

## Youth Tobacco Use

### Key Findings

The 2009 assessment identified that 16% of Allen County youth (ages 12-18) were smokers increasing to 21% of those who were 14-16 years old. Overall, 8% of Allen County youth indicated they had used chewing tobacco in the past month. Of those youth who currently smoke, 56% had tried to quit.

### Youth Tobacco Use Behaviors

- ◆ The 2007 YRBS reports that 51% of high youth in Ohio had tried cigarette smoking and the 2009 assessment indicated that 35% of Allen County high school youth had done the same. 29% of all youth had tried smoking.
- ◆ Over one-fifth (22%) of those Allen County youth who have smoked a whole cigarette did so under 10 years old and almost half (45%) had done so under the age of 12.
- ◆ In 2009, 16% of Allen County youth were current smokers, having smoked at some time in the past 30 days. 20% of high school youth were current smokers (2007 YRBS reported 22% for Ohio and 20% for the U.S). Over one-fifth (21%) of 14-16 year olds were current smokers compared to 8% of 12-13 year olds and 15% of 17-18 year olds.
- ◆ Of those who smoked, 25% smoked less than 1 cigarette per day and 8% smoked 11 or more cigarettes per day. One-quarter (25%) of current smokers, smoked cigarettes daily.
- ◆ Over three-fourths (78%) of the Allen County youth identified as current smokers were also current drinkers, defined as having had a drink of alcohol in the past 30 days.
- ◆ Over one-fifth (21%) of youth smokers bought cigarettes from a store or gas station, 27% borrowed cigarettes from someone else, 22% asked someone else to buy them cigarettes, 10% took them from a store or family member and 8% said an adult gave them the cigarettes.
- ◆ Almost two-thirds (65%) of smokers who bought or tried to buy cigarettes were not asked to show proof of age.
- ◆ In the past 30 days, 8% of all Allen County youth used chewing tobacco or snuff. 11% of Allen County high school youth used chewing tobacco or snuff (2007 YRBS reported 10% for Ohio and 8% for U.S.)
- ◆ 15% of youth smoked cigars, cigarillos or little cigars in the past 30 days, increasing to 20% of those 17-18 years old.
- ◆ Over half (56%) of all Allen County youth smokers had tried to quit smoking in the past year. 65% of high school youth had tried to quit smoking (2007 YRBS reported 49% for Ohio and 50% of the U.S).

### 2008 Ohio Youth Tobacco Survey

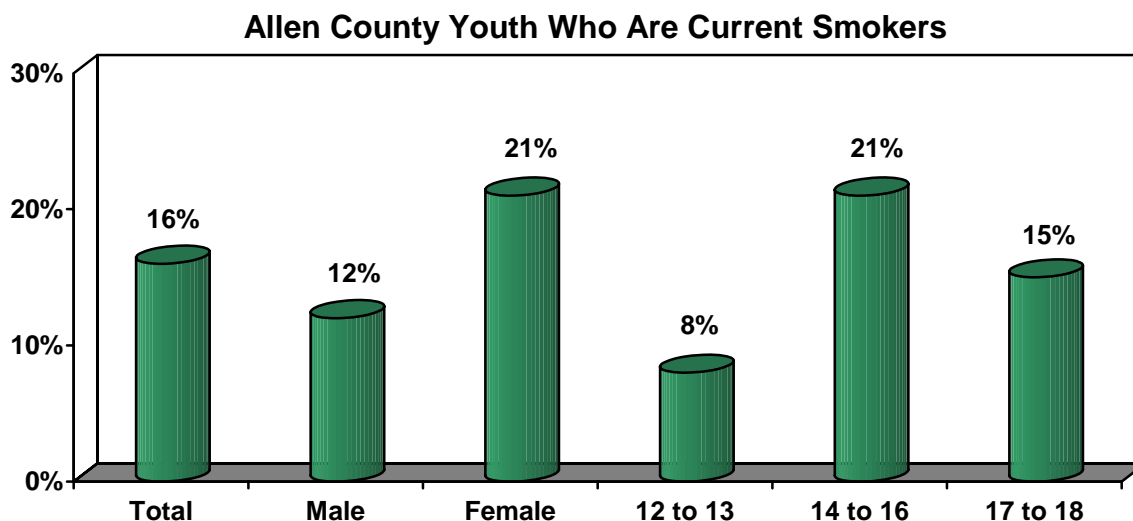
- ◆ In 2008, 57.2% of Ohio high school students had used some form of tobacco during their lifetime.
- ◆ 6% of high school students and 4.8% of middle school students had started smoking by age 11.
- ◆ 10.4% of high school and 4.9% of middle school students had ever smoked a bidi.
- ◆ 11% of middle school and 20.8% of high school students reported using smokeless tobacco in their lifetime.
- ◆ According to the survey results, 19.1% of middle school students and 20.6% of high school students had never smoked a cigarette.

*(Source: Ohio Youth Tobacco Survey, 2008, Office of Healthy Ohio, Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program)*

Youth Comparisons	Allen County 2009 (6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> )	Allen County 2009 (6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> )	Allen County 2009 (9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> )	Ohio 2007 (9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> )	U.S. 2007 (9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> )
Ever tried cigarettes	29%	17%	35%	51%	50%
Current smokers	16%	9%	20%	22%	20%
Used chewing tobacco or snuff	8%	2%	11%	10%	8%
Tried to quit smoking	56%	52%	65%	49%	50%

## Youth Tobacco Use

The following graph shows the percentage of Allen County youth who smoke cigarettes. Examples of how to interpret the information include: 16% of all Allen County youth were current smokers, 12% of males smoked, and 21% of females were current smokers. The table shows differences in specific risk behaviors between current smokers and non-current smokers (nonsmokers).



*Current smokers are those who have smoked at any time during the past 30 days.  
Source: 2009 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment*

### Behaviors of Allen Youth *Current Smokers vs. Non-Current Smokers*

Youth Behaviors	Current Smoker	Non-Current Smoker
Have been in a physical fight in the past 12 months	49%	27%
Have seriously considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months	26%	10%
Have had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days	78%	25%
Have used marijuana in the past 30 days	53%	9%
Have had sexual intercourse	72%	41%
Involved in extracurricular activities	72%	76%

*Current smokers are those youth surveyed who have self-reported smoking at any time during the past 30 days.  
Source: 2009 Allen County Health Risk and Community Needs Assessment*