

HEALTHY CHOICES HEALTHY STUDENTS



Tobacco-Related Behaviors Among NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH IN NEW MEXICO 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey

Overview

Grades 6th -12th

Youth who use tobacco early in their life put themselves at risk of becoming long term tobacco users which negatively impacts their health. Native American youth in New Mexico were more likely to report tobacco use than New Mexico youth of other races/ethnicity. However, the tobacco use questions on the YRRS do not distinguish between Native American ceremonial/traditional use and other uses. Results from the 2009 NM Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) indicate that:

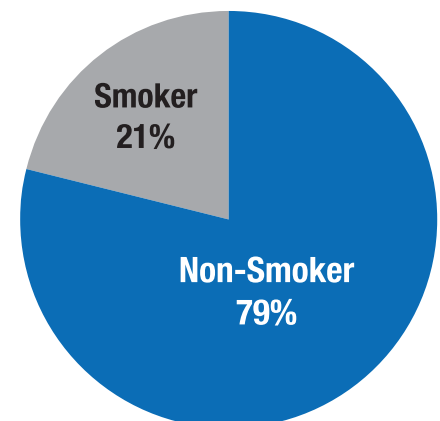
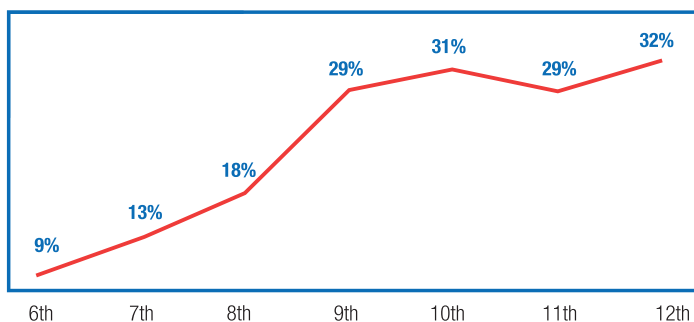
Native American students who do NOT smoke tobacco are more likely to receive A's & B's and have parents who know where they are and with whom.

Students who smoke are more likely to drink, use marijuana, be in a fight and receive D's & F's.

Fortunately, tobacco-related behaviors are preventable and there are protective factors that may discourage Native American youth in New Mexico from smoking.

About 1 in 5 Students are Smokers¹

Percentage of Students Who Smoke, by Grade



HIGH SCHOOL



11% of high school students use smokeless tobacco

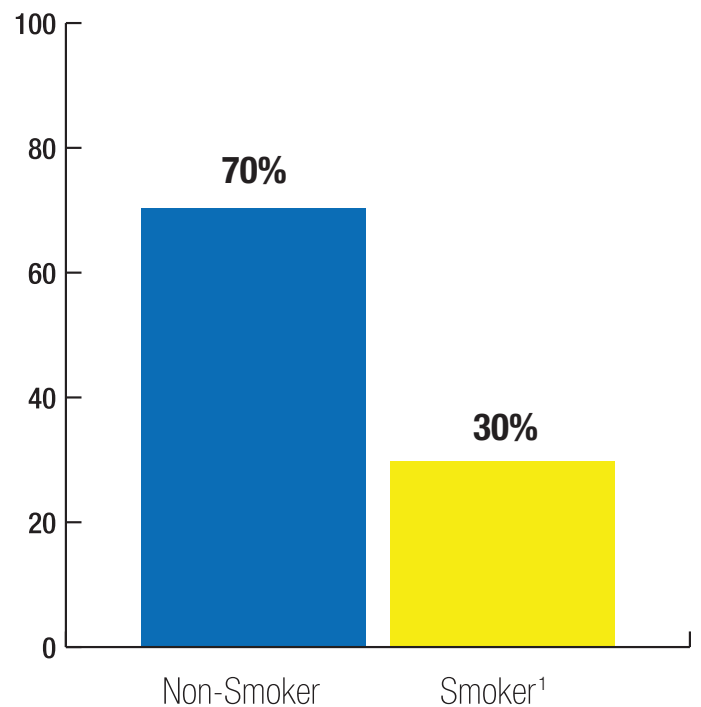
Protective Factors Against Smoking*

- Parents think it is wrong for students to smoke cigarettes
- Receives mostly A's & B's
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Parents know where their student is and with whom
- Parents expect student to follow the rules
- Student plans to attend college

