Facts on Teen Smoking

- Each day, more than 3,000 kids become regular smokers.\(^1\) That’s more than one million kids a year. Roughly one-third of them will eventually die from a tobacco-related disease.\(^2\)
- Almost 90 percent of adult smokers began at or before age 18.\(^3\)
- Smoking among high school seniors reached a 19-year high of 36.5 percent in 1997, and dropped slightly to 34.6 percent in 1999.\(^4\)
- Smoking rates for students in grades 9-12 increased from 27.5 percent in 1991 to 34.8 percent in 1999. At the same time, smoking rates for African-American male students increased from 14.1 percent to 21.8 percent.\(^5\)
- More than 3 million kids age 12-17 are current smokers.\(^6\)
- Smokers under age 18: 4 million (34.8% of high school students)\(^7\)
- Packs of cigarettes consumed by kids each year: 900 million (producing tobacco company revenues of $1.5 billion per year.\(^8\)
- Smoking rates for high school males were 35.4% in 1995, 37.7% in 1997, and to 34.7% in 1999. Smoking rates for high school females were 34.3% in 1995, 34.7% in 1997, and 34.9% in 1999.\(^9\)
- In 1991, white students (30.9%) were 2.5 times more likely than black students (12.6%) and 1.2 times more likely than Hispanic students (25.3%) to report current smoking. Similar trends were found in 1999, when white students (38.6%) were twice as likely to smoke as African-American students (19.7%) and were 1.2 times more likely to report current smoking as Hispanic students (32.7%).\(^10\)

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7 [www.tobaccofreekids.org](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org)
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