



Are Your Kids at Risk of Using Tobacco

“Not My Kid!”

It's just tobacco!

At least it isn't drugs!

They're going to experiment, no matter what we do.

But they're good kids!

It must be their friends, not my kid!

6% of 11th graders and 3% of 9th graders said they used tobacco on one or more days during the last 30 days.

Minnesota 9th graders who are frequent smokers are:

Nearly 13 times more likely to binge drink alcohol than non-smokers;

12 times more likely to use marijuana; and

13 times more likely to use other drugs

See It, Say It Parents Make the Difference!

Six steps to communicating with your child

1. I care. . . (about you)
2. I see. . . (you are using tobacco)
3. I feel. . . (concerned)
4. I'm listening. . .
5. I want. . . (you to stop)
6. I will. . . . (help you)

Remember, the best time to talk with someone you are concerned about is when both of you:

- feel comfortable and have privacy
- are not likely to be disturbed
- have time to talk things through

Minnesota Laws and Penalties

How to Stop Youth Access to Smoking

Misdemeanor offenses carry a penalty up to \$1000 in fines and/or up to 90 days in jail.

- Whoever sells tobacco to a person under the age of 18 years is guilty of a Misdemeanor for a first offense. Second offense in 5 years is a gross misdemeanor.
- It is a misdemeanor to furnish tobacco or tobacco-related devices to a person under the age of 18. Second offense is a gross misdemeanor.

Petty Misdemeanor

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess, smoke, chew, purchase, or attempt to purchase tobacco or tobacco-related devices. This carries possible penalties:

Fines!

Substance Abuse Programs!

Probation!

Community Service!

Loss of Driver's License!

Help Stop Youth Smoking

Help Create a Tobacco-Free Community!

- Educate yourself and inform others
- Establish homes and vehicles as smoke-free zones
- Contact your local health organization

Resource Information

Dakota County Attorney's Office 651-438-4440

Dakota County Public Health 651-554-6100 Minnesota's Tobacco Help Line 1-877-270-STOP

"Not My Kid" is Supported By:

*James C. Backstrom, Dakota County Attorney
Dakota County Public Health Department
Dakota Partnership for Healthy Communities*

The **"Not My Kid"** project is intended to provide community support to parents. It began as a community-based project organized by a group of parents in collaboration with their County Attorney in the state of Maryland.