Youth Smoking
In Cleveland: 2004-2013

- Tobacco is the single most preventable cause of the death and disease in the United States.
- Each year, approximately 443,000 Americans die from tobacco-related illnesses, including cancers, heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure.
- Nearly 9 out of 10 current smokers began smoking by age 18; 99% start by age 26.
- Healthy People 2020 has set the following tobacco use goals for adolescents:
  - Reduce use of cigarettes by adolescents to no more than 16.0%
  - Reduce use of cigars by adolescents to no more than 8.0%
- In 2013, only 7.6% of high school students reported smoking cigarettes, down from 17.8% in 2004, representing a 58% drop in cigarette use over 9 years.
  - Cleveland has exceeded the Healthy People 2020 cigarette goal of 16.0%
- Cigar use is declining at a much slower rate. Almost 20% of high school youth were current cigar smokers in 2013 compared to 25.3% in 2004, a drop of 22% over 9 years.
  - Cleveland’s rates are 2.5 times the Healthy People 2020 goal of 8.0%.
- Hookah use is on the rise. While 3.8% of reported current hookah use in 2011, this number increased to 9.5% in 2013, increasing 150% over the past two years.
- In 2013, nearly 1 in 4 high school students reported smoking tobacco (24.4%), including cigarettes, cigars or hookah.

See our full “Youth Smoking in Cuyahoga County” Youth Data Brief for more information: www.prchn.org/YRBSResults.aspx.