PATH

Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health

A collaboration between the NIH and FDA

The PATH Study is a nationally representative, longitudinal study of tobacco use, its determinants, and its impacts.

PATH Study Timeline: The Start of Each Data Collection Wave

2011 Contract Award

2012 Field Test

2013 **Wave 1** Sep. 2013–Dec. 2014
Adults (18 years or older): 32,320
Youth (12–17 years old): 13,651
Interviews conducted in-person.

2014 **Wave 2** Oct. 2014–Oct. 2015
Adults (18 years or older): 28,362
Youth (12–17 years old): 12,172
Interviews conducted in-person.

2015 **Wave 3** Oct. 2015–Oct. 2016
Adults (18 years or older): 28,148
Youth (12–17 years old): 11,814
Interviews conducted in-person.

2016 **Wave 4** Dec. 2016–Jan. 2018
w/ Replenishment
Adults (18 years or older): 33,822
Youth (12–17 years old): 14,798
Interviews conducted in-person.

2017 **Wave 4.5** Dec. 2017–Nov. 2018
Special Youth Only Data Collection
Youth (12–17 years old): 13,131
Interviews conducted in-person.

Designed to Assess

Tobacco Use

Initiation **Dependence** **Cessation** **Relapse**

- Tobacco product use, addiction, and associated factors
- Poly-tobacco use and switching between tobacco products

Health Conditions

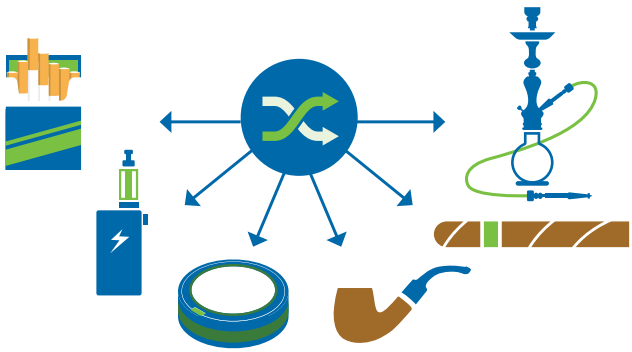
caused by, causing, or associated with tobacco use

- Exposures and potential harm from tobacco use and their related biomarkers
- Co-morbid conditions

Changes

in awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs

- What makes people susceptible to using a tobacco product



PATH Study Timeline:
The Start of Each Data Collection Wave

2017

Wave 4.5 Dec. 2017–Nov. 2018
Special Youth Only Data Collection
Youth (12–17 years old): 13,131

Interviews conducted in-person.

2018

Wave 5 Dec. 2018–Nov. 2019
Adults (18 years or older): 34,309
Youth (12–17 years old): 12,098

Interviews conducted in-person.

2019

2020

Wave 5.5 Jul.–Dec. 2020
Special Youth and
Adult Teen Data Collection
Young Adults (18–19 years old): 3,628
Youth (13–17 years old): 7,129

PATH Study Adult Telephone Survey (PATH-ATS) Sep.–Dec. 2020
Adults (20 years or older): 8,874

Interviews were conducted via telephone due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021

Wave 6 Mar.–Nov. 2021
Adults (18 years or older): 30,516
Youth (14–17 years old): 5,652

Interviews were conducted in-person and via telephone due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2022

Wave 7 Jan. 2022–Apr. 2023
w/Replenishment
Adults (18 years or older): 30,801
Youth (12–17 years old): 10,834

Interviews were conducted in-person and via telephone.

Study Design Features

- Nationally representative sample of U.S. civilian, non-institutionalized individuals, age 12 years and older
- Four-stage, stratified probability sample design selected by primary sampling units (e.g., counties), segments (e.g., census tracts), residential addresses, and individuals

In-home data collection annually or biennially

Questionnaires administered via Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (ACASI)

Biospecimens collected—urine, blood

Can track changes between waves, including frequency of tobacco product use and product switching, among subgroups such as youth, young adults, people reporting daily and non-daily use, and people who use various types of tobacco products.

Biological Specimens

Wave	Adult Urine	Youth Urine	Adult Blood
1	21,801	N/A	14,520
2	13,696	N/A	908
3	14,979	N/A	835
4	21,046	13,097	3,608
5	12,102	10,584	2,040
6	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	12,812	497	N/A
8	TBD	TBD	TBD

A subset of PATH Study participant samples were analyzed for biomarkers of exposure and biomarkers of potential harm as part of the Wave 1 and Wave 4 Biomarker Cores and have resultant data available in the Biomarker Restricted Use Files.

PATH Study Timeline:
The Start of Each Data Collection Wave

2023

Wave 7.5 Apr. 2023–Dec. 2023
Special Youth and Young Adult Data Collection
Adults (18 –22 years old): 7,961
Youth (12 –17 years old): 8,949

Interviews were conducted in-person and via telephone.

2024

Wave 8 Jan. 2024–Dec. 2024
Adults (18 years or older): TBD
Youth (12 –17 years old): TBD

Interviews were conducted in-person and via the web.

2025

Wave 8.5 Feb. 2025–Dec. 2025
Special Youth and Young Adult Data Collection
Adults (18-24 years old): TBD
Youth (12-17 years old): TBD

This infographic is supported with Federal funds from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Health and Human Services, under contract to Westat (contract nos. HHSN271201100027C, HHSN271201600001C, and 75N95024C00003), and through an interagency agreement between NIH NIDA and FDA CTP and a collaboration between NIDA and the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, the Office of Disease Prevention, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the National Library of Medicine.

Access to PATH Study Data

Data, instruments, and codebooks are maintained by the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), National Addiction & HIV Data Archive Program (NAHDAP).

Available online at: **https://doi.org/10.3886/Series606**

The PATH Study Biospecimen Access Program provides the research community with access to urine, serum, plasma and genomic DNA (gDNA) collected from PATH Study participants in waves where biospecimens were collected.

Policies and procedures to access biospecimens are available online at: **http://bit.ly/2wBFOtc**

Waves 1-5 Online Data Tables: **https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/NAHDAP/path-study-tables-home.html**

Publications

Number of PATH Study-Related Publications (as of 12/31/24)

865*

*Includes papers published using PATH Study data or methods
Examples of PATH Study papers are available at: **https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/search/publications?q=PATH+Study**.
Note: this list does not include all publications using PATH Study data.

Highlighted Methods Papers

Longitudinal Uses of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study. Tobacco Regulatory Science, 7(1), Jan. 2021. Prior work described the methods of the first wave of the PATH Study. In this paper, the authors describe the methods of the subsequent 2 waves and provide recommendations for how to conduct longitudinal analyses of PATH Study data.

Design and Methods of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study Tobacco Control, 26(4), Jul. 2017. This paper describes the methods and conceptual framework for the PATH Study's Wave 1 data collection. The paper concludes that cumulative, population-based data, generated over time by the PATH Study, will contribute to the evidence base to inform FDA's regulatory mission under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act and efforts to reduce the Nation's burden of tobacco-related death and disease.