

TOBACCO INITIATION AND USE

A large proportion of the youth reported that they have already “tried smoking a cigarette” and have “smoked a cigarette within the past 30 days.” As shown in Table 4, almost one-third (29%) of the 6th grade students reported having tried a cigarette with steady increases through tenth grade, whereas 70% have tried smoking.

Six percent of the 6th grade students reported having smoked a cigarette within the past 30 days, and steady increases across grade levels were once again observed, with nearly one-third of the 10th graders (32%) reporting having smoked a cigarette within the past 30 days.

Of particular note is the large increase in tobacco initiation and current smoking between 7th and 8th grades (39% to 53% and 13% to 20%, respectively). This indicates that the time period between sixth and seventh grades may be an appropriate intervention target.

Table 4
**Cigarette Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco Initiation,
 Use, and Future Intentions Rates by Grade**

	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
CIGARETTE SMOKING					
Have ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs	29%	39%	53%	64%	70%
SMOKING INITIATION					
Have smoked a cigarette (even one or two puffs) within the past 30 days	6%	13%	20%	24%	32%
RECENT SMOKING					
Belief they will become a regular smoker (yes and I am already a regular smoker)	5%	7%	11%	10%	15%
Belief they will try cigarette smoking during the next 12 months	31%	40%	54%	66%	71%
Belief they will try cigarette smoking ever in their lifetime	43%	55%	64%	70%	71%
SMOKELESS TOBACCO					
Have ever tried chewing tobacco or snuff	3%	6%	11%	13%	19%
Have used chewing tobacco or snuff within past 30 days	<1%	1%	3%	3%	5%
Belief they will try smokeless tobacco or snuff during the next 12 months	3%	6%	11%	13%	19%