

Bennett Dierckman
Satchwell
W131
Trend Analysis

A Smoky Phenomenon

Consumption of Tobacco products has been part of our countries history. America has been smoking since day one. Through out the course of our countries history, the smoking trend increases and decreases as time progresses. However, there has been a noticeable trend in adolescent smoking through out the past half century. This trend can be derived from statistics, articles, and reports such as the Surgeon General reports from 1994 and 2012. This analysis will Look further into the causations of this smoky phenomenon and discuss plans, ideas, and methods that will help crack the crisis.

The Surgeon General Reports from 1994 and 2012 are excellent ways to analyze the teen smoking trend. The goal of the 1994 Surgeon General's Report was to make people aware of the consequences of smoking. The 1994 report notes that most tobacco consumers' start using during the adolescent ages of ten through eighteen. And concludes that the best way to get a handle on smoking is to prevent adolescents from using tobacco. "Adolescent smoking and smokeless tobacco use are the first steps in this totally preventable public health tragedy. The facts are simple: one out of three adolescents in the United States is using tobacco by age eighteen, adolescent users become adult users, and few people begin to use tobacco after age eighteen" (Surgeon General, 1994). The Report also notes how most

tobacco advertisements are some how directed towards a young demographic. It is important to keep in mind that this report was written in 1994. At that point in time, America's percent of population that smokes daily had reached a record low at twenty seven percent of the men's population and twenty two percent of the women's, unlike in 1974 when forty three percent of the men's population and thirty percent of the women's population smoked cigarettes (Trends in Tobacco Use).

The next Surgeon General's Report was written in 2012. Similar to the 1974 report, it begins with a few messages from some important people. In her 2012 report, Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services notes, "The vast majority of Americans who begin daily smoking during adolescence are addicted to nicotine by young adulthood. Despite the well-known health risks, youth and adult smoking rates that had been dropping for many years have stalled"(Sebelius). In this excerpt from her message, Sebelius acknowledges that the health risks are now "well-known", meaning there is no doubt that Americans know the health risks of smoking.

One can infer from her message that the goal of the Surgeon General's Report has changed from spreading awareness, to discussing and suggesting better methods to prevent adolescents from trying tobacco products. This is because the 1994 and 2012 Surgeon General's Reports both conclude that the only way to crack down on tobacco related deaths is to prevent young users from becoming adult

users. In the reports executive summary, the author provides a reason for the new 2012 report. "The 1994 Report concluded that if young people can remain free of tobacco until age 18, most will never start to smoke... but there has been considerable research since 1994 that greatly expands our knowledge about tobacco use among youth, its prevention and the dynamics of cessation among young people. Thus, there is a compelling need for the current report" (Surgeon General, 2012).

The Surgeon General's Report from 1994 along side many other articles and studies, worked side by side to raise awareness of the consequences of using tobacco products. As more and more people take note of the major health risks, the U.S. Department of Justice brought lawsuits against many cigarette companies. "The Master Settlement Agreement with the tobacco companies in 1998 resulted in the elimination of billboard and transit advertising, eliminated print advertising that directly targeted underage youth, and limited the use of brand advertising" (Surgeon General, 2012). At this same point in time, the overall percent of population that smokes continues to drop another two percent over two years.

There are also many other aspects to look into when assessing the causations of young smoking. In Mike Broemmel's article, "Why do Teenagers Start Smoking", he states, "Younger teenagers--children 13 or 14 years old--take up smoking largely because of peer pressure and to fit in with their contemporaries. Teens who start smoking at this age typically remain dedicated smokers, as they grow

older”(Broemmel). One can conclude that it is reasonable; most pick up their first cigarette because someone else gives it to them. Therefore the question becomes, how do minors get a hold of tobacco products to begin with? A pie chart in the American Lung Association’s article titled “Trends in Tobacco Use”, tells us that twenty six percent of tobacco is either bummed or borrowed, and twenty three percent had someone else purchase tobacco for them (Trends in Tobacco Use).

This chart offers a solid explanation of how minors obtain tobacco products. One can infer that there is nothing anyone can do to prevent someone from bumming a cigarette or taking a few from dad, however a large twenty six percent of high school students obtain cigarettes from either a vending machine, store, or gas station. The youth smoking trend can be lowered tremendously if people work hard to eliminate that twenty six percent that is obtained from stores. Another survey in the American Lung Association’s article shows that sixty six percent of high school students were not asked for proof of identification when purchasing tobacco products (Trends in Tobacco Use).

“Each day in the United states, over 3,800 young people under 18 years of age smoke their first cigarette, and over 1,000 youth under age 18 become daily cigarette smokers”(Surgeon General 2012). The youth smoking trend is a trend that needs to be assessed, with thousands of young Americans picking up their first cigarette everyday, it is vital that groups such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services work hard to prevent minors from obtaining tobacco products.

