

# South Dakota's K-12 School District Tobacco Possession and Use Policy Study

November 27, 2006

By the South Dakota Department of Health  
Randall M. Stuefen of Stuefen Research, LLC  
In Cooperation With  
The Business Research Bureau, University of South Dakota

# Table of Contents

Demographic Profile .....3

Written Policies and Rules.....4

Smoking During Regular School Hours .....6

Smoking During Non-School Hours .....9

Spit Tobacco (Chew) During Regular School Hours .....12

Spit Tobacco (Chew) During Non-School Hours .....15

Tobacco Industry Sponsorships and Donations .....18

Policy Awareness.....19

Cessation and Prevention Services .....20

## **Special Recognition**

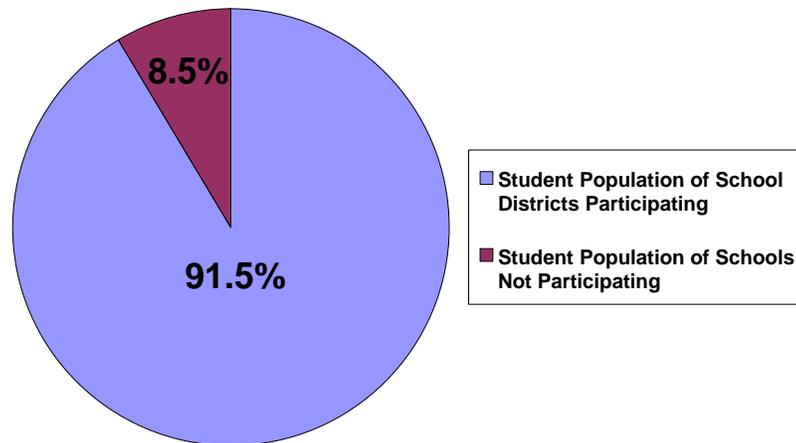
The South Dakota Department of Health would like to thank Ms. Megan Melmer for her contribution to this project. As part of her 2006 summer internship, Megan designed a data collection instrument in Microsoft Access, contacted the school districts and recorded their responses and comments. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

The South Dakota Department of Health (SDDOH) conducted a telephone survey of school districts in South Dakota to better understand school district policies about the possession and use of tobacco products. The surveys were conducted with superintendents, principals, counselors or another member of the professional staff. School representatives were asked about the use of tobacco on and off the school grounds during school related activities. Attempts were made to conduct interviews with one hundred and sixty-three (163) public and one (1) private K-12 schools. One hundred and forty-three (143) schools participated in the study for a participation rate of 82.7 percent. The survey was conducted in the months of June, July and August of 2006.

### ***Demographic Profile***

The one hundred forty-two (142) public schools participating in the survey had a combined 2005 enrollment of approximately 111,711 students which was more than ninety-one percent (91.5%) of all the students in the state's public K-12 school system in that year. St. Mary's of Dell Rapids, a private school, also participated in the survey. St. Mary's had a student population of 212 in 2005.

**Percentage of Student Population Represented by School Districts Participating in the Tobacco Policy Survey**



Twenty-two (22) school districts did not participate in the survey. The combined 2005 student population of these twenty-two schools was 10,377 which were approximately eight and one half percent (8.5%) of the total public K-12 school census.

## Written Policies and Rules

Survey participants were asked if their school has a written policy or rules regarding tobacco. One hundred thirty-seven (96%) of the one-hundred forty-three schools participating in the survey said that their district did have a written policy or rules regarding tobacco.

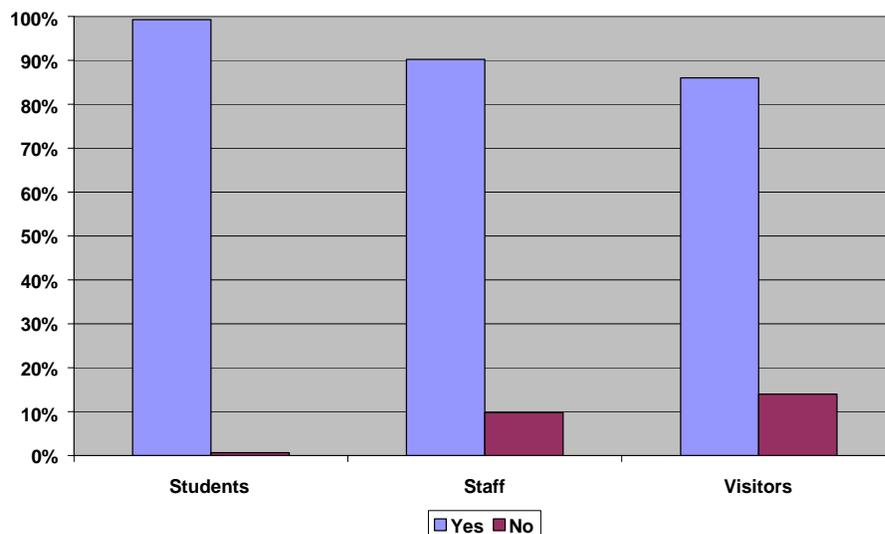
**Does your school have a written policy or rules regarding tobacco?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	137	95.8	95.8	95.8
	No	5	3.5	3.5	99.3
	No response	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	143	100.0	100.0	

