

# Facts on Kids in South Dakota

## Teens & smoking



Issue No. 2 Qtr 00

*Data and information in this issue are from the South Dakota Youth Tobacco Survey Report 1999 which was funded by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SD Department of Human Services); the National Youth Tobacco Survey 1999; South Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report 1999 and the South Dakota Tobacco-Free Kids Network. More information about these organizations and copies of the reports where the data was obtained, can be found at the end of the issue.*

### Introduction

This is the second in a series of Facts on Kids in South Dakota. Each issue will take a look at a specific indicator of child well being. To provide the reader with a broad yet in-depth view of the state of children and youth in South Dakota, data and state and federal legislation will be discussed. The focus of this issue is *teens and smoking*.

Cigarettes were considered a symbol of popularity and social acceptability during the first half of the twentieth century<sup>1</sup>. A limited number of behaviors contribute to early death and smoking is one of those behaviors. Our health is critically linked to the health-related choices we make. Studies show that adolescence is the key period when the decision is made to smoke. Almost 90% of adult smokers began at or before age 18 and each year 3,000 youth in South Dakota become new smokers<sup>2</sup>. This statistic has enormous implications for the health of our youth.

### South Dakota Addiction Problem<sup>2</sup>

- ♦ South Dakota teens rank among the highest in the nation in reported tobacco use. Forty-four percent of high school students are current smokers, a 42% increase in six years.
- ♦ 3,000 children become new smokers each year in South Dakota.
- ♦ 74% of Native American teens in South Dakota reported tobacco use in the last 30 days.

- ♦ Nearly 23% of pregnant women smoke, 40 percent higher than the national average.
- ♦ South Dakota had the highest rate of increase in adult smoking in the nation between 1996 and 1998. This increase meant 36,000 new smokers over a three-year period.
- ♦ 36% of adult men smoke, the highest rate in the nation.
- ♦ Nearly 90% of adult smokers became addicted as children.
- ♦ Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death. It accounts for 1 of every 6 deaths in South Dakota, more than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides combined.

### Tobacco Addiction Costs Everyone<sup>2</sup>

- ♦ Tobacco use costs South Dakotans over a quarter of a billion dollars (\$290 million) annually in health and other costs – the equivalent of \$400 for every man, woman and child in South Dakota.
- ♦ Of that \$290 million, an average of \$170 million annually is directly related to tobacco use—health care expenditures by individuals, families, businesses, and government in South Dakota. Non-health costs are estimated to cost \$120 million annually in work productivity losses, property loss, fires, and maintenance costs. An estimated \$80 million of the total cost to South Dakotans is paid in state and federal taxes used for tobacco-caused health costs.
- ♦ Infant health problems caused by mothers' smoking or exposure to second-hand smoke during pregnancy are estimated at \$4 million to \$11 million annually.
- ♦ Tobacco use is estimated to cost the state Medicaid program more than \$20 million annually based upon 1993 data.

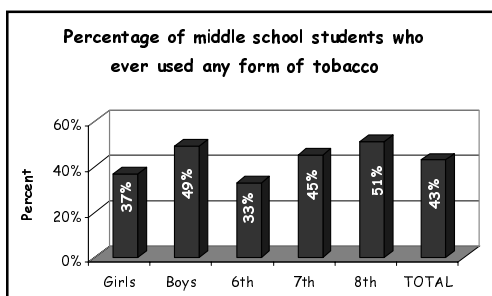
### Middle School Students: A Profile<sup>3</sup>

Note: Middle school students are in grades 6 - 8, 12-14 years old.

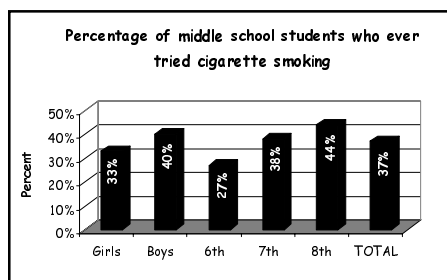
Recognizing that middle school is a critical period for the initiation of tobacco use, the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (SD Dept. of Human Services) conducted the 1999 Middle School Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS). The YTS was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health to assist states with their tobacco control programs. The YTS is a 59-item questionnaire that assesses seven tobacco related topics. All public, private, and BIA schools in the state containing students in grades 6, 7, or 8 were eligible to be selected for inclusion in the sample.

According to the 1999 National Youth Tobacco Survey about one in eight, 13%, of middle school students reported using some form of tobacco in the past month. For South Dakota the figures are 16%.

The following shows the percentage of middle school students who ever used any form of tobacco. The percentage of 8th grade students is significantly higher than that of the 6th grade students.



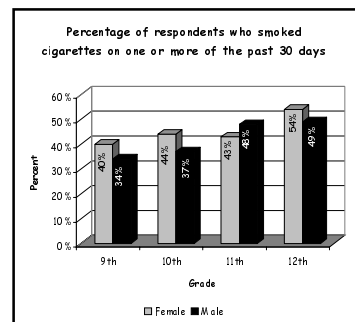
The next chart shows the percentage of middle school students who ever tried cigarette smoking.



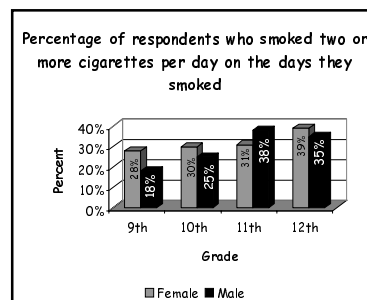
### High School Students: A Profile<sup>4</sup>

Note: High school students are in 9-12 grade, 15-18 years old.

