TAR WARS
PROGRAM GUIDE

Instructions for Implementing
2021-2022 School Year

Tar Wars®
A tobacco-free education program for kids from
the American Academy of Family Physicians

Supported in part by a grant from the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation.
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Tar Wars is a tobacco-free education program for fourth- and fifth-grade students. Tar Wars was developed in 1988 by Jeff Cain, MD, and Glenna Pember, from Hall of Life, a division of the Denver Museum of Natural History, and Doctors Ought to Care (DOC).

Since its inception, Tar Wars has touched the lives of more than 10 million children worldwide.

The lesson plan in this guide consists of a one-hour presentation. Minimal preparation is required and the presentation and lesson plans are free.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Tar Wars program gives full permission to reproduce the lesson plan for use in the classroom or community setting. However, you must identify that “Tar Wars is a program of the American Academy of Family Physicians” in all news releases and printed materials and give credit to the program’s original creators. Program guide activity sheets may be copied as needed.

Tar Wars is owned and operated by the AAFP. The presentation and lesson plans are implemented in classrooms and community group settings by volunteer presenters. To learn more, visit www.aafp.org/tar-wars-volunteer.

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2. Contact your state coordinator for information about your state’s poster contest criteria and how to submit posters for the state poster contest. The poster contest is an optional activity determined by each state. Review the criteria with your students before they start creating their posters. Teachers may collaborate on this project with the school’s art teacher or make it a take-home activity.

3. Make copies of the parent information handout for each student to take home. The handout can be found at https://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/care-resources/tobacco-and-nicotine/tar-wars.html.

4. Submit the feedback form for teachers found at www.aafp.org/tar-wars-teacher-information.

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Image: A hand-drawn poster with the text, "Even Einstein couldn't think of a good reason to do it. Be Tobacco Free! Make the smart decision.

MADELYN - ILLINOIS
2014 TAR WARS NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST
The Tar Wars program can be presented to fourth- or fifth-grade students. It takes about one hour to present. The Tar Wars program guide contains many activities and discussion topics that can be used during your presentation. Use your creativity and individuality to present.

1. Contact your state coordinator, local school, or community organization to let them know you are interested in presenting Tar Wars. Visit https://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/care-resources/tobacco-and-nicotine/tar-wars/contact/state.html to locate your state coordinator and the state poster contest deadline by using the interactive map.

2. Request that the class size is limited to 30 students. Tar Wars is not designed to be conducted in a large assembly-style setting. If a large group is the only option, do your best to engage individuals in the audience.

3. No special training is required to present the program. Your volunteer efforts and enthusiasm are key elements in the success of the program. Ensure there is an adequate supply of materials if they are needed for the chosen activities.

4. After the presentation, ask the teacher to distribute the parent information handout to students, located at www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/patient_care/tobacco/tar_wars/parent-info.pdf.

5. After the presentation, review the state’s poster contest criteria, deadlines, and instructions with the teacher. The poster contest is an optional activity determined by each state.

6. Once the presentation is complete, submit the feedback form for presenters at www.aafp.org/tar-wars-presenter-information.

7. Keep in mind the age of the students and cultural considerations when presenting.

Program Goals

- Increase knowledge of short-term health effects and image-based consequences of tobacco/nicotine use;
- Illustrate cost and financial impact of using tobacco/nicotine products and ways money could be better spent;
- Identify reasons why people use tobacco/nicotine; and
- Explain how tobacco advertising, tobacco/nicotine products use in movies, and the tobacco industry markets their products to youth.
SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES.

**Cigarettes**

**Activity 1: What’s in a Cigarette?**
Illustrates to students that cigarettes contain harmful chemicals.

**Activity 2: “Sticky Person”**
Students list short-term health effects of tobacco use.

**Activity 3: Financial Impact**
Students learn the costs of tobacco and other things they could buy instead.

**Activity 4: Effects on Breathing**
This activity demonstrates how smoking decreases lung volume.

**Activity 5: Lung Damage and Disease Risk from Smoke**
Show students how tobacco smoke damages their lungs and increases their risk for disease.