The questionnaire focused on tobacco possession and use within the schools from three perspectives: students, staff and visitors. To facilitate easy comparison of policies as they pertain to each status within the schools, the responses are grouped for like questions in the summaries that follow.

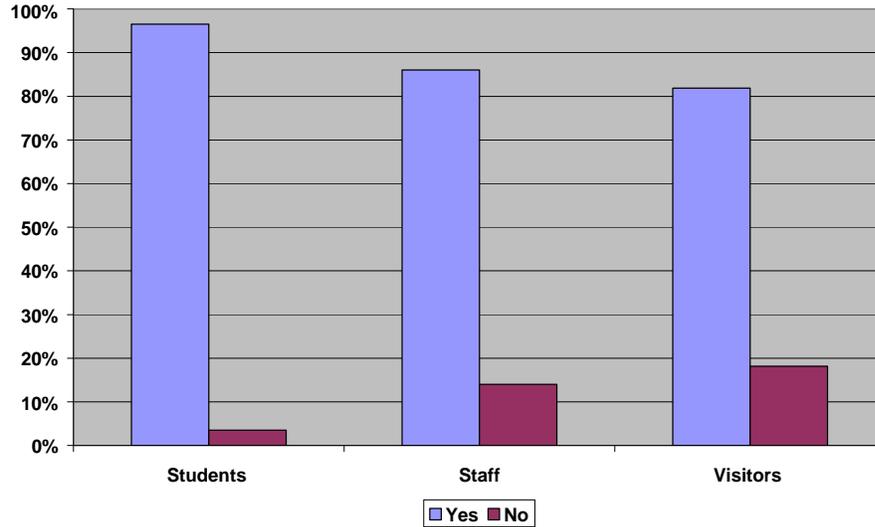
The policy inquiry related to whether the school's written policy specified rules for smoking. All but one (142 or 99%) of the 143 schools indicated that their policy does specify smoking rules for students. One hundred and twenty-nine schools (129 or 90%) have written rules for staff and one hundred and twenty-three (123 or 86%) have them for visitors.

**Does the policy specify rules for smoking?**



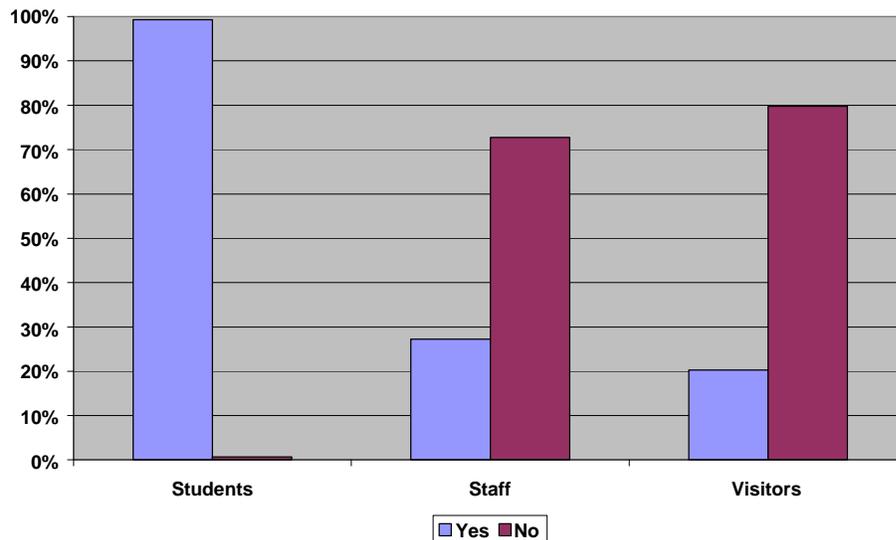
Switching the focus from “smoking” to “chewing” or spit tobacco products, one hundred and thirty-eight (138 or 97%) of the schools participating in the survey indicated they have a written policy for students. One hundred and twenty-three (123 or 86%) have a written policy for staff and one hundred and seventeen (117 or 82%) have one for their visitors.

