

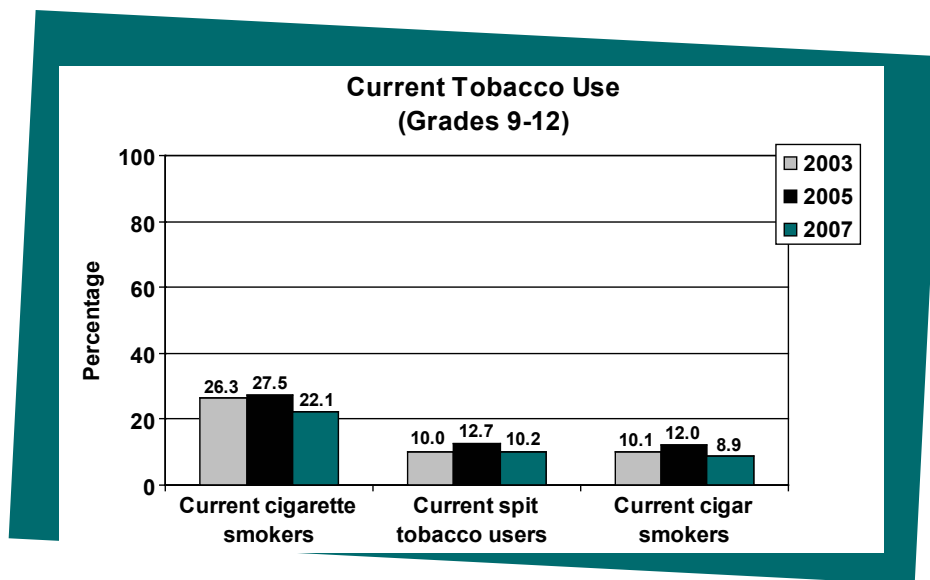
2007 North Dakota Youth Tobacco Survey

The North Dakota Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) has been conducted in the spring of odd years since 2003. The YTS is designed to measure a variety of factors related to tobacco products among high school students and to assess how these factors change over time. These factors often contribute to behaviors that are established during youth, extend into adulthood and are frequently interrelated.

Questions were asked in a variety of categories, including prevalence and established habits of cigarette, spit-tobacco and other tobacco use; age of initiation; access to tobacco; information learned in school; cessation beliefs and attempts; knowledge and attitudes; community influence; media influence; and exposure to and beliefs about secondhand smoke. This summary reveals a portion of those results – those regarding health and social beliefs about tobacco and tobacco-related community and media influences.

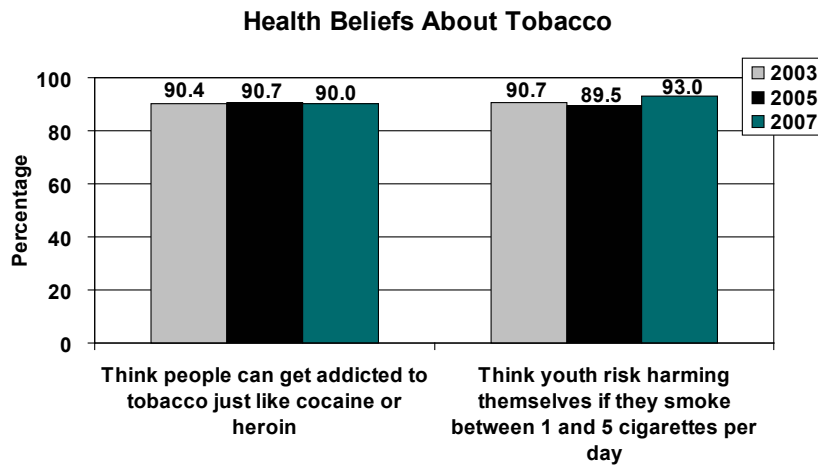
In 2007, a total of 1,695 surveys were completed in grades nine through 12 and were then analyzed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). To ensure that the results are representative of all high school students from eligible North Dakota public schools, the CDC weighted the data. All results presented in this summary are weighted and are from grades nine through 12.