According to the South Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey (SD-YRBS) 44% of respondents stated that they smoked a cigarette on one or more of the past 30 days. The following chart shows the responses by grade.

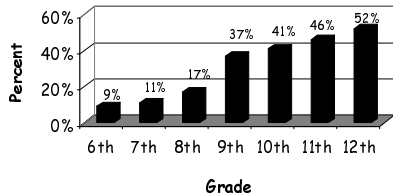


The YRBS also asked respondents if they smoked two or more cigarettes per day on the day they smoked. The responses by year are shown in the following chart.



Combining the results of the 1999 South Dakota Youth Tobacco Survey and the 1999 South Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows the progression of middle school and high school students who smoked on at least one day during the past month. (Note: the survey's were administered six-months apart. This needs to be considered when comparing the observed differences between the percentage of middle school and high school students who are current smokers<sup>4</sup>.)

Percentage of middle school students & high school students who are defined as current smokers (they have smoked cigarettes on 1 or more days during the past 30 days)



### Trying to quit smoking

Both the SD YTS and the SD YRBS asked respondents if they have tried to quit smoking. The percentage of middle school students who now smoke and want to completely stop smoking cigarettes was 67%.

The SD YRBS asked respondents if they ever tried to quit smoking. Thirty-eight percent of respondents stated they had tried to quit.

### Tobacco-more than just cigarettes

While cigarettes are the most common form of tobacco, other products used by youth and adolescents are smokeless, chew, cigars, bidis, and kreteks. Smokeless or chew: South Dakota ranked as one of the highest states for smokeless tobacco use among high school boys<sup>4</sup>, almost 26%. Cigars: The cigar fad has reached kids. In 1997, 31.2% of boys and 10.8% of girls in grades 9-12 reported having smoked a cigar at least once in the last 30 days<sup>5</sup>. Bidis (or Beedies): Bidis are small, brown, hand-rolled cigarettes consisting of tobacco wrapped in a tendu or temburni leaf. They come in packages of 20 and are available in different flavors. Adolescents in one study reported their preference for the taste of bidis over cigarettes and their belief that bidis are less expensive, easier to buy, and safer than cigarettes. However, when tested on a standard smoking machine, bidis produced higher levels of carbon monoxide, nicotine, and tar than cigarettes. Kreteks: These are clove cigarettes that are made in Indonesia. The name is derived from the occasional cracking of the burning cloves. Depending upon the manufacturer and brand, they

contain approximately 60% tobacco and 40% ground cloves. Exposure to tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide is higher from clove cigarettes than from regular American cigarettes.

### Tobacco Settlement

In 1998, 46 states settled a suit against several tobacco-manufacturing companies. South Dakota will receive approximately \$25 million annually for at least the next 25 years. However, those amounts can change depending on tobacco sales and price. Thus far, the state has received about \$16 million and expects another \$12 million in April.

The state is also eligible to apply for funding from the newly created American Legacy Foundation, which provides states that participated in the multi-state tobacco settlement with additional funding for state and local programs.

The governor and the legislature have complete discretion over the use of the tobacco settlement funds; there are no requirements to use the funds to offset future costs linked to tobacco use.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that South Dakota would need to spend roughly one-third of its annual tobacco settlement payment (about \$8.6 million annually) to fund a comprehensive, sustainable, and accountable tobacco control program.

### State legislative actions

A summary of the tobacco legislation signed by Governor Janklow follows.

- \$1.7 million in new state funds for tobacco prevention and control in the next fiscal year;
- the creation of an advisory board to work with the Department of Human Services in setting priorities, establishing grant criteria and assessing program performance;
- annual reporting to the Governor and Legislature on progress in achieving goals;
- creation of a tobacco prevention trust fund into which funds may be placed for tobacco prevention programs.



#### Data sources and information

The **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** is a questionnaire that assesses six priority health risk behaviors, which result in the greatest amount of morbidity, mortality, and social problems among youth. A sample of all public, private and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools in South Dakota containing students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 are eligible to be selected for inclusion.

[www.state.sd.us/state/executive/deca/COMSER/index.htm](http://www.state.sd.us/state/executive/deca/COMSER/index.htm)

The **South Dakota Tobacco-Free Kids Network** is a statewide alliance of health, medical, education, parent, youth, law enforcement and other civic organizations dedicated to advocating for laws, policies and funding of effective programs that will result in significant reductions in tobacco use and addiction, especially among children and high risk groups.

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[www.sdtobaccofree.org](http://www.sdtobaccofree.org)

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[www.state.sd.us/dhs/dhs.html](http://www.state.sd.us/dhs/dhs.html)

The **South Dakota KIDS COUNT Project** is a national and state-by-state effort, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, to track the status of children in the United States.

By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for children and families. Additional funding for the state project comes from the South Dakota Departments of: Education and Cultural Affairs, Health, Human Services and Social Services.  
[www.usd.edu/brbinfo/brb/kc](http://www.usd.edu/brbinfo/brb/kc)

#### Notes:

1 CDC, "Tobacco Use-United States, 1900-1999," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 48(43): 986-993 (November 5, 1999)

2 South Dakota Tobacco-Free Kids Network. South Dakota's Tobacco Epidemic at a Glance.

3 Schubot, D. B. (2000) South Dakota Youth Tobacco Survey Report 1999. Pierre, SD: Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse, SD Department of Human Services.

4 Schubot, D. B. (2000) South Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report 1999. Pierre, SD: Coordinated School Health Program, Department of Education & Cultural Affairs and the Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse, SD Department of Human Services.

5 Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids website  
[www.tobaccofreekids.org](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org)

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