



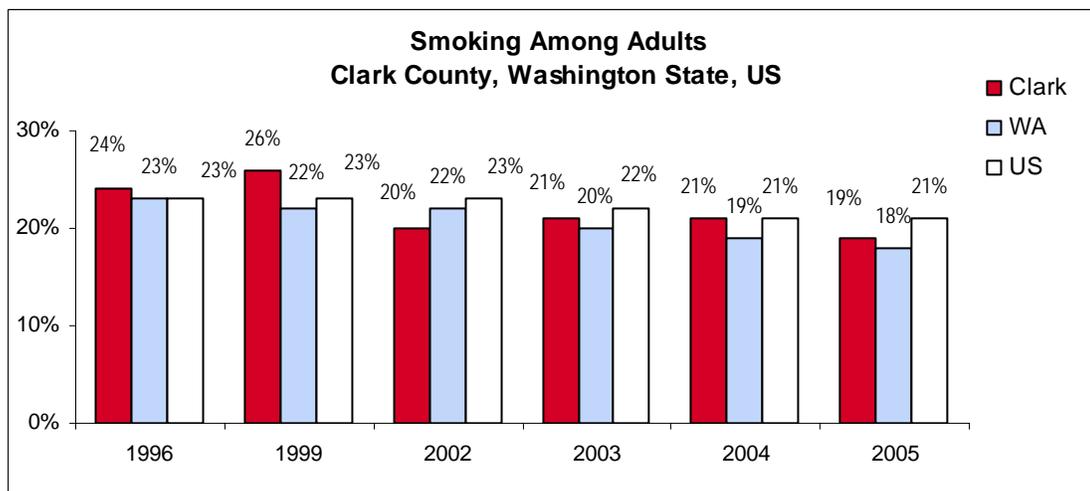
CLARK COUNTY ADULTS AND YOUTH RISK FACTORS OF TOBACCO USE April, 2007 Update

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Tobacco use greatly increases the risk of heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and chronic lung diseases. Secondhand smoke is dangerous to all people. There are no safe limits of secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is particularly harmful for children and pregnant women.^{1, 2}

Tobacco Use - Adults

Tobacco use prevalence is measured by levels of current cigarette smokers. Smoking among adults is defined as having smoked 100 or more cigarettes during your lifetime and currently smoking “every day” or “some days.”

One out of five adults (19%) in Clark County smoked in 2005. This is a decline from 1999 when one out of four adults (26%) smoked. Adult smoking levels in Washington State and the nation have declined slightly in recent years.^{3,4} The national target is that no more than 12 percent of adults smoke cigarettes by the year 2010.²



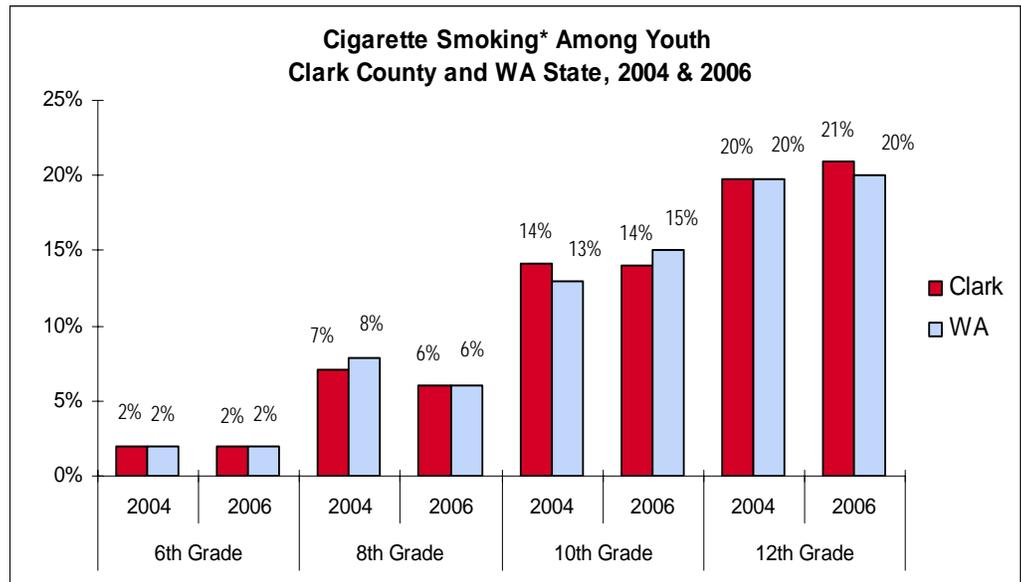
Source: Clark County, Washington State and United States BRFSS.



