

Portage County
Youth Tobacco Survey 2006

FACT SHEET

The Portage County Youth Tobacco Survey includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on determinants of tobacco use: knowledge and attitudes, access/availability, second hand smoke exposure, cessation – current smokers,

Prevalence

- 30.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 28.9%, Girls = 32.1%)
- 23.2% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 21.8%, Girls = 24.7%)
- 14.7% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 13.8%, Girls = 15.7%)
- 8.2% currently use smokeless tobacco (Boys = 9.2%, Girls = 7.0%)
- 2.3% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking in the next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 87.9% think that students who smoke do not have more friends
- 91.9% think that students who smoke do not look cool or fit in better
- 90.9% think that people risk harming themselves even if they smoke 1-5 cigarettes per day
- 87.1% think that is not safe to smoke for only a year or two and then quit

Access and Availability – Current Smokers

- 26.0% usually smoke at home
- 22.7% smoke in a car
- 19.7% smoke at a friend’s house
- 43.7% buy cigarettes at a gas station
- 35.8% buy cigarettes some place other than what was asked on the survey
- 83.1% who bought cigarettes in a store were not refused purchase because of their age

Secondhand Smoke

- 64.3% of students currently live with someone who smoke
- 84.8% of students believe secondhand smoke is harmful to them

Cessation – Current Smokers

- 46.6% want to quit smoking
- 50.0% have tried to quit smoking in the past 12 months
- 41.7% cannot go longer than one day without a cigarette