**Does the policy specify rules for tobacco chewing?**



The survey participants were asked if the written policy specifies rules for tobacco possession. All but one school (142 or 99%) indicated that their institution have rules addressing tobacco possession within their written policy. Thirty-nine (39 or 27%) have possession rules for staff and twenty-nine (29 or 20%) have written rules for school visitors.

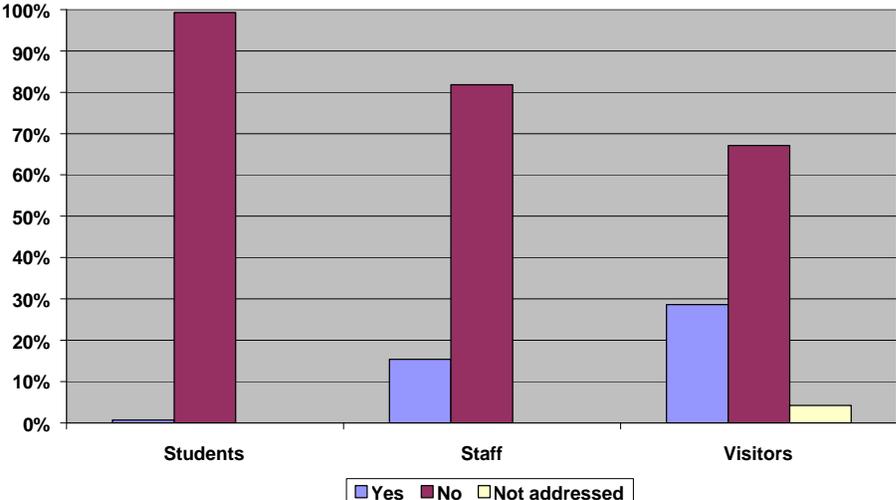
**Does the policy specify rules for tobacco possession?**



# Smoking During Regular School Hours

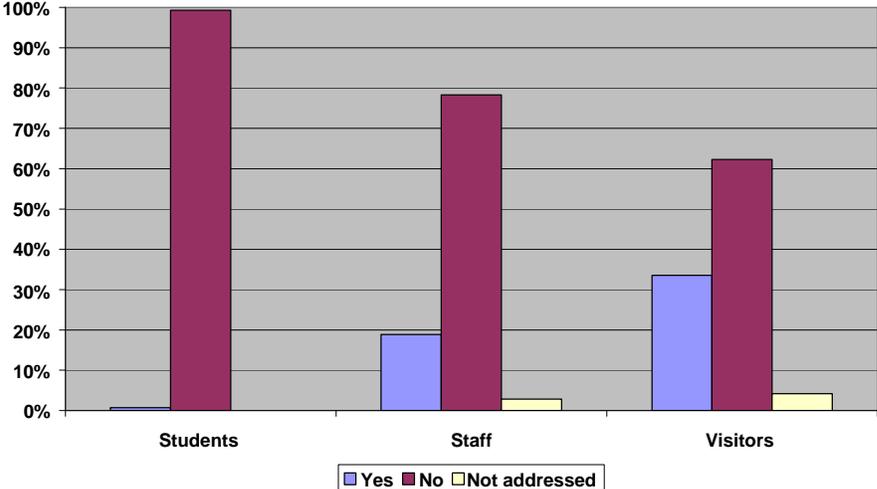
Only one school district indicated that students are allowed to smoke during regular school hours on school grounds other than on the parking lots. Twenty-two schools (22 or 15%) allow staff to smoke on school grounds during school hours on property other than parking lots and forty-one (41 or 29%) schools allow visitors to smoke at that time and place.

Please indicate if permitted to smoke during regular school hours on school grounds, not including parking lots?



