Parents Discussed the Dangers, Knew Students Smoke, and Students Thought Tobacco is Addictive

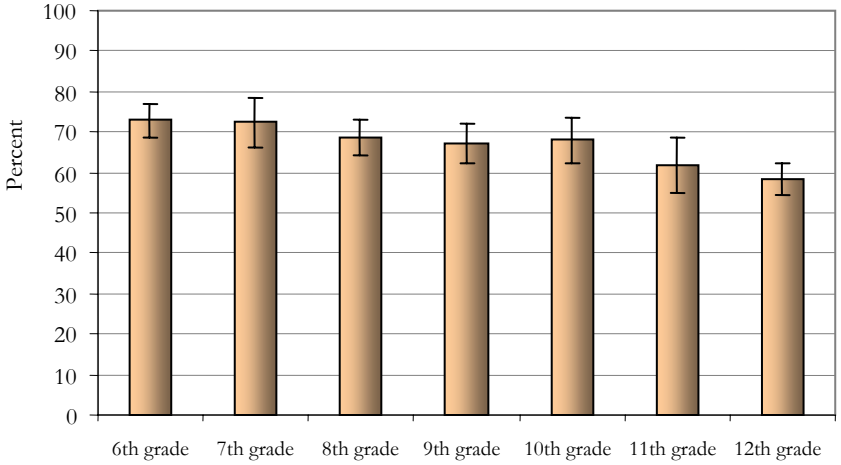
- Among middle school students, 72 percent (CI:68-75) said that their parents discussed the danger of tobacco use with them sometimes, often or very often, while 64 percent (CI:61-67) of high school students have had those parental discussions.

- Forty percent (CI:28-52) of middle school students and 47 percent (CI:42-52) of high school students who smoked said that their parents knew that they smoked (not graphed).

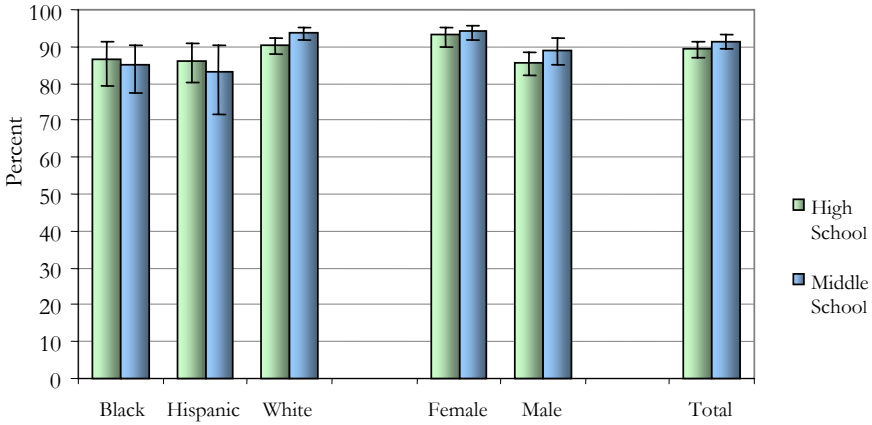
- Females in both high school (93 percent, CI:90-95) and middle school (94 percent, CI:92-96) were more likely than males (high school males: 86 percent, CI:82-88, and middle school males: 89 percent, CI:85-92) to believe that people can get addicted to using tobacco just like they can get addicted to using cocaine or heroin.

- In middle school, Black students (85 percent, CI:77-91) and Hispanic students (83 percent, CI:72-91) were less likely to think people can get addicted like they can with cocaine or heroin than White students (94 percent, CI:92-95).

Percent of Pennsylvania Students Whose Parents Discussed the Dangers of Tobacco at Least Sometimes, by Grade



Percent of Pennsylvania Students Who Thought Tobacco is Addictive Like Cocaine or Heroin by Race/Ethnicity and Sex



Social Beliefs About Smoking

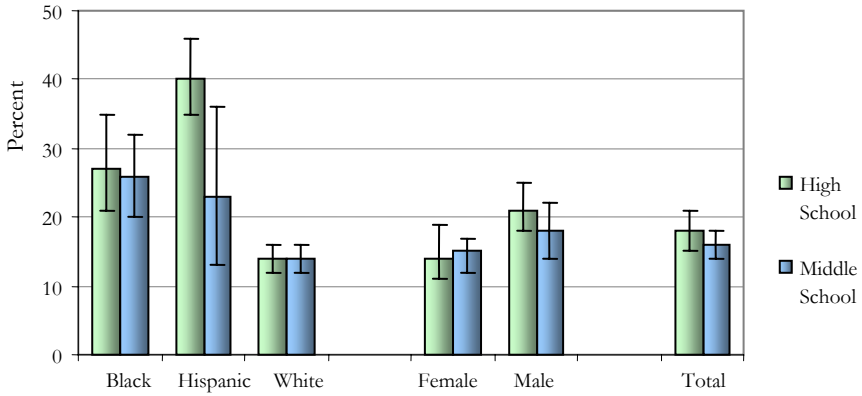
- Sixteen percent (CI:14-19) of middle school students and 18 percent (CI:15-21) of high school students responded definitely yes or probably yes that young people who smoke have more friends.

