

Youth Beliefs about Tobacco

Grades 6-8

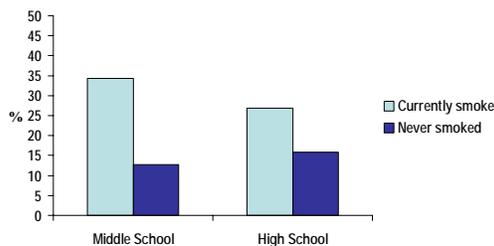
- Almost three times as many middle school students who currently smoke think young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends (34%) compared to students who have never smoked (13%).
- Four times as many middle school students who currently smoke think smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool or fit in (25%) compared to middle school students who have never smoked (6%).
- Eighty-three percent of middle school students who currently smoke think young people risk harming themselves if they smoke 1-5 cigarettes per day while 90% of middle school students who have never smoked think this is true.
- One-fourth (25%) of current middle school students who currently smoke think it is safe to smoke for only a year or two, as long as you quit after that as compared to five percent of middle school students who have never smoked think this is true.
- Most middle school students, both students who currently smoke (89%) and students who have never smoked (90%) think people can get addicted to using tobacco just like getting addicted to cocaine or heroin.

Grades 9-12

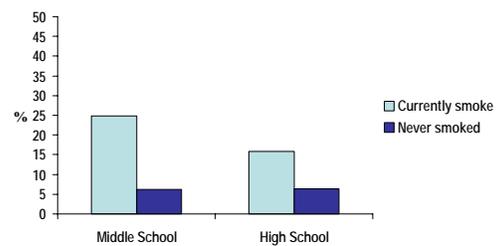
- Over one-quarter of high school students who currently smoke (27%) think young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends, while 16% of high school students who have never smoked think this is true.
- Twice as many high school students who currently smoke think smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool or fit in (16%) compared to six percent of high school students who have never smoked.
- Most (85%) high school students who currently smoke think young people risk harming themselves if they smoke 1-5 cigarettes per day. High school students who have never smoked are even more likely to hold this belief (94%).
- Less than one-fourth of high school students who currently smoke think it is safe to smoke for only a year or two as long as you quit after that (22%). Few high school students who have never smoked think this is true (4%).
- Most high school students, both students who currently smoke (82%) and students who have never smoked (95%), think people can get addicted to tobacco just like getting addicted to cocaine or heroin.

Youth Beliefs About Tobacco

Smokers have more friends



Smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool or fit in



Data Source: 2005 Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey (OYTS), Oklahoma State Department of Health

For additional information, please contact:
 Tobacco Use Prevention Service
 (405) 271-3619
<http://www.health.ok.gov/program/tobac>