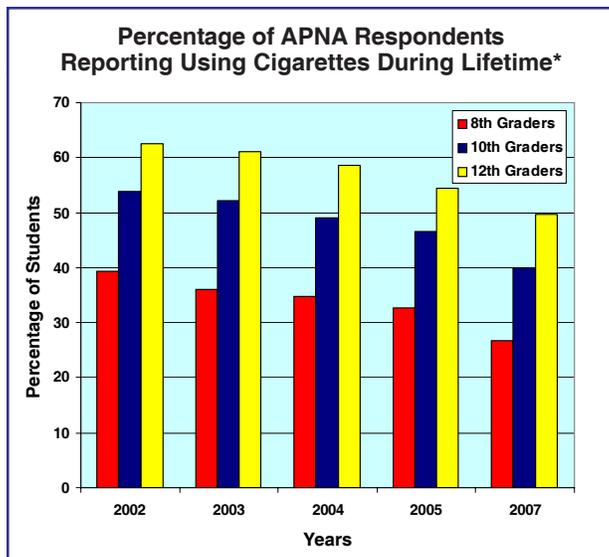


Arkansas tobacco use tops national estimates

Consumption

Arkansas consistently has high rates of tobacco consumption compared to national estimates. Data from the 2004-2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) showed that Arkansas is one of the top 10 states in the nation for tobacco consumption with one-third of Arkansans 12 years and older reporting that they have used tobacco in the past 30 days, and approximately half of Arkansans between the ages of 18 and 24 reporting that they smoke.¹

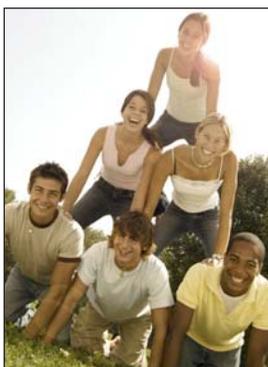


*Data from the 2006 APNA Survey were not available at press time.

Similarly, the 2007 Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (APNA) found that Arkansas' 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reported higher lifetime use of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco than their peers around the country. On the other hand, the good news is that their lifetime use is decreasing (see table).

Consequences

Arkansas' high consumption rates have significant consequences. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 72,630 Arkansas youth under the age of 18 could die prematurely from a smoking-



related illness if current smoking rates continue and that tobacco-related illnesses kill an estimated 4,914 Arkansans annually. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids estimates that annual healthcare costs directly caused by smoking are at least \$748 million in Arkansas and smoking-related productivity losses in Arkansas cost about \$1.24 billion.

Silver Lining

There are a number of tobacco prevention efforts under way in the state (see box), and they appear to be working. Cigarette tax collection data have shown a decrease in packs per capita since 1990. Both the NSDUH and the APNA have shown a decrease in overall smoking rates over the years, and the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System recently found that 49.5% of Arkansas smokers reported having attempted to quit smoking in 2006.²



Tobacco Prevention Efforts in Arkansas³

- Arkansas ranks 8th nationally in tobacco prevention spending.
- In FY2008, Arkansas will spend \$15.6 million for tobacco prevention.
- Additional agencies supporting prevention efforts in Arkansas include the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission and the Tobacco Prevention Cessation Program. More information on these programs may be found at <http://www.atsc.arkansas.gov/> and <http://www.stampoutsmoking.com/>.

¹ Results of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health can be accessed at <https://nsduhweb.rti.org/>
² 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>; Arkansas' BRFSS website: <http://brfss.arkansas.gov/>
³ Additional details on financial aspects of tobacco prevention can be found at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids: <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/>

Coming next month:
Results from the latest Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment Survey (APNA)