



# Key Findings from the Online California Adult Tobacco Survey: 2021 Results

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## Overview

The Online California Adult Tobacco Survey (Online CATS) is an online survey that gathers data on tobacco use behavior and tobacco-related beliefs; evaluates tobacco related policies and intervention campaigns; and creates a comprehensive picture of tobacco use among California residents between the ages of 18 and 64 years. Two survey waves are administered annually by Gallup Inc. with funding from the California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program (CDPH/CTCP). This factsheet presents the results from Waves 5 and 6, which were conducted in 2021: Wave 5 was fielded from March 25, 2021, to May 3, 2021 (n=3,458) and Wave 6 was fielded from October 14, 2021, to November 1, 2021 (n=4,094).

Online CATS is one of many tools that CDPH/CTCP uses as part of its surveillance system. The results in this factsheet may lack agreement with other surveys CDPH/CTCP uses due to different methodology; however, this does not reduce the value of one survey over another. All estimates in this factsheet have been weighted to account for the sampling design and to be representative of California's adult age 18 to 64 population.

## Key Findings

### Tobacco Use

- Approximately one out of four (24.6%) Californians reported using any tobacco product and one out of ten (9.8%) reported using two or more tobacco products.
- Electronic cigarette and vapes were the most reported tobacco product used (13.7%) among those surveyed in 2021. This is followed by cigarettes (9.0%), big cigars (7.2%), little cigars or cigarillos (6.1%), hookah or shisha (4.8%), smokeless tobacco products (4.7%), nicotine pouches (3.7%), pipe tobacco (3.5%), and heated tobacco products (3.4%).

- The rate of any tobacco product use was higher among males (30.8%) than among females (18.1%), and among those aged 18 to 24 years (26.1%), 25 to 34 years (32.1%), or 35 to 44 years (28.8%) than among those aged 45 to 54 years (17.7%) or 55 to 64 years (16.6%). Any tobacco use was higher among Hispanic/Latino adults (26.5%), non-Hispanic/Latino White only adults (23.2%), and non-Hispanic/Latino African American or Black only adults (32.5%) than among non-Hispanic/Latino Asian only adults (16.2%).

**Secondhand Smoke Exposure**

- Two out of five (41.3%) Californians reported recent exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and one out of three (33.9%) Californians reported recent exposure to secondhand vape.
- Sidewalks were the most reported location for secondhand tobacco smoke exposure (47.8%) and secondhand vape exposure (40.0%). Table 1 contains the other location options where secondhand tobacco smoke and vape exposure occurred.

**Table 1. Reported location of secondhand tobacco smoke and secondhand vape in the past two weeks, California, 2021**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Secondhand Tobacco Smoke</b>	<b>Secondhand Vape</b>
Sidewalks	47.8%	40.0%
Homes	37.8%	35.3%
Recreational spaces, including parks and beaches	30.0%	33.2%
Workplaces	20.1%	20.7%
Outdoor dining areas	20.8%	21.8%
Cars or vehicles	18.1%	22.8%
Stores or shopping malls	17.3%	18.6%
Public transit	3.8%	5.3%
School campuses	5.2%	5.8%

## **Tobacco Product Waste**

- There were high levels of agreement that tobacco product waste damages the environment among Californians: 91.4% agreed that cigarette butts damage the environment and 93.8% agreed that cigarette butts are poisonous to children, pets, and wildlife.
- Despite high levels of agreement that tobacco product waste damages the environment, 44.9% of past 30-day cigarette users reported recently disposing cigarette butts by dropping them on the ground or throwing them out a car window.
- Californians are supportive of a policy to address tobacco product waste. Approximately 7 out of 10 (67.3%) would support a policy eliminating all single-use tobacco products to reduce waste. Support was lower among any tobacco users (56.4%) compared to non-users (70.6%). However, levels of support differed based on type of tobacco products used. Among cigarette users, only 45.4% indicated they would support a policy; however, among vape users, 62.5% indicated they would support a policy.

## **Suggested Citation**

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