

Health | Behaviors

2009 Update

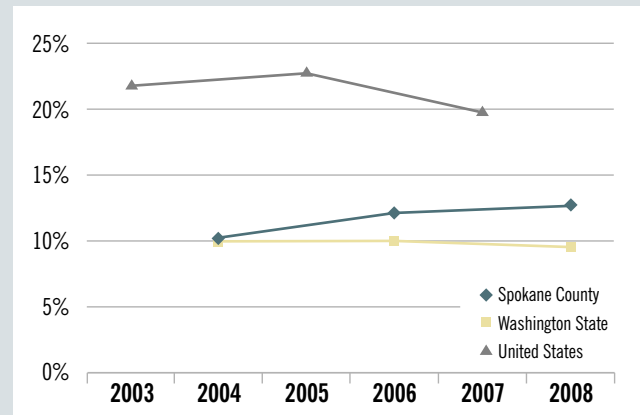
This indicator is 1 of 44 Spokane Counts indicators found at www.srhd.org/SpokaneCounts

Smokers (youth)

Current youth smokers are measured by the percent of individuals in grades 6, 8, 10, or 12 who smoked one or more cigarettes in the last 30 days. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death.¹ The majority of adult smokers began smoking before the age of 18.²

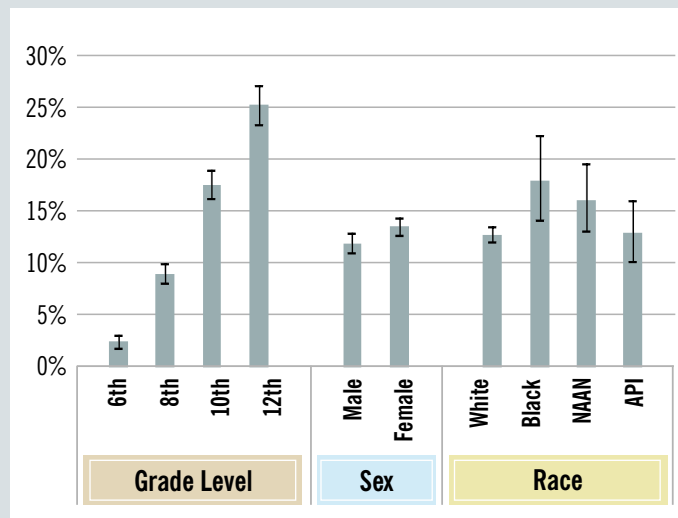
In Spokane County, 13% of adolescents were current smokers in 2008. There was a significant increase in the proportion of adolescents who smoked from 2004 to 2008. The proportion of youth smokers in Spokane County was significantly higher than that of Washington State in 2008, but significantly lower than the U.S. in 2007.

Youth Smokers



Source: Washington State Healthy Youth Survey; Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Data

Demographic Disparities in Youth Smokers Spokane County, 2008



Source: Washington State Healthy Youth Survey

Among Spokane County youth in 2008:

- Smoking increased as grade level increased;
- Females were more likely to smoke than males; and
- Compared to Whites, Blacks and Native Americans/Alaska Natives were more likely to smoke.

A significantly higher proportion of Spokane County youth smoked cigars compared to cigarettes. In 2008, 17.7% of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders had smoked a cigar in the last 30 days. Sixteen percent of individuals in the same grades smoked cigarettes in the last month. Similar to cigarette use, cigar use increased as grade level increased. Among Spokane County youth in 8th, 10th, and 12th grade, 4.3% smoked cigarettes only, 5.6% smoked cigars only, and 12.2% smoked both cigarettes and cigars.³

Indicator: Smokers (youth)

Percent
(95% Confidence Interval)

	2004	2006	2008	
Total	Spokane County	10.2% (9.5, 10.9)	12.1% (11.5, 12.7)	12.7% (12.2, 13.4)
	Washington State	10.0% (9.6, 10.4)	10.1% (9.7, 10.4)	9.6% (9.3, 10.0)
	National	21.9% (2003)	23.0% (2005)	20.0% (2007)
Grade Level	6th grade	2.1% (1.6, 2.8)	2.5% (1.9, 3.3)	2.4% (1.8, 3.1)
	8th grade	7.0% (5.9, 8.2)	8.2% (7.4, 9.2)	8.9% (8.0, 9.8)
	10th grade	16.4% (14.5, 18.5)	17.2% (15.9, 18.6)	17.5% (16.2, 18.9)
	12th grade	20.7% (18.7, 23.0)	23.8% (22.0, 25.7)	25.2% (23.5, 27.0)
Sex	Male	9.4% (8.5, 10.5)	10.8% (10.0, 11.7)	11.9% (11.1, 12.7)
	Female	10.9% (9.8, 12.0)	13.1% (12.3, 14.0)	13.5% (12.7, 14.4)
Race	White	10.7% (9.8, 11.6)	12.2% (11.4, 12.9)	12.7% (12.0, 13.5)
	Non-White	10.5% (6.8, 16.0)	15.4% (11.4, 20.4)	17.9% (14.2, 22.3)
	Native American/Alaska Native	11.3% (8.5, 14.8)	14.2% (11.1, 17.9)	16.0% (13.0, 19.5)
	Asian/Pacific Islander	7.6% (5.1, 11.2)	11.2% (8.5, 14.6)	12.8% (10.1, 16.0)

Source: Washington State Healthy Youth Survey; Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System



1. Washington State Department of Health, <http://www.doh.wa.gov/tobacco>, accessed 08/23/07.
2. Office of the Attorney General, <http://occ.dc.gov/occ/cwp/view,a,11,q,631382.asp>. Accessed 08/23/07.

3. Washington State Healthy Youth Survey, 2008. Calculations and Presentations of Data by Spokane Regional Health District, Community Health Assessment.