- Black students in high school (27 percent, CI:20-35) and in middle school (26 percent, CI:21-32) as well as Hispanic students in high school (40 percent, CI:35-46) were more likely than White students in high school (14 percent, CI:12-16) or middle school (14 percent, CI:12-15) to have agreed that young people who smoke have more friends.

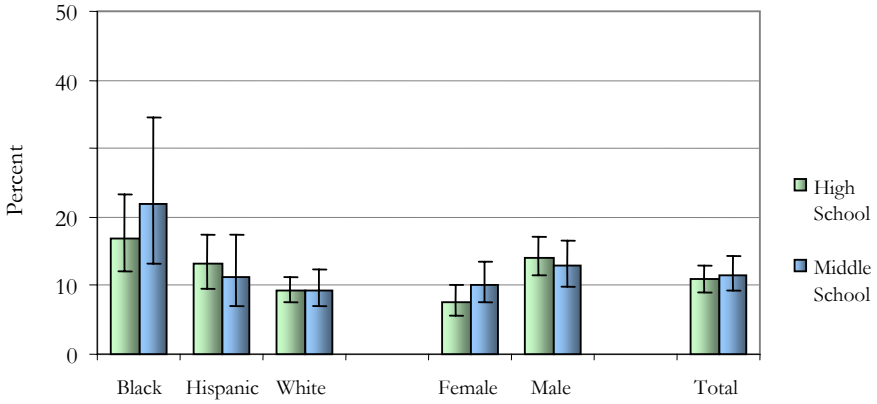
- Twelve percent (CI:10-14) of middle school students and 11 percent (CI:9-13) of high school students responded definitely yes or probably yes that smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool or fit in.

- When asked if they think smoking makes people look cool or fit in, Black students in high school (17 percent, CI:12-23) and in middle school (22 percent, CI:13-34) were more likely to say probably or definitely yes than were White students (high school: nine percent, CI:8-11, and middle school: nine percent, CI:7-12).

Percent of Pennsylvania Students Who Think That Smokers Have More Friends, by Race/Ethnicity and Sex



Percent of Pennsylvania Students Who Think Smoking Makes People Look Cool or Fit In, by Race/Ethnicity and Sex



Health Beliefs About Smoking

- Eighty-nine percent (CI:86-92) of middle school students and 92 percent (CI:89-94) of high school students responded definitely yes or probably yes that young people risk harming themselves if they smoke one to five cigarettes per day.

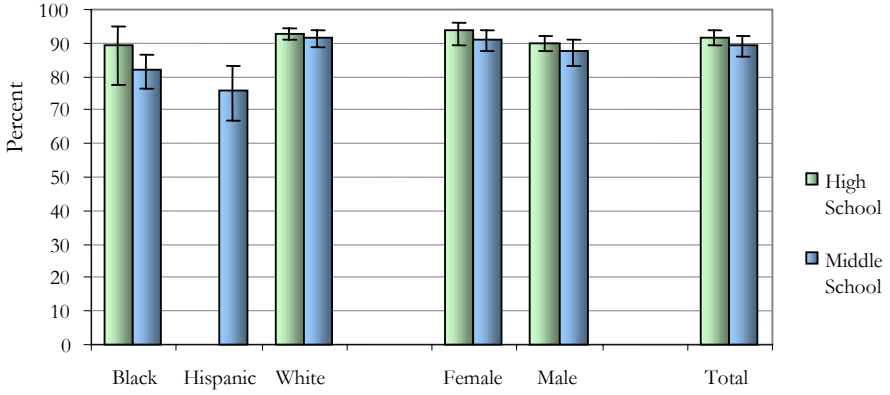
- Significantly more White middle school students (92 percent, CI:89-94) than either Hispanic (76 percent, CI:67-83) or Black (81 percent, CI:76-86) middle school students thought that young people risk harming themselves if they smoke one to five cigarettes per day.

- Nine percent (CI:8-11) of middle school students and 12 percent (CI:10-14) of high school students responded definitely yes or probably yes that they think it is safe to smoke for only a year or two as long as you quit after that.

