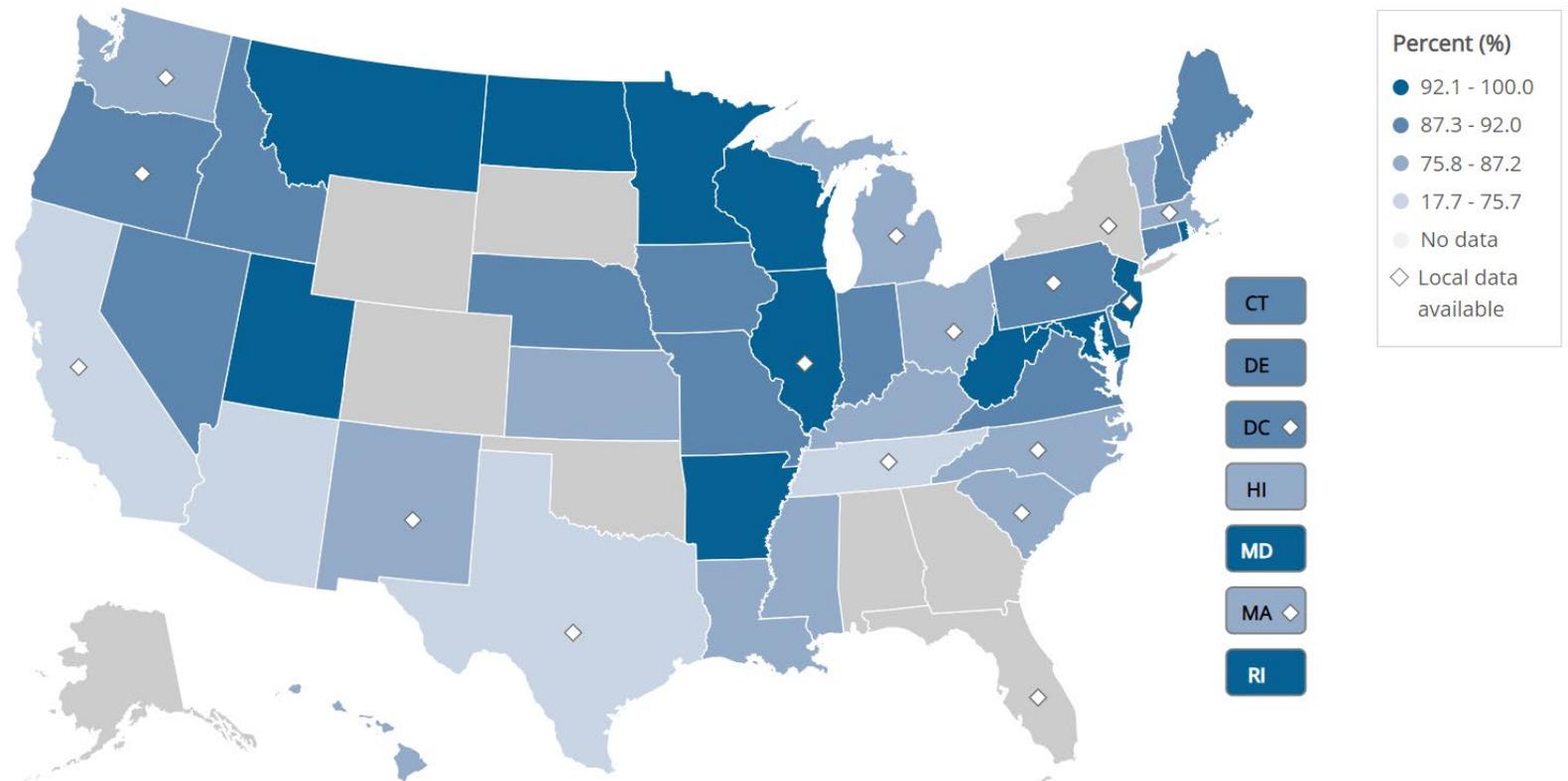
New Mexico YRRS: Current Tobacco and Nicotine Use Grades 9–12, 2011–2021, NM



2022 National CDC School Health Profile (SHP)

- 83 percent of schools nationally taught about tobacco products, while 74 percent of New Mexico schools taught this content (which is higher than the rate of our neighbors in AZ and TX).
- 84 percent of schools nationally taught about electronic vapor products (e.g., e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens, e-hookahs, mods, or brands such as JUUL), while 80 percent of New Mexico schools taught this focused content.

Taught about electronic vapor products (e.g., e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens, e-hookahs, mods, or brands such as JUUL)



Next Steps

The New Mexico Public Education Department is encouraged by the outcome of our collaborative work with our partners, including legislative partners, and intend to continue supporting:

- Professional development of educators throughout the state.
- Effective school-based nicotine prevention policies.
- Effective nicotine prevention curricula and programs in schools.
- Legislative strategies such as increasing the cost of nicotine products and greater restrictions on nicotine access, products, and devices.
- Research on use and prevention (YRRS, SHP, NYTS).

Thank you!

For Questions

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