

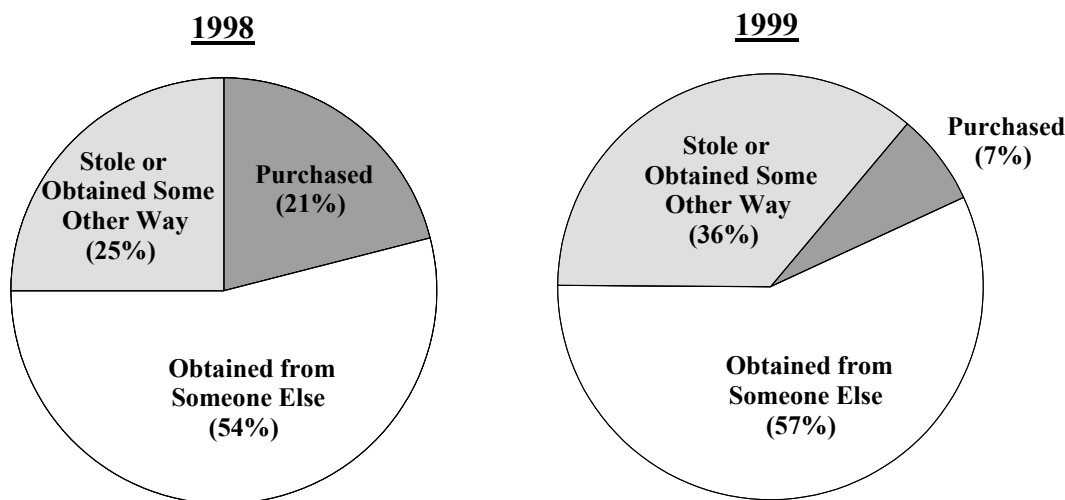
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Texas Middle School Smokers Less Likely to Buy Cigarettes; More Likely to Steal or Obtain Other Ways

Texas middle school students who smoke are more likely to steal cigarettes than buy them, according to data from the Texas Youth Tobacco Survey. The percentage of middle school smokers reporting that they usually obtain their cigarettes by purchasing them from stores or vending machines decreased from 21% in 1998 to 7% in 1999. At the same time there was an increase in the percentage of students who reported that they usually obtain their cigarettes by stealing them or getting them “some other way” (from 25% to 36%; see figure). These findings suggest that although sales of cigarettes to minors decreased, students are finding other ways to access cigarettes. Parents and community members must be aware of alternate channels students may have developed to access cigarettes so steps can be taken to eliminate those sources.

Usual Source for Cigarettes Among Texas Middle School Smokers, 1998 and 1999



NOTES: Students who reported having smoked during the 30 days preceding the survey were asked, “During the past 30 days, how did you usually get your own cigarettes?” The category “Obtained from Someone Else” is comprised of three sources: 1) borrowed from someone else, 2) someone else bought for them, and 3) older person gave it to them.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Usual Sources of Cigarettes for Middle and High School Students – Texas, 1998-1999,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 51(40):900-901, 2002. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5140a2.htm>.