

WHEREAS, each year, 3.2% of youth age 11-19 try smokeless tobacco for the first time;¹

WHEREAS, 7% of high school students use smokeless tobacco;²

WHEREAS, adolescents who use smokeless tobacco are more likely than non-users to become cigarette smokers;³

WHEREAS, the use of smokeless tobacco causes cancers of the mouth, pharynx, and esophagus; gum recession; and an increased risk for heart disease and stroke;³

WHEREAS, the risk of cancer of the cheek and gums may increase nearly 50-fold among long-term snuff users;⁴

WHEREAS, 5.9% of youth report having used smokeless tobacco on school property; and⁵

WHEREAS, the use of smokeless tobacco poses significant health risks and is not a safe substitute for cigarette smoking.⁶

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association recommends that educators, students, and parents become informed about the systemic and oral health hazards of smokeless tobacco; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association encourages all school authorities to prohibit tobacco use in any form by students, staff, and visitors in school buildings, at school functions, in school vehicles, on school grounds, and at off-site school events, applicable 24 hours a day.

References

- 1 The Institute for Youth Development. (1998). Tobacco and Youth. Retrieved from <http://www.youthdevelopment.org/download/tobacco.pdf>
- 2 Grunbaum, J.A., Kann, L., Kinchen, S. A., Ross, J. G., Hawkins, J., & Lowry, R., et al. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States, 2003. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2004;53(ss-2):1-95.
- 3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth People, A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1994.
- 4 The American Cancer Society. (2004). ACS: Smokeless Tobacco. Retrieved from http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/content/PED_10_2x_Smokeless_Tobacco_and_Cancer.asp
- 5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2004). YRBSS: Trends in the Prevalence of Tobacco Use. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/yrbss>
6. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2004). *The Health Consequences of Using Smokeless Tobacco: A Report of the Advisory Committee to the Surgeon General, 1986*. Bethesda, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. NIH Pub. No. 86-2874. Retrieved from: <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/NN/B/B/F/C/>

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