Tobacco use

Among Oklahoma high school students

What is the problem?

The 2013 Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates that among high school students:

Cigarette Use

- 46% of students have ever tried cigarette smoking, even one of two puffs
- 18.5% smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey
- 10% smoke a whole cigarette for the first time before 13 years of age
- 5% smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days during the 30 days before the survey

Other Tobacco Use

- 14% smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey
- 12% used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey

What are the solutions?

Better health education • More family and community involvement • Healthier school environments

What is the status?

The 2012 Oklahoma School Health Profiles indicates among high schools:

Health Education

- 14% required students to take 2 or more health education courses
- 33% had a health education curriculum that addresses all 8 national standards for health education.
- 33% taught 15 key tobacco use prevention topics in a required course
- 37% had a lead health education teacher who received professional development during the 2 years before the survey on tobacco use prevention

Family and Community Involvement

- 36% provided families with health information to increase parent and family knowledge of tobacco use prevention

School Environment

- 56% prohibited all tobacco use at all times in all locations[1]
- 31% sometimes, almost always, or always required students who were caught smoking cigarettes to participate in an assistance, education, or cessation program
- 20% provided tobacco cessation services for students, faculty, and staff at school or through arrangements with providers not on school property
- 87% posted signs marking a tobacco free school zone
- 47% used the School Health Index or a similar self assessment tool to assess their policies, activities, and programs in tobacco use prevention

1. Prohibited the use of all tobacco, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipes; by students, faculty and school staff, and visitors; in school buildings; outside on school grounds; on school buses or other vehicles used to transport students; and at off campus, school-sponsored events; during school hours and non-school hours.

For more information contact the Maternal and Child Health Service, MCH Assessment at (405) 271-6761 or visit URL: http://yrbs.health.ok.gov

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