

# Tobacco Use

## 73% of youth have never smoked a whole cigarette



Overall, 72.7% of youth *have never* smoked. As youth get older, the number who have smoked a whole cigarette increases, and by age 17, 49.5% of youth *have smoked* a whole cigarette. Most students who have smoked a whole cigarette say they first tried smoking when they were in the 13-14 age group.

## Strong relationship between smoking cigarettes, smoking marijuana

Cigarette smoking in a month is positively related to marijuana smoking in the month. For example, while 90% of youth who did not try marijuana in the past month also did not smoke in the past month, 52% of youth who used marijuana 3 or more days in the past month also smoked cigarettes on 10 or more days in the past month.



## Almost 2/3 of youth smokers tried to quit in the past 12 months



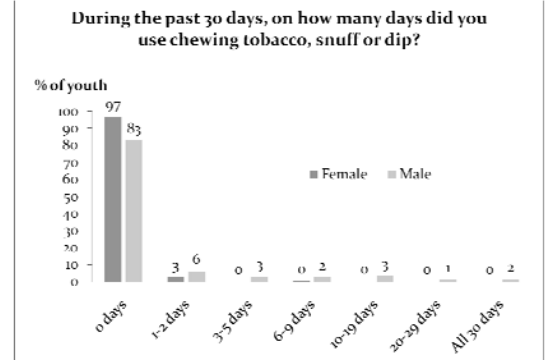
Over 62% of youth smokers reported that they had tried to quit smoking in the last 12 months. Youth who smoked more days in the past month were more likely to say that they had tried to quit.

The large number of students reporting trying to quit suggests that smoking cessation programs may be valuable for youth in their schools.

## Male youth are more likely to use chewing tobacco, cigars, cigarillos or little cigars

Although less than 10% of youth across all age groups used chewing tobacco over the past month, the majority of were male youth. Males were more than three times more likely to have used chewing tobacco in the past month and to chew more often.

Males were also more likely to have smoked cigars in the past month, and on more days throughout the month.



*“Hey do you guys smoke that [cigars] when you’re playing card games?”*

*“No but it’s usually at someone’s house so no one smokes. I’ve never been to a card game where anybody was smoking.”*

*“That would be a parent thing wouldn’t it? Cause parents don’t want you smoking in their house because it’s disgusting.”*

*“That’s interesting though, we can’t have a few beers when we play cards but we can’t have a cigarette.”*

- Youth Focus Group Participants