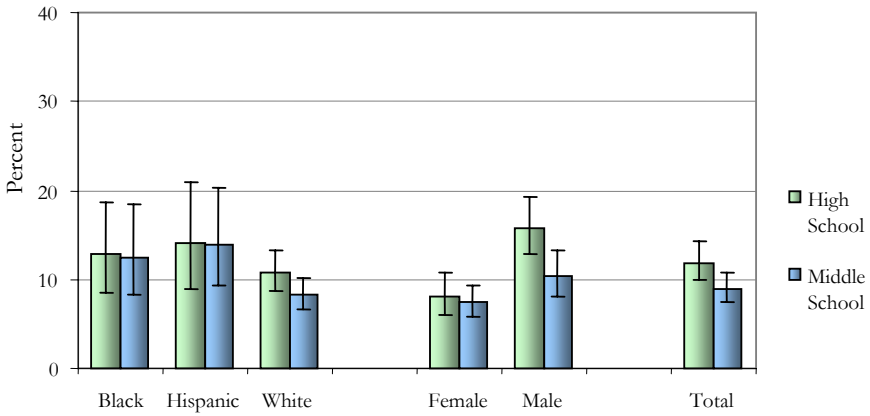
- Twice as many males (16 percent, CI:13-19) as females (eight percent, CI:6-11) in high school believed that it is safe to smoke for only a year or two as long as you quit after that

- Twenty-nine percent (CI:23-36) of middle school students and 32 percent (CI:28-37) of high school students believed that light (low tar) cigarettes are somewhat less risky than regular (full flavor) (not graphed).

Percent of Pennsylvania Students Who Thought People Risk Harming Themselves by Smoking One to Five Cigarettes per Day by Race/Ethnicity and Sex



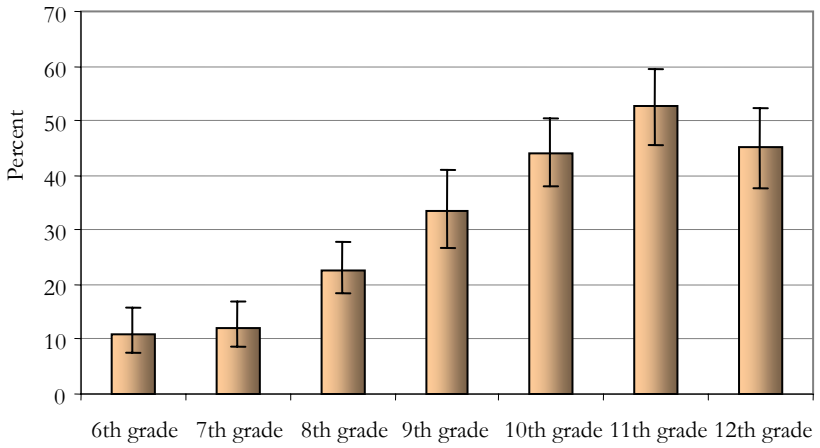
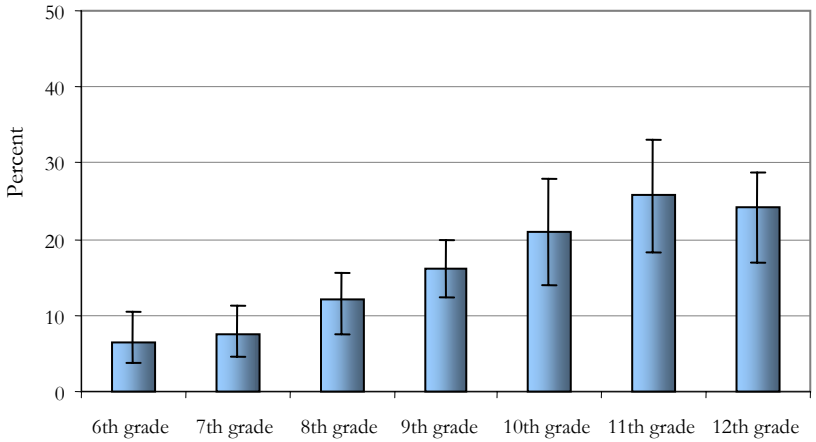
Percent of Pennsylvania Students Who Thought it is Safe to Smoke for Only a Year or Two as Long as You Quit After That by Race/Ethnicity and Sex



Use of Tobacco Among Closest Friends

- In middle school, about 16 percent of students (CI:13-18) reported that at least one of their four closest friends smoke.
- Among high school students, about 43 percent (CI:39-48) reported that at least one of their four closest friends smoke.
- Of middle school students, about nine percent (CI:7-11) said that at least one of their four closest friends used smokeless tobacco.
- In high school, about 22 percent of students (CI:18-26) reported that at least one of their four closest friends used smokeless tobacco.

Percent of Pennsylvania Students Who Reported That at Least One of Their Four Closest Friends Smoke, by Grade



Percent of Pennsylvania Students Who Had at Least One of Four Closest Friends Who Use Smokeless Tobacco, by Grade