Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey - 2007

Youth Beliefs about Tobacco

Grades 6-8
- Almost four times as many middle school students who currently smoke think young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends (44.3%) compared to students who have never smoked (11.6%).
- Almost five times as many middle school students who currently smoke think smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool or fit in (35.2%) compared to middle school students who have never smoked (7.2%).
- Most middle school students, both students who currently smoke (82.8%) and students who have never smoked (91.2%), think young people risk harming themselves if they smoke 1-5 cigarettes per day.
- One-third (33.3%) 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 5.8 percent of middle school students who have never smoked think this is true.
- Most middle school students, both students who currently smoke (82.3%) and students who have never smoked (91.6%) 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 (28.0%) think young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends, while 12.3% 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 (16.8%) compared to 4.9 percent of high school students who have never smoked.
- Most (84.8%) 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 (93.7%).
- 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 (24.4%). Few high school students who have never smoked think this is true (5.5%).
- Most high school students, both students who currently smoke (85.6%) and students who have never smoked (92.8%), think people can get addicted to tobacco just like getting addicted to cocaine or heroin.

Youth Beliefs About Tobacco

Smokers have more friends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Middle School</th>
<th>High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currently smoke</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never smoked</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool or fit in

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Data Source: 2007 Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey (OYTS), Oklahoma State Department of Health

For additional information, please contact:
Tobacco Use Prevention Service
(405) 271-3619

4/8/08