Current Tobacco Use

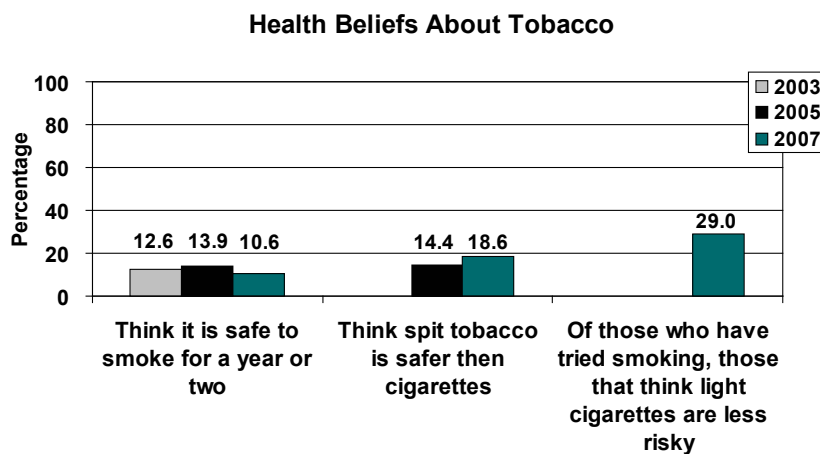


The current rate of cigarette smoking among high school students has decreased slightly since 2003. The rate of cigar smoking and spit-tobacco use has remained about the same since 2003.

Health Beliefs About Tobacco



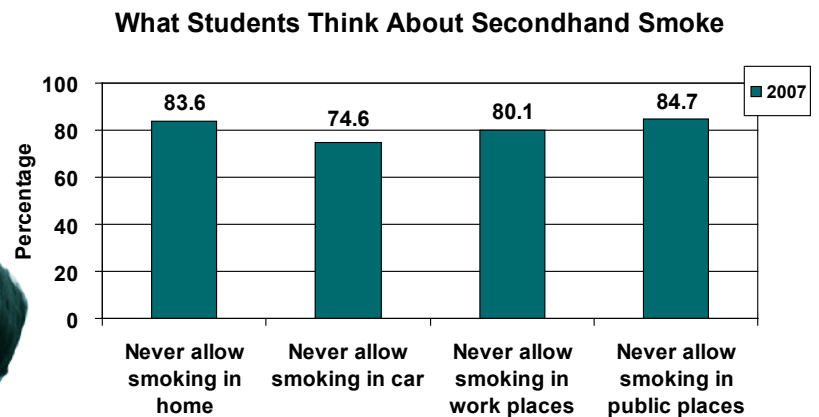
An ongoing trend since 2003 is that nearly all students believe they can get addicted to tobacco just like cocaine or heroin and nearly all believe they can cause themselves harm by smoking just a few cigarettes a day.



The number of students who think it is safe to smoke for a year or two fell slightly between 2003 and 2007. The number of students who think that spit tobacco is safer than cigarettes rose slightly between 2005 and 2007.

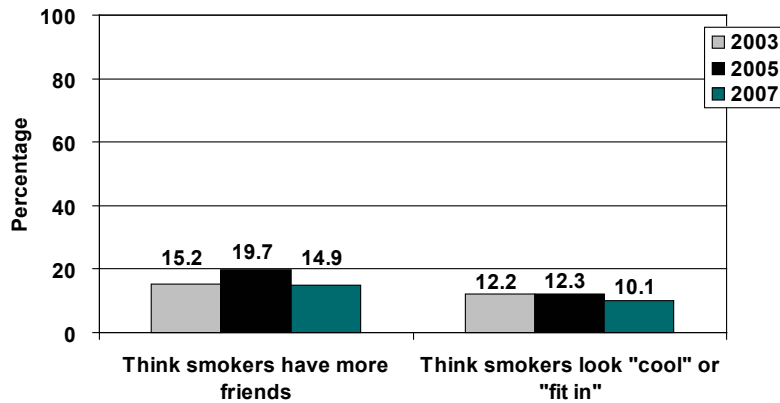
In 2007, 29 percent of students who had tried smoking thought light cigarettes were less risky than regular cigarettes.

For the first time, on the 2007 YTS survey, students were asked for their opinions about where smoking and secondhand smoke exposure should be allowed.