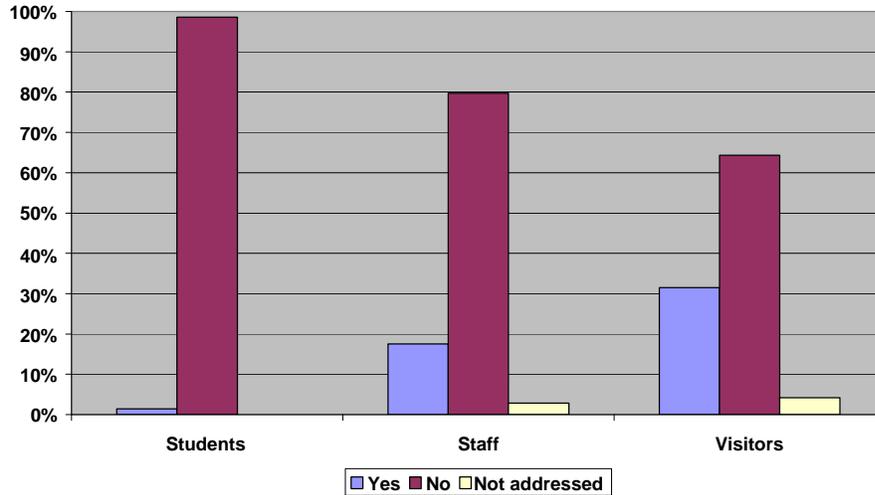
On the parking lot, the policy is the same for students but a little more liberal for the staff and visitors. Twenty-seven schools (27 or 19%) allow staff and forty-eight (48 or 34%) allow visitors to smoke on school parking lots during regular school hours.

Please indicate if permitted to smoke during regular school hours on parking lots?



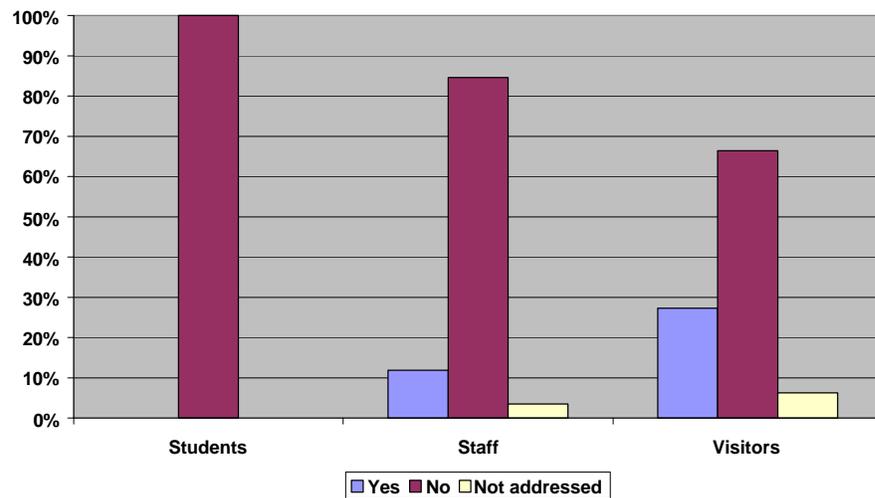
Two schools (2 or 1%) said they allow students to smoke on the playing fields during regular school hours. Twenty-five schools (25 or 18%) allow staff and forty-five (45 or 32%) of the schools allow visitors to smoke during school hours on their athletic playing fields. The “not addressed” responses for staff and visitors can be interpreted as allowable by omission from the policy, but further inquiry is needed to confirm the assumption.

**Please indicate if permitted to smoke during regular school hours on playing fields?**



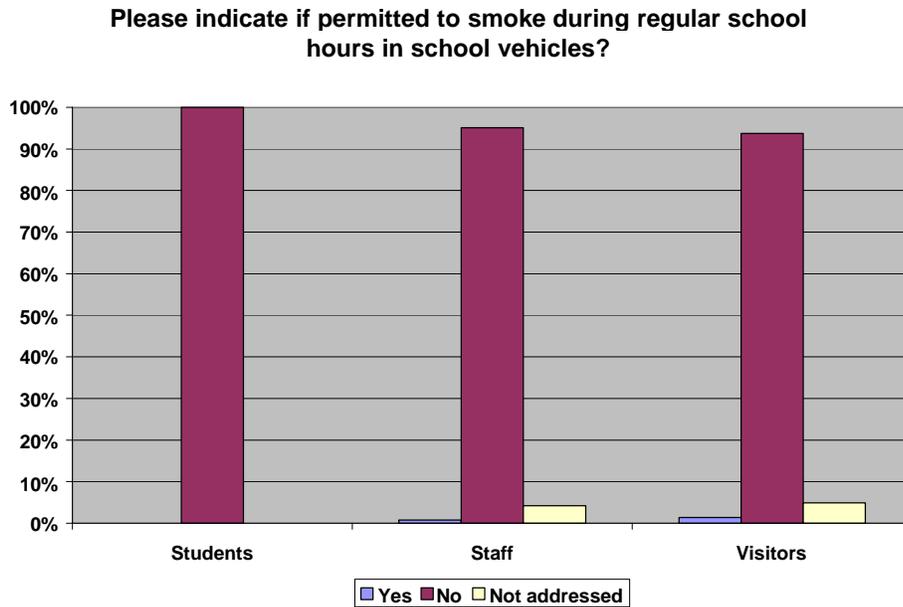
None of the responding schools allows students to smoke during regular school hours at school sponsored off-campus events. Seventeen schools (17 or 12%) allow staff and thirty-nine (39 or 27%) of the schools allow visitors to smoke during school hours at school sponsored off-campus events.