**E-cigarettes, Vapes, and Other ENDS**

**Activity 6: Electronic Cigarettes**
Inform students that these are not a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes.

**Activity 7: What is JUUL®?**
Inform and discuss with students the new brand of electronic cigarettes, called JUUL, and the threats to youth of the product.

**Activity 8: Vaping Fortune Teller**
Cut out the vaping fortune teller to see how to deal with situations where others are vaping around you.

**Activity 9: Effects of Vaping on the Body**
Inform students that these are not a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes.

**Other Tobacco Products**

**Activity 10: Smokeless Flavored Tobacco Products**
Discuss with students how flavored tobacco products are marketed to young people.

**Activity 11: Flavored Cigars and Cigarillos**
Discuss with students that flavored cigars are addictive and bad for their health.

**Activity 12: Hookah**
Discuss with students that hookah tobacco is addictive, contains harmful chemicals, and is not a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes.

**Big Tobacco - Selling Harmful Substances**

**Activity 13: Power of Advertising**
Discuss how tobacco advertising depicts young, attractive people using their products, but does not show the health consequences of using tobacco.

**Activity 14: Reasons People Use Tobacco**
Students list reasons why someone uses tobacco (to look cool, feel older, peer pressure).

**Activity 15: Smoking in Movies, Television, and Video Games**
Ask students to name movies, TV shows, and video games where someone uses tobacco.

**Secondhand Effects**

**Activity 16: Secondhand Smoke**
Students learn about how secondhand smoke affects them and those around them.
**What’s in a Cigarette?**

This activity is designed to teach students about what is used to make cigarettes. For a follow-up activity, download the Tar Wars in the Doctor’s Office activity ([www.aafp.org/tar-wars-doctors-office-activity](http://www.aafp.org/tar-wars-doctors-office-activity)). It is a fun and informational word search activity to educate students about the harmful effects of tobacco use.

Cigarettes contain around 600 ingredients and many of these are known to cause cancer. These same chemicals are found in other products.

Here are some of the chemicals in tobacco smoke and their effects.

![Chemicals in Tobacco Smoke](image-url)
“Sticky Person” – Effects of Tobacco Use

Nicotine is a stimulant and this “rush” speeds up the heart rate and increases blood pressure. Tobacco use also affects appearance. Nicotine narrows the blood vessels in skin, leading to less blood flow, oxygen, and nutrients. Chemicals in cigarettes damage the fibers in skin that make it elastic and pliable.

This activity increases students’ knowledge about the immediate short-term health effects of tobacco use. If students name long-term effects (cancer, emphysema, etc.), include these too. Pens or markers and Post-it notes are needed for this activity.

Divide the class into two teams. Ask one person on each team to write the responses, and one person to act as the “sticky person.” When an individual has written the team’s response on a sticky note, someone places it on the “sticky person.”

Teams are given one minute to write as many responses as possible. The “sticky person” for each team comes to the front of the class and presents the team’s responses. The team with the most responses wins.

Possible Answers

1. Difficulty breathing/wheezing
2. Coughing/hacking phlegm
3. Bad breath/zoo breath
4. Tobacco smoke odor on clothes and hair
5. Burn holes in clothes
6. Tobacco-stained teeth and fingers
7. Increased facial wrinkles and premature aging
8. Spit stains on clothes and shoes from chewing tobacco
9. Affects heart rate, blood pressure, and circulation
10. Affects taste and smell
Financial Impact of Tobacco Use

Students learn how much it costs to use tobacco. In 2021, the average cost of a pack of cigarettes was $7.02. The state of New York had the highest cost per pack of cigarettes of any state at $12.85. Missouri and Virginia had the lowest cost per pack at $5.25 each.¹

Ask students what they would do with $2,352. After they volunteer answers and discuss (you can list these on the board), ask them if they can believe that’s how much it costs to smoke a pack of cigarettes a day for a year.

