

STATISTICS AND FACTS ABOUT SMOKELESS TOBACCO

- **“Rates of smokeless tobacco use are no longer declining and they appear to be increasing among some groups.”** (U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA in her report, “Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults,” March 2012)
- Ohio is among those that are increasing. The Surgeon General’s report cites about **1 in 10 high school male seniors nationally** is a smokeless tobacco user. The 2011 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey reports that **27.7 percent of Ohio high school senior males surveyed are current users of smokeless tobacco!**
- **21.1 percent of Ohio’s male students in grades 9-12 reported using smokeless tobacco** at least once within 30 days of participating in the 2011 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey. That number was 12.8 percent in the 2003 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- The oral use of smokeless tobacco **was first listed “as known to be a human carcinogen”** in the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services 9th Report on Carcinogens (ROC), 2000.
- The 12th ROC report (2011) indicates an estimated 10 million users of smokeless tobacco in the U.S., and of that **number approximately 3 million users are under the age of 21.**
- The National Cancer Institute’s fact sheet, “Smokeless Tobacco and Cancer” states there are at least 28 chemicals in smokeless tobacco that are known to cause cancer.
- Long term snuff users may be **50 percent more at risk for cancer** of the cheek and gums. American Cancer Society
- **Nicotine is just as addictive as heroin and cocaine**, and teens are more sensitive to nicotine and can become dependent on it quicker than adults. Surgeon General 2012 Report.
- **Smokeless tobacco users increase their risk of cancers of the oral cavity**, throat, larynx and esophagus. Smokeless tobacco is also believed to contribute to cardiovascular disease and high blood pressure because the nicotine gets into the bloodstream through the lining of the mouth and/or the gastrointestinal tract. And nicotine causes the heart to beat faster and blood pressure to rise. American Cancer Society
- Leukoplakia, white patches and oral lesions on the cheeks, gums or tongue, is commonly found in smokeless tobacco users. **Leukoplakia can be an early indicator of oral cancer.** About 75 percent of daily users of smokeless tobacco will get leukoplakia. American Cancer Society
- Smokeless tobacco **users – especially long time users, are at risk for tooth and gum decay, and other dental issues.** American Dental Association



Sound off on the risks of smokeless tobacco!

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