Although there's nothing they can do about minors getting others to buy tobacco for them, they can certainly do more to prevent twenty six percent of high school smokers from just walking into a gas station and buying a pack of cigarettes no questions asked. It is critical to protect the youth of our country by preventing the underage sale of tobacco products. This is the best step to lead us to a healthier America. Without the care full watch of agencies such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the American Lung Association, underage smoking would begin to rise, underage smokers become adult smokers, percent of population that smokes cigarettes rises, and the trend is out of control once again.

The underage use of tobacco trend is a very important trend to keep watch over. Through out the years, the goal has shifted from raising awareness of health consequences, to assessing the best way to prevent tobacco products from falling into the hands of young Americans.

Works Cited

- American Lung Association. "Trends in Tobacco Use". *American Lung Association Research and Program Services Epidemiology and Statistics Unit*. 2011. Web. 22 Dec, 2012.
- Bowman, Cheryl. "Why Do People Start Smoking". *Life 1,2,3*. N.P. 2012. Web. 22 Dec, 2012.
- Bradley, Becky. "Teen Smoking Statistics". *Teen Health.com*. N.p. 2012. Web. 20 Dec, 2012.
- Broemmel, Mike. "Why Do Teenagers Start Smoking". *Live Strong.com*. N.p. Sep 7, 2010. Web. 22 Dec, 2012.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 1994.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health
Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.

Bennett Dierckman
Mrs Satchwell
W131
Writing plan

This trend analysis will assess the trends in adolescent/teen consumption of tobacco products. The Articles and other sources used to create the analysis cover topics ranging from statistical information, to articles discussing ways to prevent teen smoking. How can we prevent tobacco products from falling into the hands of minors?

Organizational Outline

Intro

THESIS: There has been a noticeable trend in adolescent smoking through out the past half century; this trend can be derived from statistics, articles, and reports, such as the Surgeon General's Report. This analysis will look further into the causations of this smoky phenomenon and discuss plans, ideas, and methods that will help crack the crisis.

Background

Smoking is addictive; the history of the trend can be seen from one generation to the next. Reason for so many smokers is due to the vulnerable age between the ages of ten and eighteen, when most smokers will pick up their first cigarette.

Causes

Advertisement

Availability

Addictive aspects of Nicotine

Future

The future of the smoking trend is unclear. Although the overall percent of Americans that smoke has showed a steady decline for both males and females since 1974, the decline has seemed to come to a halt. The future is unclear due to variables such as laws that may arise, or the sociological aspect of what's "in" and "not in" at that time.

Significance

The smoking trend is a very important trend to keep an eye on. Its significant, because it kills hundreds of thousands every year.

Conclusion

Works Consulted

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among*

Young People: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease

Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 1994.

This article shows the take on smoking in 1994. The surgeon general reports from 1994 and 2012 can be viewed side by side to reveal changes in trends, techniques, and causations of teen smoking. Provides answers to the question of how the phenomena came about. States that the best way to cause a decline in the numbers is to prevent underage use of all tobacco products.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among*

Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health

Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.

This article shows the take on smoking in 2012. This article can be useful when compared to the surgeon general's report in 1994. The two reports can be used to compare trends over time. This report analyses what was wrong with the previous report, elaborates, and draws to light new statistics and methods.

American Lung Association. "Trends in Tobacco Use". *American Lung Association*

Research and Program Services Epidemiology and Statistics Unit. 2011. Web.

22 Dec, 2012.

This source is helpful in showing every kind of graph, chart, and percent's when it comes to smoking. It offers multiple different views, and connects it all together to form a helpful report. These graphs and statistics can be analyzed to help assess the trend of youth smoking.

Bradley, Becky. "Teen Smoking Statistics". *Teen Health.com*. N.p. 2012. Web. 20 Dec, 2012.

This web page is an excellent source for showing trends in underage smoking patterns. It talks about how tobacco advertisement targets this vulnerable group of youth and young adults. And also talks about what parents can do to prevent their child from becoming one of these tragic statics.

Bowman, Cheryl. "Why Do People Start Smoking". *Life 1,2,3*. N.P. 2012. Web. 22 Dec, 2012.

This source provides better ways of explaining why so many fall into the habit of smoking. The Article does an excellent job of explaining the addictive aspects of tobacco. And also does an excellent job in explaining the consequences of smoking.

Broemmel, Mike. "Why Do Teenagers Start Smoking". *Live Strong.com*. N.p. Sep 7, 2010. Web. 22 Dec, 2012.

Article does an excellent job pinpointing the cause of teen smoking. Acknowledges the different time frames many fall into the habit. Notes the differences in gender statistics of underage smoking. And is written using credible sources such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.