Have students estimate the price of one pack of cigarettes or other tobacco products and then calculate the cost on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. Ask for a student to volunteer to do the math on the board. You may use $7 as the average price for one pack of cigarettes.

\[
\begin{align*}
$7 \text{ per pack} \times 7 \text{ days} &= $49 \text{ per week} \\
$49 \text{ per week} \times 4 \text{ weeks} &= $196 \text{ per month} \\
$196 \text{ per month} \times 12 \text{ months} &= $2,352 \text{ per year}
\end{align*}
\]

If a person smoked for 10 years (10 x $2,352), the total cost is $23,520.
ACTIVITY 4: EFFECTS ON BREATHING

Effects on Breathing – Straw Breathing Exercise
This exercise demonstrates to students how smoking decreases lung capacity and the ability to hold enough oxygen. The only supplies needed are drinking straws.

Instructions
1. Hand out drinking straws to students. Instruct them to place the straw in their mouth, hold their noses, and breathe through the straw only.

2. Instruct students to stand and run in place for 15 to 30 seconds while breathing through the straw. Students with asthma or other respiratory conditions may not want or be able to participate in this exercise. You could have them participate by handing out the straws or time fellow students who are running in place.
Damage to the Lungs Caused by Tobacco Use

Smoking damages the lungs.

Healthy Lung

Emphysema is a disease of the lungs that is associated with smoking. Smoking damages the air sacs in the lungs so the body does not get the oxygen it needs. People with emphysema may have a chronic cough and have a hard time catching their breath.

People that smoke are also more likely to get the following diseases.

- Cancer: Smoking can cause cancer almost anywhere in your body, including the mouth and throat, voice box, lungs, liver, stomach, colon and rectum.²

- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): COPD makes it hard to breath, causes a nagging cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, and tightness in the chest.³

- Heart Disease and Stroke⁴

- People that smoke may be more likely to get COVID-19, the flu, and other respiratory diseases due to placing their fingers by their mouth frequently. People that smoke may also be at risk of more severe illness, making it more likely they will become very ill, hospitalized, or even die.⁵

Videos from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Tips from Former Smokers and the Food and Drug Administration may be useful to describe how tobacco products damage lungs and increase the risk of other diseases.

Tips From Former Smokers: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/index.html

The Real Cost: https://www.youtube.com/user/KnowTheRealCost
Electronic Cigarettes (E-Cigarettes or E-Cigs)

Discuss how electronic cigarettes are not a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes.

Electronic cigarettes, or “e-cigarettes,” are battery-powered devices that contain nicotine-filled cartridges, flavoring, and other chemicals. The liquid is heated and becomes a vapor that is inhaled.

As of August 2016, e-cigarettes are regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which extends authority over e-cigarettes, vape pens, all cigars, hookah (waterpipe) tobacco, pipe tobacco, nicotine gels, and others tobacco products.\(^6\) However, manufacturers of e-cigarettes are not required to disclose all chemicals, including how much nicotine is inhaled, and they claim their product is a safe alternative. Some of the products have been tested and found to contain known cancer-causing and toxic chemicals, such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde. Toxic metal nanoparticles from the mechanism have been found, too. Long-term health effects of inhaling the additives, and risks of using e-cigarettes are not known.\(^7\)

According to the surgeon general, nicotine exposure during adolescence may have lasting effects for brain development.\(^8\) This is especially concerning since more than 70 million children live in states where they could be exposed to either secondhand smoke or e-cigarette aerosol in worksites, restaurants, and bars.\(^9\)

This product is marketed to young people by using flavors that are appealing, such as chocolate, bubble gum, and fruit flavors. E-cigarette use among youth has been declared an epidemic by the U.S. Surgeon General in 2014.\(^8\) E-cigarette use increased dramatically among middle and high school students between 2011 and 2019, but has since begun to decline. In 2020, the percent of middle school students that used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days decreased by 10.5% and the percent of high school students decreased by about 27.5%.\(^10\)
Manufacturers of electronic cigarettes use the same tactics to sell their product as the makers of traditional cigarettes.  