**Please indicate if permitted to smoke during regular school hours at school sponsored off-campus events?**



No school participating in the survey allows students to smoke during regular school hours in a school vehicle. Only one school (1 or 1%) allows staff to smoke during regular school hours in a school vehicle and two (2 or 1%) of the schools allow visitors to smoke during school hours in a school vehicle.

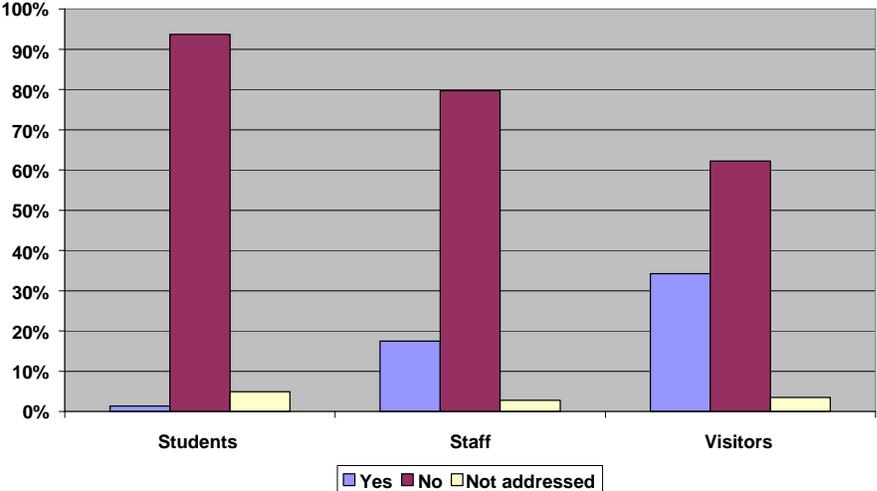
Again, the not addressed responses for staff and visitors to this question may be interpreted as being allowable by omission from the policy. Further inquiry is needed to support or refute that assumption but regardless; the numbers are not large one way or the other.



# Smoking During Non-School Hours

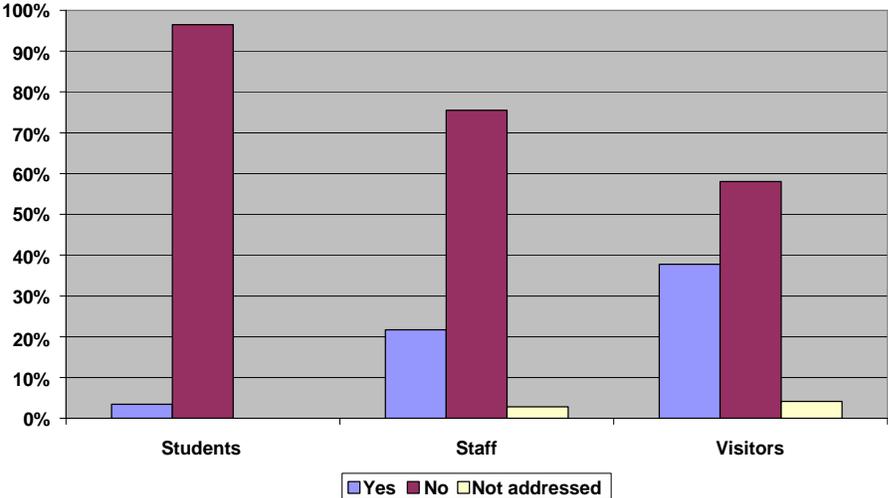
Six school representatives (6 or 4%) indicated that students are allowed to smoke during “non-school” hours on school grounds other than on the parking lots. Twenty-five schools (25 or 18%) allow staff and forty-nine (49 or 34%) schools allow visitors to smoke on school grounds during “non-school” hours on property other than parking lots.

