

Main Office
8790 Manchester Road
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 962-3456



Branch Office
1723 Pennsylvania Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63104
(314) 664-7550

SMOKING & YOUTH

Each day, about 4,000 kids try their first cigarette, and each day more than 1,300 other kids under 18 years of age become new regular, daily smokers. *SAMHSA, Results from the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings. Available at <http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k6nsduh/2k6Results.cfm#Ch4>*

Almost 90 percent of all adult smokers began at or before age 18. *Calculated based on data in National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2003. See, also, HHS, Youth & Tobacco: Prevention Tobacco Use Among Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General, 1994.*

By the time they leave high school, 21.6 percent of our children are current smokers. *University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study, 2007.*

Youths aged 12-17 who smoke are more than 11 times as likely to use illicit drugs and 16 times as likely to drink heavily as youth who do not smoke. *SAMHSA, HHS, Summary of Findings from the 1998 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (August 1999).*

In 2007, 24 percent of Missouri high school students reported they had smoked one or more cigarettes during the past 30 days. *Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Missouri Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2007.*

In 2005, 50 percent of Missouri high school students reported they have smoked at least once in their lifetime. *Missouri Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2005. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/tobacco/pdf/state-facts/Missouri.pdf>.*

In Missouri, 14.3 percent of middle and high school students first smoked a whole cigarette, 6.7 percent had smoked a cigar, and 6.2 percent had used smokeless tobacco, before the age of 11. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Surveillance Summaries. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2000; 49(SS-10).*

In 2001, nine percent of Missouri high school students were not asked to show proof of age when they bought cigarettes in a store during the past 30 days. *Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Missouri Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2001.*

Among Missouri middle and high school students who currently smoke, 88.1 percent think people can get addicted to cigarettes and 93.5 percent think health risks increase if they smoke one or more packs a day. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Surveillance Summaries. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2000; 49(SS-10).*

140,000 Missouri youth living today will die prematurely because of a decision they will make as adolescents - the decision to smoke cigarettes. *Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of*

Tobacco in Missouri. Available at:
<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=MO>.

Approximately 352,000 Missouri youth are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. *The Toll of Tobacco in Missouri. Available at:*
<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=MO>.

According to a CDC study, young people vastly underestimate the addictive nature of nicotine. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Selected Cigarette Smoking Initiation and Quitting Behaviors Among High School Students - United States, 1997. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 1998, 47(19):386-9.*

Only three percent of daily smokers in high school think that they will still be smoking at all in five years, but more than 60 percent are still regular daily smokers seven to nine years later. *Monitoring the Future Study (1998).*

Seventy percent of teenagers who smoke regret they ever started. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Incidence of Initiation of Cigarette Smoking - United States, 1965-1996. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 1998; 47(39):837.*

A recent study of boys and girls ages 9 to 14 shows a positive relationship between contemplation of smoking and weight concerns, as well as a positive relationship between smoking experimentation and weight control behaviors. *C.A. Tomeo, et. Al., "Weight Concerns, Weight Control Behaviors, and Smoking Initiation." Pediatrics 1999; 104; 918-924.*

Approximately 14.1 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by youth in Missouri each year. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. *The Toll of Tobacco in Missouri. Available at:*
<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=MO>.

Approximately 9,900 Missouri youth (under 18) become new daily smokers each year. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. *The Toll of Tobacco in Missouri. Available at:*
<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=MO>.

In 2001, 59.8 percent of high school students reported having tried to quit smoking. *Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Missouri Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2001. Unpublished analysis; 2002.*

Roughly one third of all youth smokers will eventually die prematurely from smoking-caused disease. *E.J. Hahn, et. Al., "Projected Smoking-Related Deaths Among U.S. Youth: A 2000 Update," (May 1, 2002). Available at: <http://repositories.cdlib.org/tc/reports/YO>.*

14.0% of 10th graders & 7.1 % of 8th graders are current smokers. University of Michigan, Monitoring the Future Study, 2007.

Reviewed 7/09