1. They use celebrities to pitch their products.  
3. They portray the use of the product as sexually attractive.  
4. They sponsor sports and music festivals.  
5. They use flavorings that are sweet and appealing.  
6. They use cartoons.  
7. They tell their audience to switch to e-cigarettes, instead of quitting tobacco use.

“TOUGH GUYS”  
COMPARE THE L&M CIGARETTE AD FROM 1958 TO THE 2013 AD FOR BLU E-CIGS.
**ACTIVITY 7: WHAT IS A JUUL®?**

**JUUL** is a brand of electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS), electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), or vaping device.¹²

**JUUL** (pronounced jewel) looks like a USB drive, and is promoted as an alternative to combustible cigarettes and existing e-cigarettes or vaping devices.¹²

“**JUULing**” is the term used when using JUUL.¹²

**How Does JUUL Work?**

JUUL contains nicotine. JUUL cartridges, called pods, contain flavored oils that turn into vapor when heated.¹³ Each pod contains roughly the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.¹²,¹³

JUUL has interchangeable pods with an assortment of flavor options.¹² The nicotine form is referred to as nicotine salts.¹² It creates a more tolerable effect when inhaled, and is less likely to cause irritation in the lungs versus combustible tobacco products.¹⁴,¹⁵

JUUL has a higher concentration of nicotine than many other e-cigarette options. Listed as 5% nicotine by weight, JUUL has more than twice the amount of nicotine concentrate. Other brands of e-cigarettes typically have concentrations of 2.4% or less.¹² Youth nicotine use in any form is not safe, as they are more likely to be susceptible to the addictive nature of nicotine.¹⁶

**What is the Threat to Youth?**

Similar to other e-cigarettes, JUUL comes in a variety of flavors, including fruit medley, mango, cool mint, and crème brûlée.¹⁵ Most youth who experiment with tobacco begin with a flavored product, as the flavors appeal to youth.¹⁷

Youth are particularly aware of JUUL, as nearly one in five students age 12 to 17 have seen JUUL used in school.¹⁸

Because JUUL resembles a USB flash drive, it is increasingly used by students in classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and at school sporting events.¹⁹

Sixty-three percent of JUUL users age 15 to 24 did not know JUUL contains nicotine.²⁰ Youth may start using e-cigarettes because they believe they are harmless. Nicotine, a key ingredient in tobacco products, is an addictive drug.

Tobacco use by and around children and adolescents is a particular concern due to increased risk for addiction and passive exposure. Smoking is a known cause of cancer, heart disease, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Young people who use e-cigarettes, such as JUUL, are more likely to transition to combustible cigarettes.²¹
ACTIVITY 8: VAPING FORTUNE TELLER

Cut out the vaping fortune teller to see how to deal with situations where others are vaping around you.

Folding instructions:
1. Take one piece of paper.
2. Fold it in half the entire length.
3. Fold the other edge so that it meets the edge.
4. Cut off the sections at the top.
5. Unfold it to have a large piece of paper.
6. Fold it in half vertically.
7. Fold the edges of the paper in to the middle.
8. Fold the paper over so that the paper meets in the middle.
9. Push your fingers into the side edges and fold it into the shape.
Vaping can change your body.
Fill in the blanks below with the ways you think vaping can affect your organs.

1. Brain: ______________________________________
2. Mouth: ______________________________________
3. Throat: ______________________________________
4. Heart: _______________________________________
5. Lungs: _______________________________________
6. Stomach: ____________________________________
7. Skin: _______________________________________
8. Muscles: ____________________________________
ACTIVITY 9: EFFECTS OF VAPING ON THE BODY ANSWER GUIDE

ANSWERS

1. **Brain:** Vapes and e-cigarettes contain nicotine which slow brain development in teens and affect memory, concentration, learning, self-control, attention, and mood, as well as increase the risk of other types of addiction later in life.

2. **Mouth:** Vaping introduces bacteria to the mouth and can lead to tooth decay, cavities, and gum disease.

3. **Throat:** Vaping can cause a sore throat.

4. **Heart:** Chemicals in vapes and e-cigarettes can cause heart disease and increase your risk of heart attack.