1 in 11 high school students smoke at school

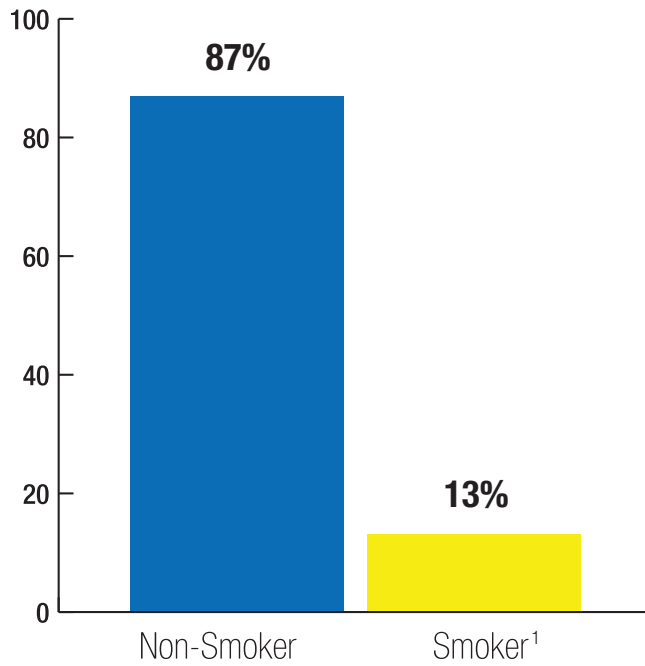
Warning Factors of Smoking*

- Drinks alcohol
- Currently uses marijuana
- Carried a weapon to school
- Has ever tried heroin
- Has been in a physical fight
- Receives mostly D's & F's
- Has ever tried ecstasy
- Has ever tried methamphetamines



*All warning or protective factors were statistically significant and are listed in order from strongest to weakest influence on tobacco smoking behavior.

MID SCHOOL



Warning Factors of Smoking*

Currently uses marijuana

Drinks alcohol

Has injected illegal drugs

Has friends who get in a lot of trouble

Has ever tried cocaine

Has been in a physical fight

Has ever tried inhalants

Receives mostly D's & F's

Has seriously thought about suicide

Only ½ of middle school students said they were taught about the dangers of tobacco this year in school



Protective Factors Against Smoking*

Receives mostly A's & B's

Parents know where their student is and with whom

Parents listen to student

5% of middle school students use smokeless tobacco

DEMOGRAPHICS

In the New Mexico 2009 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey 8,243 Native American students in grades 6-12 answered the questions about tobacco use.

High School Students

Female = 1,938
Male = 2,012
Gender not reported = 14
Total 3,964

Middle School Students

Female = 2,102
Male = 2,167
Gender not reported = 10
Total 4,279

DEFINITION

¹A “Smoker” is defined as anyone who in the past 30 days smoked at least one cigar or smoked cigarettes for more than 5 days.



Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center

For more information contact AASTEC at (800) 658-6717

For more information on the YRRS:

Dan Green, M.P.H.

Epidemiology and Response Division, NM DOH
Dan.Green@state.nm.us
(505) 476-1779

William O. Blair, Ph.D.

School and Family Support Bureau
NM PED
william.blair@state.nm.us
(505) 827-1807

Linda J. Peñaloza, Ph.D.

University of New Mexico
Prevention Research Center
LPenaloza@salud.unm.edu
(505) 272-4462



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