



North Carolina's Youth and Tobacco: The Facts

- 24,000 kids become new smokers in North Carolina each year.
- Over 200,000 kids under 18 and alive in North Carolina today will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.
- 90% of adult smokers in North Carolina began using cigarettes before age 18. The average age that people start smoking is 13.
- Each year more than 14,500 North Carolinians die from diseases caused by smoking and tobacco use, including heart disease, cancer and emphysema.
- Tobacco contains the addictive drug nicotine, which is more addictive than heroin.
- More people die from the health effects of tobacco use than the combined total of people who die from alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides.
- Smokeless tobacco causes oral health problems than can lead to cancer of the gums, cheeks and throat.
- Secondhand smoke is a cancer-causing agent in humans and a serious health hazard for children.