Social Beliefs About Tobacco

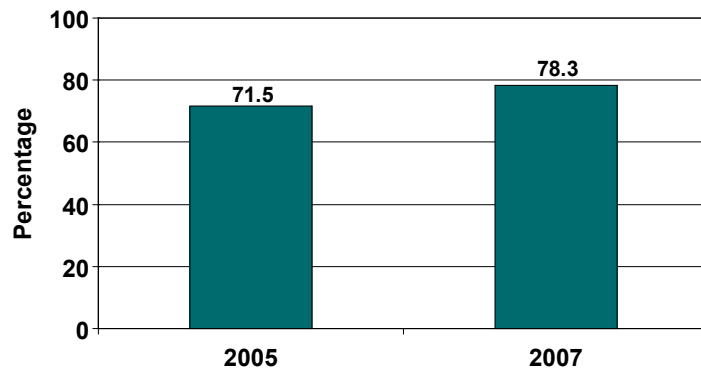
Social Beliefs About Smoking



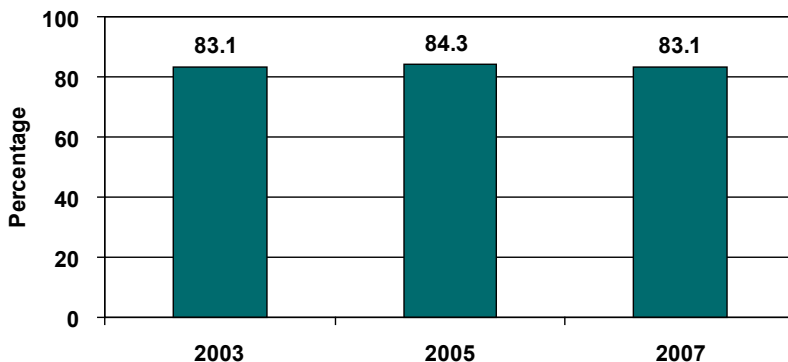
According to the students' social beliefs about smoking, it is becoming a less popular activity. The percentage of students who think smokers have more friends and the percentage who think smokers look cool have decreased since 2005.

There is a high percentage of students who would prefer to date a nonsmoker. The significant increase in this number since 2005 may indicate that smoking is becoming increasingly socially unacceptable.

Students Who Would Prefer To Date a Nonsmoker

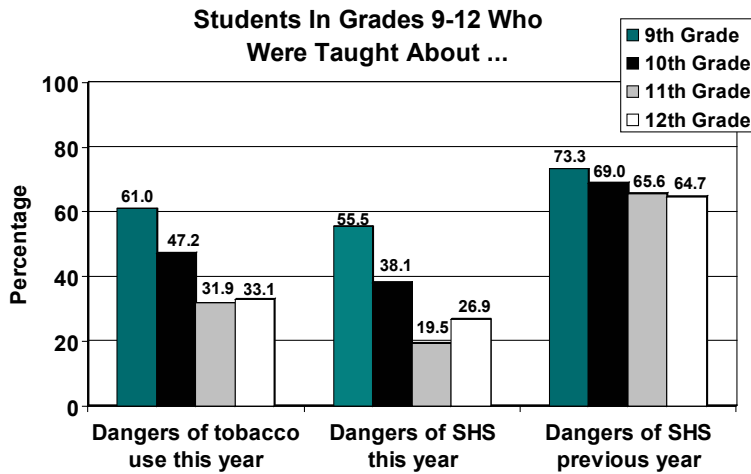


Students Who Have Never Smoked Cigarettes and Would Not Smoke if Best Friend Offered



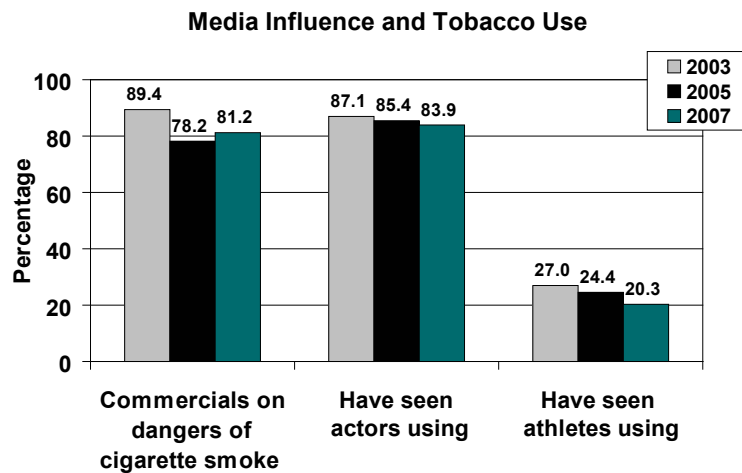
Of students who have never smoked cigarettes, the percentage who said they would not smoke even if their best friend offered them a cigarette has remained very high since 2003.

Community Influence and Media Influence



The percentage of high school students being taught about the dangers of tobacco and the dangers of secondhand smoke declines as the students progress through high school.

A high percentage of students are viewing commercials about the dangers of cigarette smoke. Although percentages are falling slightly, high levels of students also are seeing actors using tobacco in movies or on TV, which could be influencing their decisions. One good indicator is that the number of students seeing athletes using tobacco is decreasing.



For more information about tobacco use in North Dakota contact:
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