

Trends in 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.

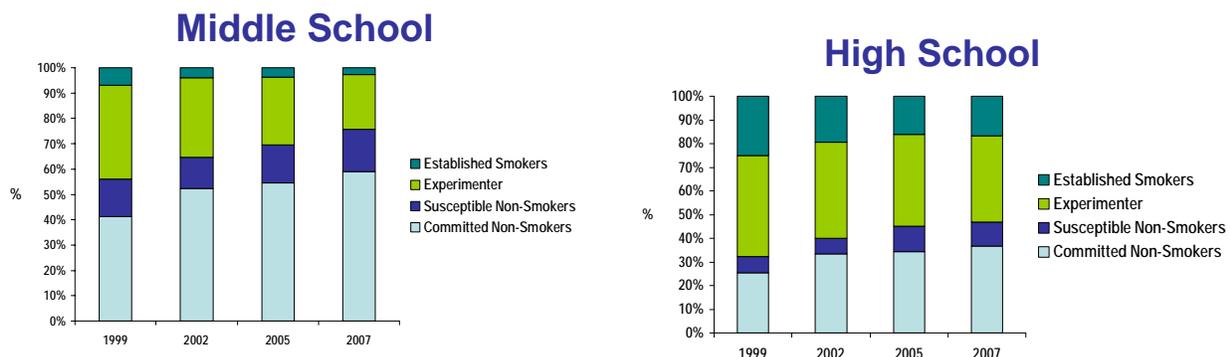
Grades 6-8

- There continues to be an increase in committed nonsmokers. (1999: 41.4%, 2002: 52.5%, 2005: 54.5%, 2007: 59.0%)
- Susceptibility among non-smokers decreased from 1999 to 2002, increased in 2005, and decreased in 2007. (1999: 26.0, 2002: 18.9, 2005: 21.7, 2007: 16.6%). There has been only minimal change in the proportion of susceptible non-smokers among all middle school youth. (1999: 14.5%, 2002: 12.2%, 2005: 15.1%, 2007: 16.6%).
- There has been a steady decline in experimenters (1999: 37.3%, 2002: 31.5%, 2005: 26.6%, 2007: 21.6%)
- There was little change in established smokers between 1999 and 2005 but dropped in 2007 (1999: 6.8%, 2002: 3.9%, 2005: 3.8%, 2007: 2.8%)

Grades 9-12

- Committed nonsmokers increased from 1999 to 2002 and remained relatively constant in 2005 and 2007 (1999: 25.5%, 2002: 33.3%, 2005: 34.3%, 2007: 36.6%)
- Susceptibility among non-smokers decreased from 1999 to 2002 and increased in 2005 (1999: 21.0%, 2002: 17.1%, 2005: 24.2%, 2007: 10.3%). The proportion of susceptible non-smokers among all youth has increased (1999: 6.8%, 2002: 6.8%, 2005: 10.9%, 2007: 10.3%).
- The proportion of experimenters has decreased slightly each year (1999: 42.6%, 2002: 40.5%, 2005: 38.8%, 2007: 36.4%)
- There was a steady decrease in established smokers from 1999 to 2005 (1999: 25.1%, 2002: 19.4%, 2005: 16.0%, 2007: 16.7%)

Smoking Continuum Among Oklahoma Students



Data Sources: The 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2007 Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey, Oklahoma State Department of Health

For additional information, please contact:
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