

TOBACCO USE SUPPLEMENT

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

Since 1992, the Tobacco Use Supplement-Current Population Survey (TUS-CPS) has served as a key source of national, state, and sub-state data on tobacco use behavior, attitudes, and policies in the U.S. The TUS is conducted every 3-4 years as part of the CPS, a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In each cycle, TUS-CPS collects nationally representative data from about 240,000 adults (data collected between 1992-2006 also included youth ages 15-17). About two-thirds of respondents complete the questionnaire by telephone and responses for the remaining third are obtained through in-person interviews. The survey is regularly conducted in English and Spanish, and other languages when needed.

How can the unique features of the TUS-CPS survey be used?

- Track long-term trends in tobacco use, cessation attempts, and tobacco-related policies
- Evaluate national and sub-national tobacco control programs, including workplace and home smoking restrictions, clinician advice to stop smoking, and the “real price” of cigarettes
- Study tobacco health disparities and conduct other tobacco control research
- Analyze aspects of tobacco use in conjunction with the CPS’s detailed occupational and economic data and other CPS supplements
- Link tobacco control data to cancer incidence and survival; cause-specific mortality; and Medicare screening, diagnosis, treatment, and cost data through the National Longitudinal Mortality Study
- Conduct analysis of periodic one-year prospective follow-up of a subset of respondents.

TUS-CPS topics:

- Current cigarette smoking status, amount smoked, and smoking history
- Cigar, pipe (hookah/waterpipe since 2010), and smokeless tobacco current use and history of use
- Menthol cigarette use (since 2003) and history and reason for use (2010-11)
- Quit attempts and intention to quit
- Medical/dental advice to quit
- Nicotine dependence (since 2003)
- Cost of cigarettes and purchase location (since 2003)
- Harm reduction and other emerging products (since 2003)
- E-cigarette use (since 2011)
- Workplace and home smoking restrictions
- Attitudes toward smoke-free policies in public places

Is the TUS-CPS questionnaire always the same?

It generally covers the topics listed above, but recent versions have varied. For example, some versions had a special focus on tobacco cessation and/or menthol cigarette use and included more detailed questions on: length of LAST quit attempt occurring over the preceding 12 months; treatment and other methods used to quit; level of nicotine dependence; and reasons for use of type of cigarettes smoked.

The 2014-15 TUS-CPS included new questions on attitudes toward smoke-free policies in multi-unit housing. In addition, the FDA Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) cosponsored TUS-CPS with NCI to collect data on core tobacco use patterns and to obtain more detail on e-cigarette use; and on use of other tobacco products, including preference for flavoring.

Additional links:

- More information on CPS Supplement Topics: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/about/supplemental-surveys.html>
- Information about NCI’s Tobacco Control Research Branch: <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb>

Download the latest data — 2014-2015 files:
<http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/tus-cps/info.html>

For more information on the TUS-CPS or to obtain questionnaires, data, or supporting documentation: <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/tus-cps/>