Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Reference Article Tutorial

Viewpoint articles, topic overviews, statistics, primary documents, selected web links, and full-text periodical articles on social issues.

At home you will need the Gale Databases user name and password from the library’s Gold Sheet.
Type your **topic** in the **Search** box.
As you type, Search Assist will list keywords.
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are an estimated 1.3 billion smokers worldwide. This number is expected to increase to 1.7 billion by 2020. Smoking has been linked to health problems in both smokers and non-smokers. Many national and local governments have made efforts to reduce the practice, especially among young people. Some people maintain, however, that the limits governments place on smoking restrict personal freedom. In an effort to balance concerns between individual rights and the need to prevent a known health hazard, the United States and other countries have attempted to regulate rather than ban tobacco.

[View More]
There are 91 Reference articles about smoking
Limit your search to Topic Overview
You may then choose to refine by subject.
Scroll through the list to find a suitable article on your reading level.
Notice the color coding for reading/content level

- Advanced
- Intermediate
- Basic
Click on the title to skim read the article.
Tobacco

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Illicit Drugs; 2011

During the mid-20th century smoking in the United States was often associated with adventure, relaxation, and romance; movie stars exuded glamour on screen while smoking, and movie tough guys were never more masculine than when lighting up. Songs such as “Smoke Gets In Your Eyes” topped the list of most popular songs. Smoking became a rite of passage for young males and a sign of increasing independence for young females.

Since the 1930s, however, there has been an increase in opposition to tobacco use. Health authorities warn of the dangers of smoking and chewing tobacco, and nonsmokers object to secondhand smoke—because of both the smell and the health dangers of breathing smoke from other people’s cigarettes. In the 21st century a smoker is more likely to ask for permission before lighting up, and the answer is often “no.” Because of health concerns, smoking has been banned on airplanes, in hospitals, and in many workplaces, restaurants, and bars. In 2008, 82% of respondents to a Gallup poll believed that cigarette smoking was very harmful to adults who smoke. (See Figure 3.1:)

Physical Properties of Nicotine

Tobacco is a plant native to the Western Hemisphere. It contains nicotine, a drug that is classified as a stimulant, although it has some depressive effects as well. Nicotine is a poisonous alkaloid that is the major psychoactive (mood-altering) ingredient in tobacco. Alkaloids are carbon- and nitrogen-containing compounds that are found in some families of plants. They have both poisonous and medicinal properties.

Nicotine’s effects on the body are complex. The drug affects the brain and central nervous system as well as the heart and blood vessels.
its proposed cigarette package warnings, which were being reviewed in early 2011, that "quitting smoking now greatly reduces serious risks to your health." In addition, quitting smoking releases the smoker from drug dependence and from the possibility of harming the health of others with their habit.

- Public opinion on the harmfulness of smoking, 2003-08
- Percentage of lifetime, past-year, and past-month cigarette users, by age group, gender, and ethnicity, 2008 and 2009
- Current smoking among adults, 1997-2009
- Smoking status of adults, by gender, 2009
- Current adult smokers, by age group and gender, 2009
- Current adult smokers, by ethnicity, 2009
- States with highest and lowest percentages of smokers, 2009
- Past-month tobacco use among persons aged 12 and older, by type of tobacco product, 2002-09
- Cancers and chronic diseases causally linked to smoking, 2010
- Surgeon general's reports on smoking and health, 1954-2010
- Death rates for the five leading causes of death, 2007, and percent change, 2006
- Public opinion on the harmfulness of secondhand smoke, 1994-2010
- Public support for banning smoking in public places, selected years, 1987-2009
- Percentage of cigarette smokers and nonsmokers who support or disapprove of government to regulate the manufacture and marketing of tobacco products, 2003-09
- Percentage of past-month cigarette use among females aged 15-44, by pregnancy status, 2000-09


**Source Citation**

Tobacco

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Public opinion on the harmfulness of smoking, 2003–08
IN GENERAL, HOW HARMFUL DO YOU FEEL SMOKING IS TO ADULTS WHO SMOKE?

- • Very harmful · • Somewhat harmful · • Not too/not at all harmful

88 82 83 84 81 79 82

Go back to your results
In general, rates of cigarette smoking remained the same or declined from 2004 to 2005 in most groups. A notable increase in smoking occurred, however, in the American Indian and Alaskan Native group.

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which is conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics, reports findings similar to those of the NSDUH. Preliminary data from the January-March 2006 NHIS show that 21.5% of adults in the U.S. smoke, compared with 24.7% in 1997. Like the NSDUH, the NHIS finds that 22.4% of adult men and 19.1% of adult women were current smokers in 2006. (See Figure 4.)
If you are unhappy with your results, go back to the Pathfinder to search the next database.
Be sure to consult the Printing Tutorial before printing your article!