Please indicate if permitted to smoke during "non-school hours" on school grounds, not including parking lots?

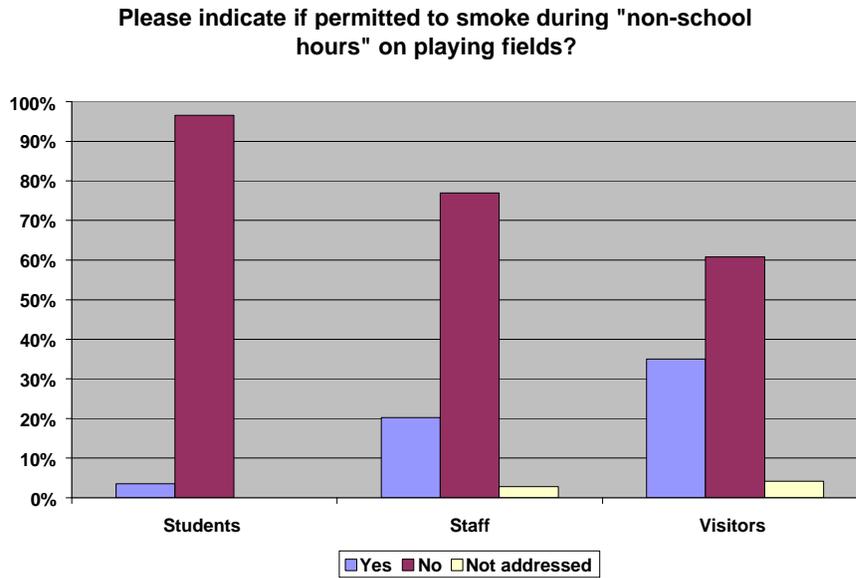


Five (5 or 4%) schools indicated they allow students to smoke during “non-school” hours while on their parking lots. Thirty-one schools (31 or 22%) allow staff and fifty-four (54 or 38%) of the schools allow visitors to smoke during “non-school” hours while on their parking lots.

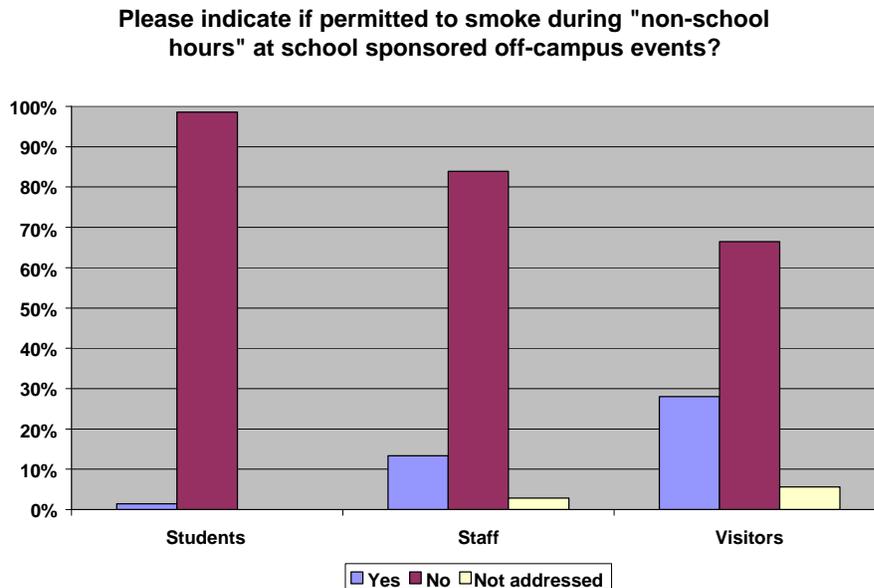
Please indicate if permitted to smoke during "non-school hours" on parking lots?



Five schools (5 or 4%) said they allow students to smoke on the playing fields during “non-school” hours. Twenty-nine schools (29 or 20%) allow staff to smoke on the playing fields during “non-school” hours and fifty (50 or 35%) of the schools allow visitors to smoke during “non-school” hours on their athletic playing fields.

