

STATISTICS AND FACTS ABOUT SMOKELESS TOBACCO

- **"I cannot conclude that the use of any tobacco product is a safer alternative to smoking.** This message is especially important to communicate to young people, who may perceive smokeless tobacco as a safe form of tobacco use." (U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, MD, June 2003)
- **12.8 percent of Ohio's male students reported using smokeless tobacco** at least once within 30 days of participating in the 2003 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- Smokeless tobacco **was first listed as a known carcinogen** in the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, 9th Report on Carcinogens, December 2002. In the 11th ROC, released January 2005, profiles smokeless tobacco "as known to be a human carcinogen."
- The 11th ROC report further indicates an estimated 10 million users of smokeless tobacco in the U.S., and of that **number approximately 3 million users are under the age of 21.**
- 46.4 percent of current tobacco **users who are in middle school live in a household where someone else uses smokeless tobacco.** (2002 Ohio Youth Tobacco Survey, Ohio Department of Health)
- Long term snuff users may be **50 percent more at risk for cancer** of the cheek and gums. (American Cancer Society)
- Smokeless tobacco is also believed to **contribute to cardiovascular disease and high blood pressure** because the nicotine gets into the bloodstream through the lining of the mouth and/or the gastrointestinal tract. And nicotine causes the heart to beat faster and blood pressure to rise. Smokeless tobacco users increase their risk of cancers of the oral cavity, throat, larynx and esophagus. (American Cancer Society)
- Nearly **600,000 females over age 12 in the U.S. use smokeless tobacco**, ostensibly for a nicotine "buzz" or as an appetite suppressant (National Institute of Drug Abuse – an agency of the National Institutes of Health, March 2001)
- Leukoplakia, white patches and oral lesions on the cheeks, gums or tongue, is commonly found in smokeless tobacco users. **Leukoplakia can be an early indicator of oral cancer.** About 75 percent of daily users of smokeless tobacco will get leukoplakia. (American Cancer Society)
- Dipping 8 to 10 times a day can bring as **much nicotine into the body as smoking 30-40 cigarettes** (Spit Tobacco: Does Smokeless Mean Harmless, 2001 Mayo Clinic report)
- Smokeless tobacco **users absorb two to three times the amount of addictive nicotine** as those who smoke cigarettes. (National Cancer Institute)
- **Chewing tobacco contains 28 carcinogens**, including tobacco-specific nitrosamines. Other cancer-causing substances include formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, crotonaldehyde, hydrazine, arsenic, nickel, cadmium, benzopyrene and polonium (which gives off radiation). (NCI)



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