

Tobacco use can have serious long-term effects on health. Recent attention and strategies focused on preventing tobacco use in young people have led to a decrease in tobacco use among youth. The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report study on Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students – United States 2002 shows that cigarette, cigar, bidi and kretek smoking and tobacco use overall decreased from 2000 to 2002 among students in high school (i.e., grades 9-12), continuing a downward national trend since 1997.<sup>13</sup> However, among middle school students there was no significant decline in tobacco use between 2000 and 2002.<sup>13</sup> There is still much work to do to promote a non smoking culture in our younger population.

- Each day, approximately 4,000 youth aged 12-17 try their first cigarette – about one every 22 seconds.<sup>14</sup>
- The use of tobacco in youths is the “single leading preventable cause of death in the United States.”<sup>15</sup>
- Approximately 80 percent of tobacco users initiate use before age 18.<sup>15</sup>
- In addition, there is evidence that cigarette smokers are more likely to drink alcohol and use marijuana and cocaine as compared to non-smokers.<sup>16</sup>

**HP 2010 Objectives:**

- 27-02a: Reduce tobacco product use by adolescents to no more than 21 percent in grades nine-12.
- 27-02b: Reduce cigarette use by adolescents to no more than 16 percent in grades nine-12.
- 27-02c: Reduce spit tobacco use by adolescents to no more than 1 percent in grades nine-12.
- 27-02d: Reduce cigar use by adolescents to no more than 8 percent in grades nine-12.