



Together, day by day, building a healthy community

## Smoking | Youth

**Definition** | Percent of youths (grades 6, 8, 10, 12) who have smoked cigarettes at least once in their lifetime.

**Importance** | Cigarette smoking during childhood and adolescence produces significant health problems among young people, including an increase in the number and severity of respiratory illnesses, decreased physical fitness and potential effects on the rate of lung growth and maximum lung function.<sup>1</sup>

**Where are we** | In 2013, 14.1% of teens in Douglas County had smoked cigarettes at least once. The percentage in Douglas County is less than the state of Kansas in 2013.

**Health Disparities** | Among youths in Douglas County in 2013:

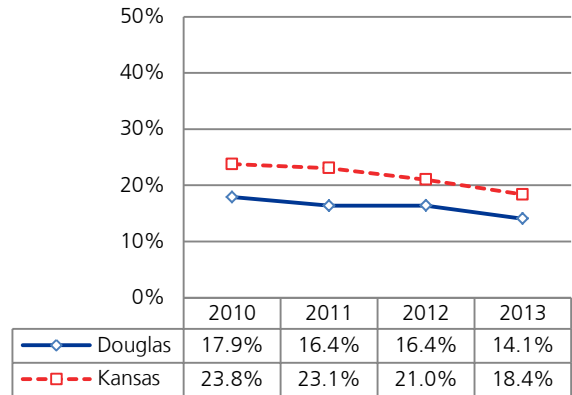
- As grade level increased, the percent of youths who had smoked at least once increased.

**Healthy People 2020 Goal** | Reduce the initiation of the use of cigarettes among children and adolescents that are between 12 and 17 years of age to 4.2%.<sup>2</sup>

**Additional Information** | Prevention is critical. Successful multi-component programs prevent youths from starting to use tobacco in the first place and more than pay for themselves in lives and health care dollars saved. Strategies that comprise successful comprehensive tobacco control programs include mass media campaigns, higher tobacco prices, smoke-free laws and policies, evidence-based school programs, and sustained communitywide efforts.<sup>3</sup>

## Trend Analysis

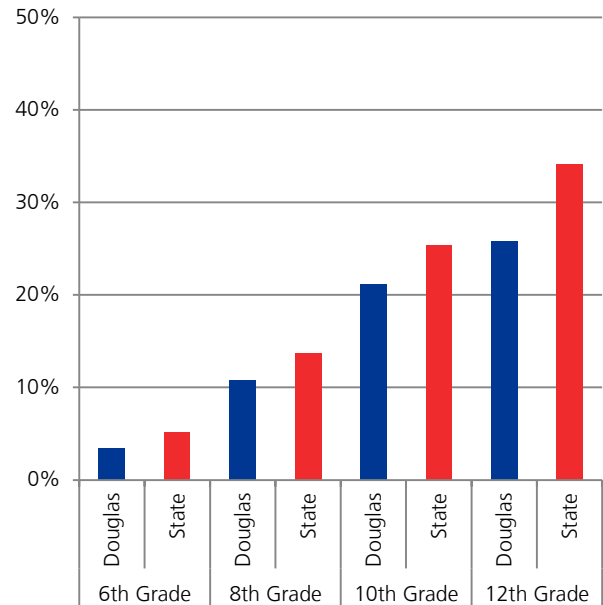
Percent of youths who have smoked cigarettes at least once<sup>4</sup>



## Disparity Analysis

Percent of youths who have smoked cigarettes at least once<sup>4</sup>

Douglas County, 2013



### Data Source

<sup>1</sup>American Lung Association

<sup>2</sup>Healthy People 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, SurgeonGeneral.gov

<sup>4</sup>Kansas Communities that Care