

# Adolescent Tobacco Use in Arkansas

*Tobacco use by adolescents in Arkansas is a serious health and safety problem...*

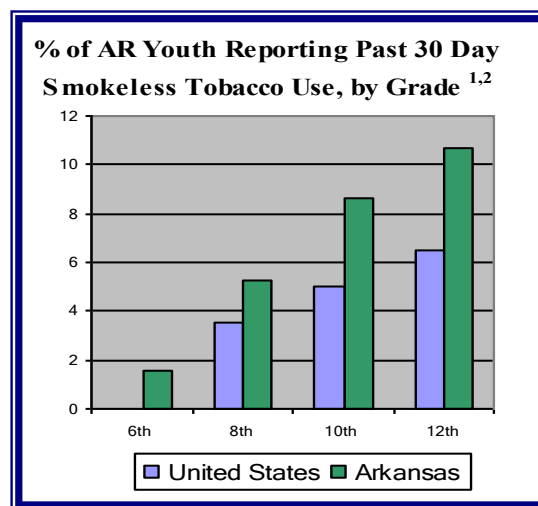
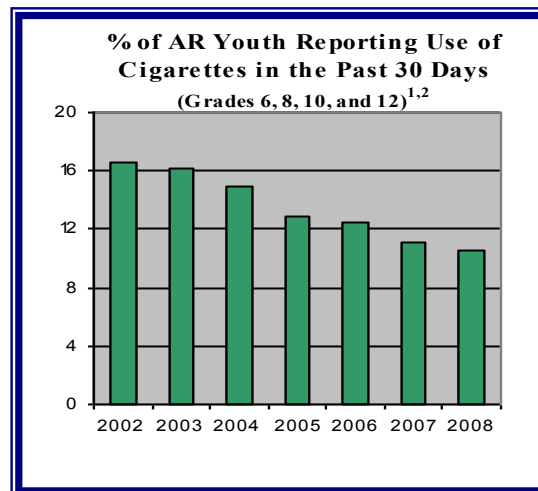
Of over 85,000 students (grades 6, 8, 10, and 12) who participated in the 2008 Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA)<sup>1</sup>,

- 14.5% have tried smokeless tobacco sometime in their lives
- Nearly half say that cigarettes would be easy to get if they wanted some
- 28.9% have tried cigarettes
- Of those who smoke, most get their cigarettes from someone they know who is 18 or older

Regarding "regular" use (having used tobacco in the past 30 days), Arkansas students report<sup>1</sup>:

- 6.1% used smokeless tobacco
- 10.6% smoked cigarettes
- Average age of first cigarette use is 12.1 years old

Arkansas teens report higher rates of tobacco use than their peers throughout the nation<sup>1,2</sup>



Adults should talk with youth about these realities and consequences of tobacco use:

- Most Arkansas youth (65%) think it is wrong for someone their age to smoke cigarettes<sup>1</sup>
- Use of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco has decreased steadily since 2002<sup>1</sup>
- Cigarette smoking and use of smokeless tobacco can lead to nicotine addiction
- If interested in quitting cigarettes or smokeless tobacco, call the Arkansas Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669). It is confidential and free.

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment, 2008 (conducted annually by the AR Department of Human Services)

<sup>2</sup> Monitoring the Future, 2008 (a project of the National Institute on Drug Abuse – NIDA; MTF data is not available for 6th graders)