

PICTURE DEKALB HEALTHY

TOBACCO USE AMONG DEKALB COUNTY YOUTH

The earlier a person begins using tobacco, the more likely it will become part of their lifestyle. 184,000 Georgians under 18 years old will die prematurely from smoking.

CIGARETTE USE IN DEKALB COUNTYⁱ

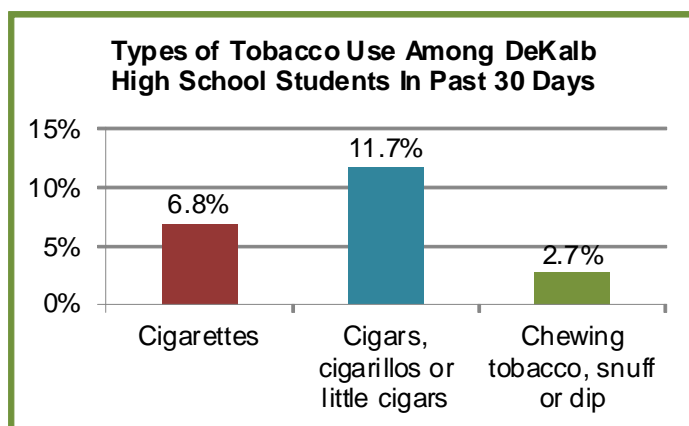
- 6.8% of high school students smoke cigarettes
- 8.3% of high school students begin smoking before they are 13
- 34.2% of high school students have ever tried a cigarette
- 4.2% of high school students have smoked cigarettes daily for at least 30 days
- 3.9% of high school smokers smoke at least 10 cigarettes per day on the days they smoke*
- 56.1% of high school smokers have tried to quit during the past 12 months

IMPACT OF SMOKING AMONG GEORGIA'S YOUTHⁱⁱ

11,400 Georgians under the age of 18 will become daily smokers each year.

22.4 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by people under 18 years old in Georgia.

OTHER TOBACCO USE AND EXPOSURE IN DEKALB COUNTYⁱ



Tobacco use results in increased risk for illnesses such as:

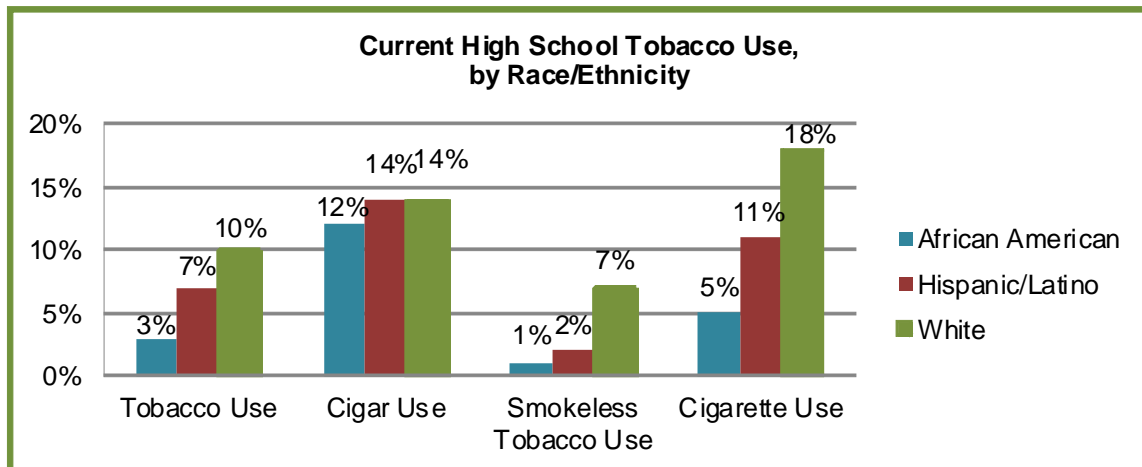
- Lung cancer
- Heart disease
- Asthma attacks
- Ear and respiratory Infections

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CURRENT TOBACCO USE ⁱ

High school students of all ethnicities use tobacco products. Current cigarette usage is highest among White students while cigar use is highest among Hispanic and White students.



TAKE ACTION

1. If you are a parent:
 - o Talk to your kids about the dangers of smoking.
 - o Keep your home smoke-free, even if you smoke.
 - o Support smoke-free campuses and schools. Get involved in tobacco education programs at your local school.
2. Encourage youth tobacco users to stop. The **Georgia Tobacco Quit Line** is available for all Georgians 13 years of age and older. Call 1-877-270-STOP (7867) for English speakers or 1-877-2NO-FUME (1-877-266-3863) for Spanish speakers.
3. Encourage all DeKalb County youth to sign the **DeKalb County Smoke-Free Pledge** at www.dekalbhealth.net/DPPW/Pledge. Visit www.dekalbhealth.net to learn more about tobacco use in DeKalb County and how you can get involved.

DATA SOURCES

ⁱ The DeKalb County Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2010.

Note: The data reflects behaviors of high school students in DeKalb County during the 30 days prior to taking the survey. *Small sample size

ⁱⁱ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Fact sheets: Tobacco Harm to Kids, Smoking and Kids, The Toll of Tobacco in Georgia. Accessed September 28, 2011. www.tobaccofreekids.org.

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