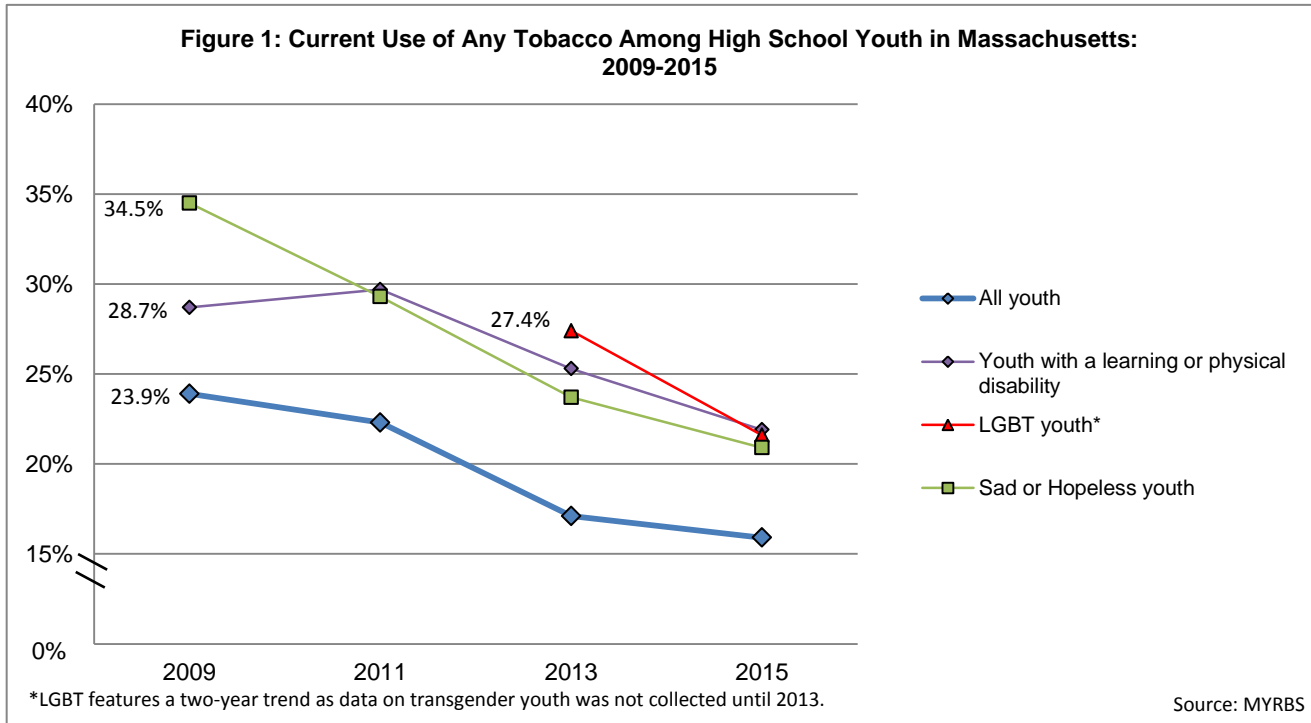
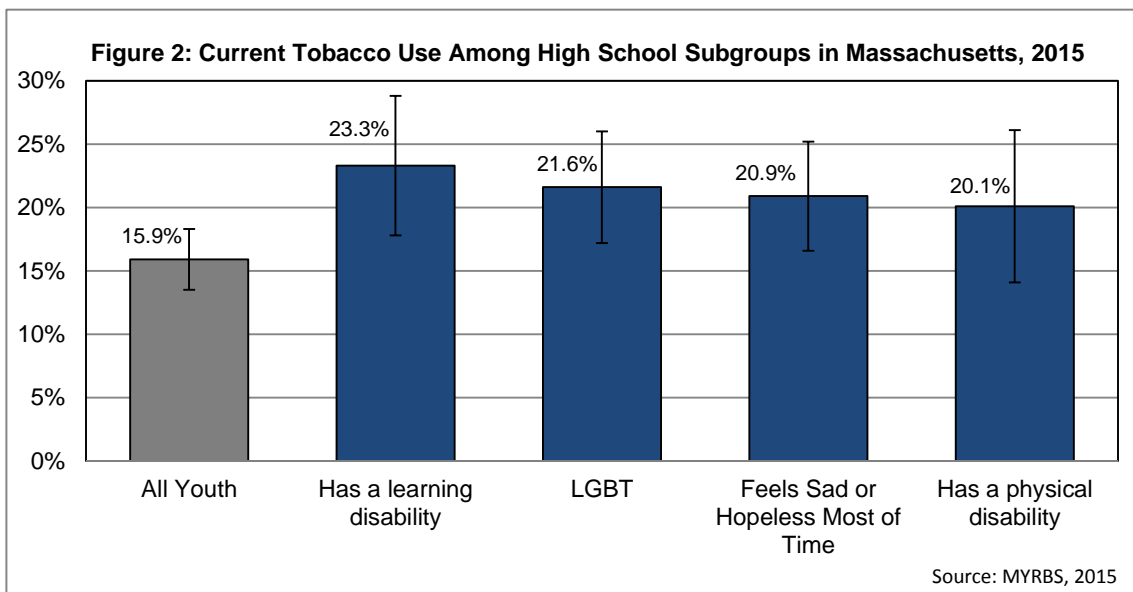




Tobacco use is declining among Massachusetts youth: in 2015, 15.9% of Massachusetts high school youth reported currently using any tobacco productsⁱ compared to 23.9% in 2009. However, certain subgroups of Massachusetts youth continue to use tobacco at a much higher rate than the general population of high school youth (**Figure 1**). These subgroups include youth 1) who report having a learning or physical disability, 2) who identify as LGBTⁱⁱ and 3) who report feeling sad or hopeless almost all of the time.ⁱⁱⁱ



The subgroups that report tobacco use at a higher rate than the general population of high school youth are more likely to have certain risk factors such as high stress, social stigma, poor school performance, discrimination and anxiety, which lead to a higher likelihood of tobacco use (**Figure 2**).^{iv,v} Gender differences were also observed as more males (21.4%) reported greater current use of tobacco compared to females (10.2%) (Data not shown).





Sources/Notes:

ⁱ Current use is defined as use of tobacco products in the past 30 days. Any tobacco use is defined as the use of cigarettes, cigars (including little cigars and cigarillos) and smokeless tobacco (such as chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip).

ⁱⁱ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender

ⁱⁱⁱ Youth who felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months.

^{iv} Centers for Disease Control. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and tobacco use. Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Office of Smoking and Health, 2016. <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/disparities/lgbt/index.htm>

^v Pampel, F.C., Boardman et. al. (2015). Life events, genetic susceptibility, and smoking among adolescents. Social Science Research, 221-232