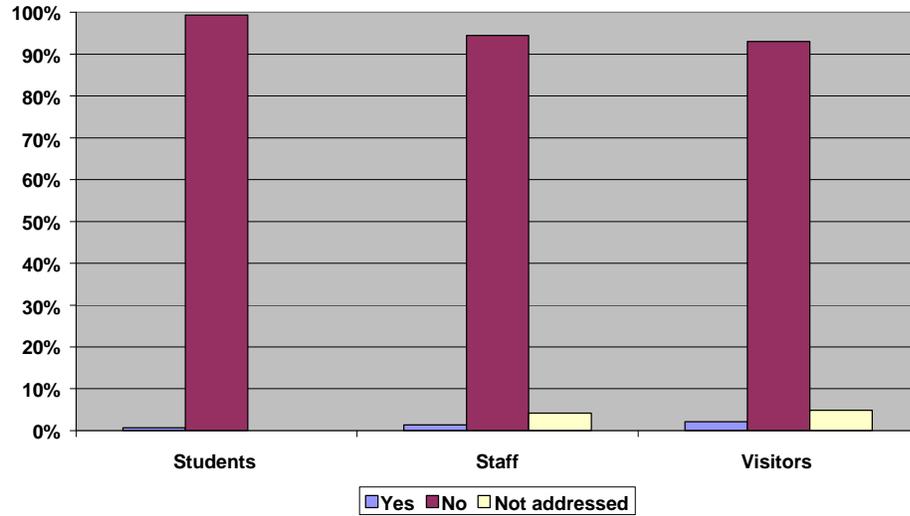


Two (2 or 1%) of the schools participating in the survey allow students to smoke during “non-school” hours at school sponsored off-campus events. Nineteen schools (19 or 13%) allow staff and forty (40 or 28%) of the schools allow visitors to smoke during “non-school” hours at school sponsored off-campus events.



One (1 or 1%) of the schools allow students to smoke during “non-school” hours in a school vehicle. Two schools (2 or 1%) allow staff to smoke during “non-school” hours in a school vehicle and three (3 or 2%) of the schools allow visitors to smoke during “non-school” hours in a school vehicle.

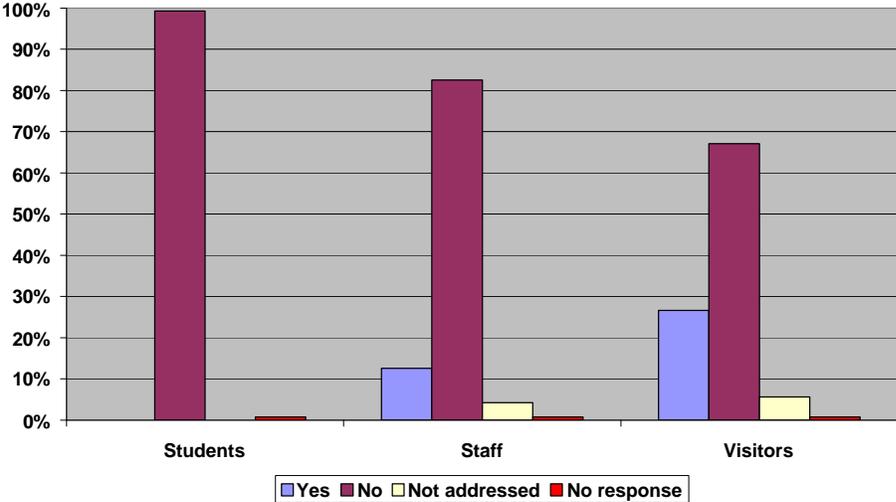
**Please indicate if permitted to smoke during "non-school hours" in school vehicles?**