5. **Lungs:** Chemicals in vapes and e-cigarettes damage the small pathways in the lungs and cause coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath.

6. **Stomach:** Vaping can cause problems in your stomach like nausea, vomiting, and pain.

7. **Skin:** Nicotine found in vapes and e-cigarettes can cause excess sweating.

8. **Muscles:** Vaping can cause dehydration leading to muscle cramps.
Smokeless Flavored Tobacco Products

Discuss with students how flavored tobacco products are marketed, and how they can be used to entice young people to try tobacco.

Tobacco companies have several smokeless flavored tobacco products that are placed in the mouth and dissolve. The sweet and fruity flavors are a key part of the tobacco industry strategy to addict young people to their products with flavors such as apple, watermelon, grape, and peach.22

Orbs, Twisted Sticks, Film Strips, Snus, and Snuff

- Camel® Orbs are small pellets of tobacco powder that resemble Tic Tac® mints that are placed in the mouth and dissolve in 10 to 15 minutes.23
- Camel® Twisted Sticks are the size of a toothpick and dissolve in the mouth in 20 to 30 minutes.23
- Camel® Film Strips are placed on the tongue and dissolve like Listerine® breath strips. The strips dissolve in two to three minutes.23
- Camel® Snus (pronounced snoose or snooze) is a form of flavored smokeless tobacco in a small teabag-like pouch that is placed between the lower lip and gum.23
- Snuff can be inhaled through the nose or placed in the mouth.

Damage to the Body Caused by Smokeless Tobacco Use

Smokeless tobacco products are not a safe alternative to cigarettes. Discuss the health consequences of using smokeless tobacco products, such as snuff, orbs, and snus.

Tobacco contains chemicals that destroy your cells and tissues. Nicotine narrows the blood vessels and decreases blood flow to tissues in your mouth. This leads to shrinking gums, mouth sores, bad breath, stained teeth, and oral cancer.24

The health dangers associated with smokeless tobacco are:24
- Mouth, tongue, cheek, and gum cancer
- Damaged gum tissue and receding gums
- Tooth and bone loss
- Stained and discolored teeth and bad breath
- Esophageal, stomach, and pancreatic cancer
- Leukoplakia (white sores in the mouth that can become cancerous)
Flavored Tobacco Products

In addition to the smokeless tobacco products placed in the mouth, there are flavored cigars. Cigars are bad for your health and are addictive because they contain nicotine too.

Cigars and Cigarillos

• Cigar use increased 118% between 2000 and 2019.\textsuperscript{25}

• In 2019, 43.2% of high school students and 36.1% of middle school students used a flavored cigar in the past 30 days.\textsuperscript{26}

• Use of cigars are higher among Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (11.1%), American Indians/Alaskan natives (6.8%), and African Americans (6.7%).\textsuperscript{27}

• Adult cigar use is higher among younger adults. Young adults ages 18-25 had the highest prevalence of past month cigar use (9.7%) compared to youth ages 12-17 (2.1%) and adults ages 26 and older (3.9%).\textsuperscript{28}

• Youth and young adults prefer cigars that come in a variety of flavors.\textsuperscript{25}

• Cigar products are made to appeal to young people. The packaging is colorful, the flavors are sweet, and the price is cheap.\textsuperscript{22}

• Candy flavors, such as LifeSavers® and Jolly Ranchers®, sweeten the taste of many cigars and cigarette-like products.\textsuperscript{22}

• Federal law requires retailers to check photo ID of everyone under age 27 who attempts to purchase any type of cigar product.\textsuperscript{26}
Hookah Smoking
Discuss with students the effects of using a hookah, and that smoking tobacco using a hookah pipe is not a safe alternative to using traditional cigarettes or other forms of tobacco.

What is a Hookah?
A hookah is a water pipe used to smoke tobacco. The pipe has a water chamber, hose, and mouthpiece. As tobacco is heated, the smoke passes through the water chamber and hose, and is inhaled using the mouthpiece.

The hookah pipe originated in the Middle East, and smoking a hookah pipe is an old, popular Turkish tradition. The hookah has become popular in the United States during the last few years. In many states, there are hookah bars or cafes, and they tend to be located near college campuses.