Tobacco Use - Youth

Cigarette Smoking

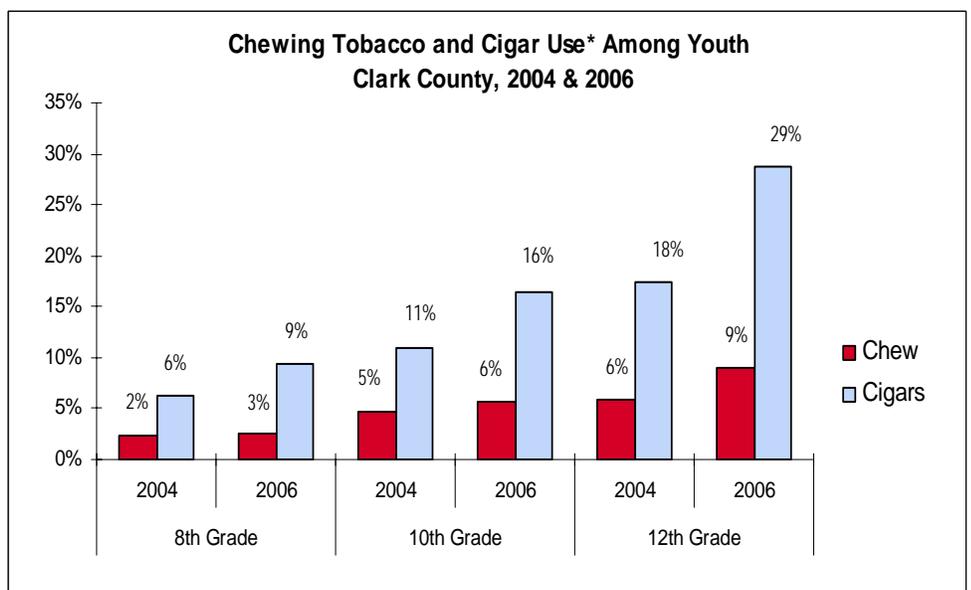
Tobacco use among youth is defined as the percent of students who reported cigarette smoking in the past 30 days. Slightly more than one out of twenty (6%) eighth graders smoked cigarettes in 2006. This is a decline from 2002 when 10 percent of Clark County eighth graders reported smoking. By twelfth grade, one out of five students (21%) reported smoking cigarettes.⁵



*Percent of students who report any cigarette smoking in past 30 days.
Source: Washington State Healthy Youth Surveys

Chewing Tobacco and Cigar Smoking

Chewing tobacco and cigar smoking also contribute to youth tobacco use. Twelfth graders were three times more likely to use chewing tobacco or smoke cigars than eighth graders. One disturbing trend is that use of other forms of tobacco, such as chewing tobacco and cigars, has increased significantly from 2004 to 2006. The most striking increase is seen in cigar smoking. Among high school seniors, cigar smoking increased from 18 percent in 2004 to 29 percent in 2006.⁵



*Percent of students who report any use in past 30 days.
Source: Washington State Healthy Youth Surveys



References:

1. The health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke: a report of the Surgeon General. [Atlanta, GA]: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health, [2006].
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