

## Susceptibility to Smoking

Youth move through several stages of smoking initiation before becoming established smokers.

- *Committed non-smokers:* These youth have not tried even one or two puffs, would not smoke a cigarette soon, definitely would not smoke during the next year, and definitely would not smoke a cigarette if their best friend offered them one.
- *Susceptible non-smokers:* These youth do not have a clear resolve to not smoke. Susceptible youth do not rule out the possibility of smoking in the next year or might accept a cigarette if their best friend offered it to them. Youth who have tried even one or two puffs but have not smoked a whole cigarette are also susceptible even though they may be confident they will not smoke in the next year.
- *Experimenters:* These youth have moved one more step on the continuum by both trying smoking and not ruling out smoking in the next year.
- *Established smokers:* These youth have smoked at least 100 cigarettes since they first started smoking.

*Note: As fewer youth experiment with tobacco, the proportion of committed non-smokers and susceptible non-smokers increases.*

### Grades 6-8

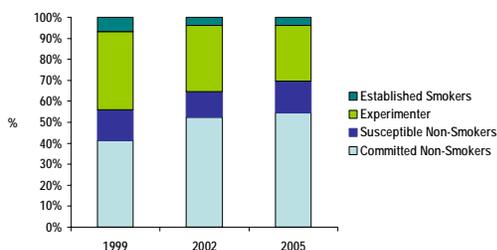
- There continues to be an increase in committed nonsmokers. (1999: 41.4%, 2002: 52.5%, 2005: 54.5%)
- Susceptibility among non-smokers decreased from 1999 to 2002 and increased in 2005. (1999: 26.0, 2002: 18.9, 2005: 21.7)
- There has been a steady decline in experimenters (1999: 37.3%, 2002: 31.5%, 2005: 26.6%)
- There has been little change in established smokers (1999: 6.8%, 2002: 3.9%, 2005: 3.8%)

### Grades 9-12

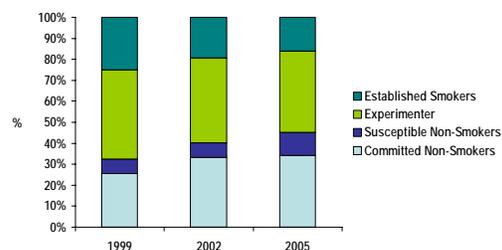
- Committed nonsmokers increased from 1999 to 2002 and remained constant in 2005 (1999: 25.5%, 2002: 33.3%, 2005: 34.3%)
- Susceptibility among non-smokers decreased from 1999 to 2002 and increased in 2005 (1999: 21.0%, 2002: 17.1%, 2005: 24.2%)
- The proportion of experimenters has decreased slightly each year (1999: 42.6%, 2002: 40.5%, 2005: 38.8%)
- There was a steady decrease in established smokers from 1999 to 2005 (1999: 25.1%, 2002: 19.4%, 2005: 16.0%)

## Smoking Continuum Among Oklahoma Students

### Middle School



### High School



Data Sources: The 1999, 2002 and 2005 Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey, Oklahoma State Department of Health

For additional information, please contact:  
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