Who Uses Hookahs?
In the United States, 18- to 24-year-olds use a hookah most often, but there is an increase in the number of high school and middle school students using hookahs.29

• One survey found 10% of high school students and 2% of middle school students have reported having smoked a hookah.29
• Young adults ages 18 to 24 who use cigarettes, marijuana, alcohol, or illicit drugs have higher rates of hookah use.29

Is a Hookah Safe to Use?
Since the smoke is filtered through water, users may perceive that smoking tobacco using a hookah is safer than smoking cigarettes. The smoke is cooled when it passes through the water chamber and does not burn the lungs, but the smoke does contain carcinogens. Hookah smokers also inhale larger amounts of smoke. In fact, hookah smokers are exposed to many toxic substances. The smoke from a hookah carries many of the same health risks as cigarette smoke.30

The tobacco is soaked in honey or molasses and mixtures come in a variety of flavors, such as apple, plum, coconut, and strawberry. Smoking a hookah has become popular in social settings among young adults.30 As of August 2016, the FDA does regulate hookah tobacco.31
Facts About the Hookah

• Hookah tobacco is addictive because it contains nicotine, just like cigarettes and cigars.\(^\text{30}\)

• A typical hookah session lasts from 45 to 60 minutes, but can last for hours. Users are exposed to 100 to 200 times the amount of smoke found in a cigarette.\(^\text{30}\)

• Even though hookah smoke passes through water, users are exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide, nicotine, tar, metals, and cancer-causing chemicals.\(^\text{30}\)

• Hookah users take longer and harder drags of smoke, increasing the amount of carcinogens and nicotine inhaled.\(^\text{30}\)

• Non-hookah users in hookah bars are exposed to secondhand smoke from the tobacco and from charcoal used to heat the tobacco.\(^\text{30}\)

• The mouthpieces are shared among many users without being washed. This increases the risk of spreading many infectious diseases.\(^\text{30}\)
Advertising

Advertising can be very powerful and does not show the harmful consequences of tobacco use. Tobacco users are depicted as young, attractive, and popular. Youth are not always aware of how these ads influence decisions to use tobacco. Spend 10 minutes discussing with students how tobacco ads depict young, healthy people using tobacco, but do not show how tobacco use affects health and appearance.

Electronic cigarette advertisements are shown on television and online. For example, the e-cig company NJOY has an online ad featuring rocker Courtney Love. Actors Stephen Dorff and Jenny McCarthy advertise for Blu E-cigs in television commercials. Blu has sponsored an IndyCar, The Freedom Project, and Electric Lounge. Some celebrities, while not endorsing a particular product, have been photographed using e-cigs, such as Katy Perry, Sienna Miller, Robert Pattinson, Lindsay Lohan, Nikki Reed, and Kevin Connolly.

E-cigarette television advertising is found on the following: 32

- The e-cig company Triad had 770 advertisements for e-cigarettes during a 33-month study period;
- AMC, CMT, Comedy Central, WGN America, and VH1 featured the most e-cigarette advertisements of all cable networks in the same study; and
- Vuse, a product of R.J. Reynolds Vapor Co., is advertised in Colorado and Utah, where the product has top-market share.

Tobacco companies also use the internet as a means to advertise their products. Blu E-cigs has a dedicated events section on their website that lists upcoming music festivals.

The same marketing tactics used to entice people to smoke cigarettes in the 1950s and 1960s are being used today to lure a new generation to use tobacco.
“LEISURE” COMPARE THE VICEROY CIGARETTE AD FROM 1964 TO THE 2013 AD FOR BLU E-CIGS.

Reasons People Use Tobacco
Students learn and understand why people use tobacco products.

Ask students why they think people begin or continue to use tobacco products. Write the students’ answers on the board and discuss the following possible points.

Peer Pressure
Discuss what peer pressure is with students. Tell students they can say “no” to peer pressure to use tobacco. The following strategies can help young people say “no.”
• Be direct and confident.
• Use humor.
• Switch topics so you can talk about something else.
• Plan with a friend what each of you will say or do and stick together.
• Find something else to do.
• Ask students to list ways to say no to using tobacco.

