



Adolescent smoking statistics....

Cigarette smoking during childhood and adolescence can cause significant health problems for young people.

- Tobacco use, including cigarette smoking, cigar smoking, and smokeless tobacco use, remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.¹
- Each year cigarette smoking accounts for approximately 1 of every 5 deaths, or about 438,000 people. Cigarette smoking results in 5.5 million years of potential life lost in the United States annually.²
- Every day, approximately 4,000 American youth aged 12-17 try their first cigarette, and an estimated 1,140 young people become daily cigarette smokers.³
- In 2007, 20% of high schools students reported current cigarette use and 14% reported current cigar use. In addition, 8% of high school students and 18% of white male high school students reported current smokeless tobacco use.⁴

It is estimated that smoking results in more deaths each year in the U.S. than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, AIDS, suicide, homicide, motor vehicle accidents, and fires combined.

(U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services 2000)

Possession or use of tobacco by a minor....

The state law under the Ohio Revised Code section 2151.87 states:

No person under the age of eighteen years old may possess, use or consume cigarettes, or other tobacco products or papers used to roll cigarettes unless accompanied by a parent, spouse who is eighteen years of age or older or a legal guardian of the child. The section also prohibits the purchase or attempt to purchase, order, pay for or share the cost of cigarettes, other tobacco products or papers used to roll cigarettes.

If a juvenile violates this law the court may do either or both of the following:

- Require the juvenile to attend a youth smoking education program or other smoking treatment program approved by the court.
- Impose a fine of not more than one hundred dollars.
- If a juvenile fails to comply with the court order the court can do the following:
 - Require the child to perform not more than twenty hours of community service.
 - Suspend a juvenile's drivers license for a period of thirty days.

False identification to obtain tobacco by a minor....

No child shall knowingly furnish false information concerning the child's name, age or other identification for the purpose of obtaining cigarettes, other tobacco products or papers used to roll cigarettes. O.R.C. 2151.87.

Providing or selling tobacco products to minors....

No retailer, wholesaler, manufacturer, distributor or producer of cigarettes or other tobacco products may give, sell or distribute cigarettes or other tobacco products to any person under the age of eighteen. O.R.C. 2151.87

1. CDC. Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Economic Costs—United States, 1995–1999. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report [serial online]. 2002;51(14):300–303 [Accessed 2008 Jun 13].

2. CDC. Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses—United States, 1997–2001. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report [serial online]. 2005;54:625–628 [Accessed 2008 Jun 13].

3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Results From the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. [pdf 943K] (Office of Applied Studies, NSDUH Series H-27, DHHS Publication No. SMA 05–4061) [Accessed 2008 Jun 13]. Rockville, MD.

4. CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, 2007 [pdf 1M] Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report [serial online] 2008;57(SS-4):1–131. [Accessed 2008 Jun 13]



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