

TOBACCO USE SUPPLEMENT

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

Risk Factor Monitoring and Methods Branch
Applied Research Program

The TUS-CPS is an NCI-sponsored survey of tobacco use and policy information that has been administered as part of the Current Population Survey (CPS) since 1992. The CPS is a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. It collects information on occupation, employment, economic status, and demographic characteristics. The CPS periodically includes additional questions (supplements) about topics such as health, education, and income. The TUS is an example of these additional questions. The TUS is typically conducted every 3-4 years.

The TUS-CPS is a key source of national, state, and sub-state level data from U.S. households regarding smoking, use of tobacco products, and tobacco-related norms, attitudes, and policies. Each cycle of the TUS-CPS provides data on a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 civilian, non-institutionalized individuals. Most of these (about 180,000) are self-respondents. Data for the 1992-2006 TUS-CPS are for individuals 15 years and older, while data from 2007 and later are for those 18 years and older.

About 64% of respondents complete the TUS-CPS by telephone and the rest in person. It is regularly translated into Spanish, and the 2003 version was also translated into Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Khmer.

TUS-CPS is a unique research resource. It can be used to...

- ❖ Track trends in tobacco use, cessation attempts, and tobacco-related policies over time
- ❖ Evaluate tobacco control programs, including workplace and home smoking restrictions, doctor/dentist advice to stop smoking, and “real price” of cigarettes
- ❖ Study tobacco health disparities and conduct other tobacco control research
- ❖ Analyze economic aspects of tobacco use in conjunction with the CPS’s detailed occupational and economic data and other CPS supplements (e.g., Annual Social and Economic Supplement [ASEC; includes health insurance information], Internet Use, Food Security, American Time Use).
- ❖ Link its 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
- ❖ Make use of periodic one-year prospective follow-up of a subset of respondents (e.g. 2002-03 and 2010-11 overlap samples).

The large sample permits analyses at the national or state levels and, in some cases, for smaller areas.

What topics are covered on TUS-CPS questionnaires?

- ❖ Current cigarette smoking status and amount smoked
- ❖ Use of menthol cigarettes (since 2003)
- ❖ Smoking history, quit attempts and intention to quit
- ❖ Cost of cigarettes and purchase location (since 2003)
- ❖ Medical/dental advice to quit
- ❖ Cigar, pipe, and smokeless tobacco use
- ❖ Harm reduction and other emerging products (since 2003)
- ❖ Workplace and home smoking restrictions
- ❖ Attitudes toward smoke-free policies in public places
- ❖ Nicotine dependence (since 2003)

Is the TUS-CPS questionnaire always the same?

It generally covers the topics listed above, but recent versions have varied somewhat. The 2003 TUS-CPS had a special focus on tobacco cessation and included more detailed questions on: quit attempts occurring over the preceding 12 months; treatment and other methods used to quit; level of nicotine dependence; type of cigarettes smoked; new harm reduction products used; cost of last pack/carton of cigarettes purchased; and state in which it was purchased. The 2010-11 TUS-CPS included more detailed questions on: menthol cigarette use; recent quit attempts; recent quitting; treatment and other methods used to quit; and emerging products (dissolvables and E-cigarettes).

2010-11 TUS-CPS

The data will be compared with information obtained from earlier and later survey cycles to track trends in tobacco use over time, examine factors important for tobacco control and for FDA's authority to regulate tobacco products, and evaluate the impact of FDA and other government policies.

What are NCI's future plans for the TUS-CPS?

NCI plans to conduct the TUS-CPS every 4 years, including a Core set of questions, an emerging tobacco product section, and various special topics of particular interest to researchers and government agencies, as they are appropriate at the time of fielding.

For More Information

- ❖ More information on the TUS-CPS (including September 2013 **webinar**):
<http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/studies/tus-cps>
- ❖ To obtain TUS-CPS data, documentation, and questionnaires:
<http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/studies/tus-cps/info.html>
- ❖ More information on the CPS:
<http://www.census.gov/cps/>
- ❖ Information about tobacco use research:
<http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/areas/tobacco>,
<http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb>
www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/tobacco
- ❖ CDC Office on Smoking and Health:
<http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/>
- ❖ State/national tobacco prevalence data and policies/programs to diminish prevalence:
<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=43928>