Nicotine Addiction/Relaxation
People who use tobacco claim it relaxes them or makes them feel good, but nicotine has the opposite effect because it speeds up the heart rate and blood pressure. People feel relaxed because tobacco feeds their brains the nicotine it craves and they become addicted to nicotine, which is a drug.

Image
Young people use tobacco because they think it looks cool, popular, and sophisticated. They see ads depicting celebrities using cigarettes or e-cigarettes, or ads for Blu e-cigarettes at concerts and sporting events.

Looking Older/Being Grown-up
One of the most dangerous ideas held by youth is that tobacco is an acceptable form of behavior. Some will try smoking or use other tobacco products to appear grown-up. Children follow the examples of older youth and adults.
Smoking in Movies and Television
This activity is designed to get children thinking about how many times they see someone smoke in movies, television shows, or other media. The more children see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to become smokers.

Tobacco Use Among Youth
• Tobacco use is usually started and established during adolescence.
• Nearly nine out of 10 smokers tried their first cigarette by age 18.
• More than 1,600 youth smoke their first cigarette every day.
• Each day, 200 youth become daily smokers.10

Examples of PG-13 Movies Containing Tobacco Use
• Wonder Woman, 2017
• Jumanji, 2017
• X-Men Apocalypse, 2016

Examples of Television Shows Containing Tobacco Use
• Family Guy (1999 to present)
• The Simpsons (1989 to present)

Examples of Video Games Containing Tobacco Use33,34
• Overwatch
• Grand Theft Auto
• Call of Duty
• Halo
• Bioshock

Ask students to name movies, television shows, or other media where they saw someone using tobacco. Hollywood continues to depict actors and actresses smoking with no ill health effects.
Secondhand Smoke

Secondhand smoke is a mixture of smoke that comes from a lit cigarette, cigar, or pipe, and smoke that comes from the smoke exhaled by a smoker. People may be exposed to secondhand smoke at work, public places, homes, and cars. 

Is Secondhand Smoke Harmful?

Secondhand smoke is a known carcinogen (cancer-causing agent), and is composed of chemical compounds.

The surgeon general’s report on the dangers of secondhand smoke include that it: 

- Causes disease in children and adults who don’t smoke. 
- Increases risk of acute respiratory infections, ear infections, and asthma attacks. 
- Causes coughing, wheezing, bronchitis, pneumonia, and slow lung growth in children. 
- Caused 2.5 million nonsmokers to die from secondhand smoke exposure between 1964 and 2014.

Particles from secondhand smoke can settle into dust and on surfaces, and can last for several months. When the dust is stirred up, it is inhaled along with secondhand smoke particles. There is no safe level of secondhand smoke. Children are exposed more to secondhand smoke than non-smoking adults.

E-Cigarettes and Secondhand Exposure

Even though there is no smoke, secondhand aerosol from vapes/e-cigarettes contains small toxic chemical particles, which have been found absorbed by bystanders through their skin and lungs. This is similar to secondhand smoke.

What Can be Done About Secondhand Exposure?

Many cities have enacted clean indoor air laws that prevent smoking and vaping in public places.

Parents can protect their children from secondhand exposure by:

- Not allowing smoking or vaping in the home or car, when holding, or even near children. 
- Insisting on vape- and smoke-free restaurants and other public places. 
- Not allowing caregivers to smoke or vape around children, or in the home.

Many states have laws that require workplaces, restaurants, and bars to be 100% smoke-free. To see how your state is working to protect everyone’s right to breathe smoke-free air, visit www.no-smoke.org and look for the smoke-free lists, maps, and data.

Take Action: Discuss smoke-free policies in your local community or state. Talk about how youth can get involved in making all public places 100% tobacco-free and institute bans to include e-cigarettes/vapes. Get involved by letter-writing and e-mail campaigns to their local policymakers or going to a local council meeting and viewing the process firsthand.
REFERENCES