### Spit Tobacco (Chew) During Regular School Hours

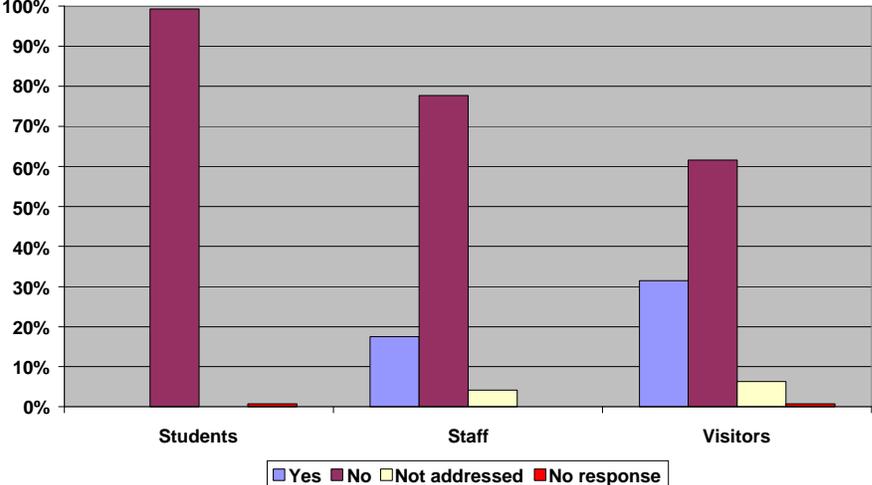
None of the school districts (0 or 0%) allow students to use spit tobacco (chew) during regular school hours on school grounds other than on the parking lots. Eighteen schools (18 or 13%) allow staff and thirty-eight (38 or 27%) allow visitors to chew spit tobacco during regular school hours on school grounds, not including on the parking lots.

Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during regular school hours on school grounds, not including parking lots?



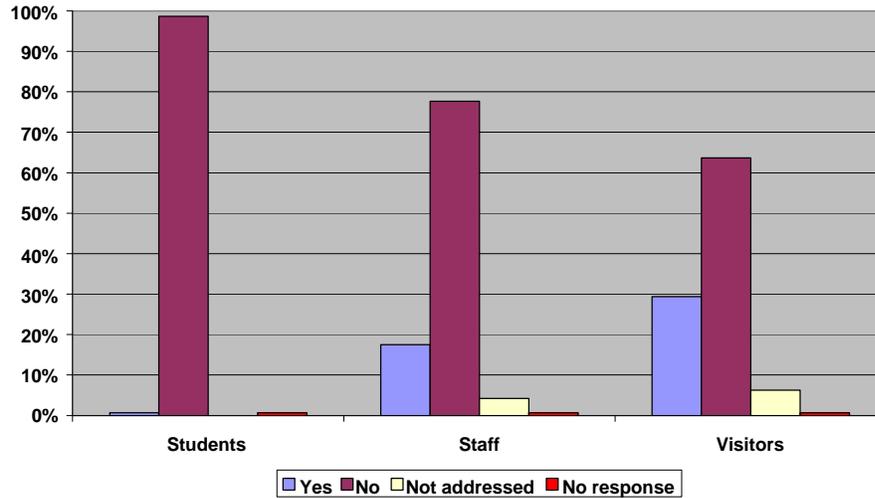
No schools allow students to chew spit tobacco during regular school hours while on their parking lots. Twenty-five schools (25 or 18%) allow staff and forty-five (45 or 32%) of the schools allow visitors to smoke during regular school hours while on their parking lots.

Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during regular school hours on parking lots?



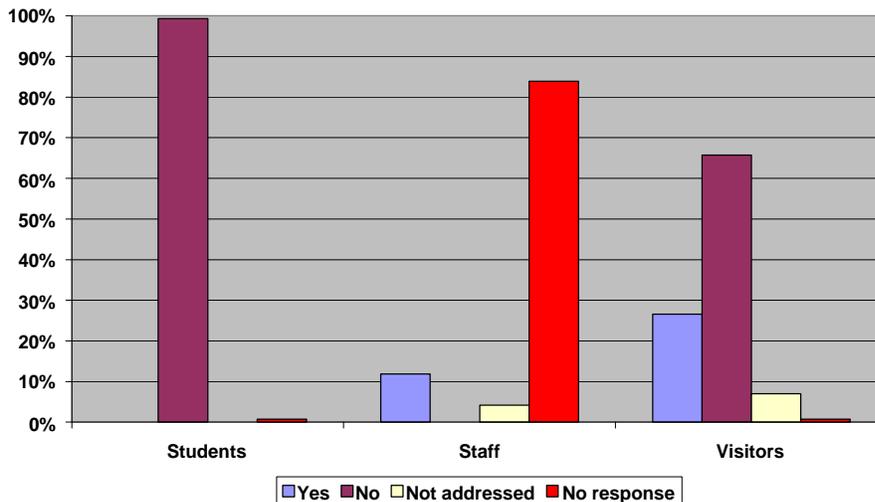
One school (1 or 1%) said they allow students to use chew on the playing fields during regular school hours. Twenty-five schools (25 or 18%) allow staff and forty-two (42 or 29%) of the schools allow visitors to chew spit tobacco during regular school hours on their athletic playing fields.

**Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during regular school hours on playing fields?**



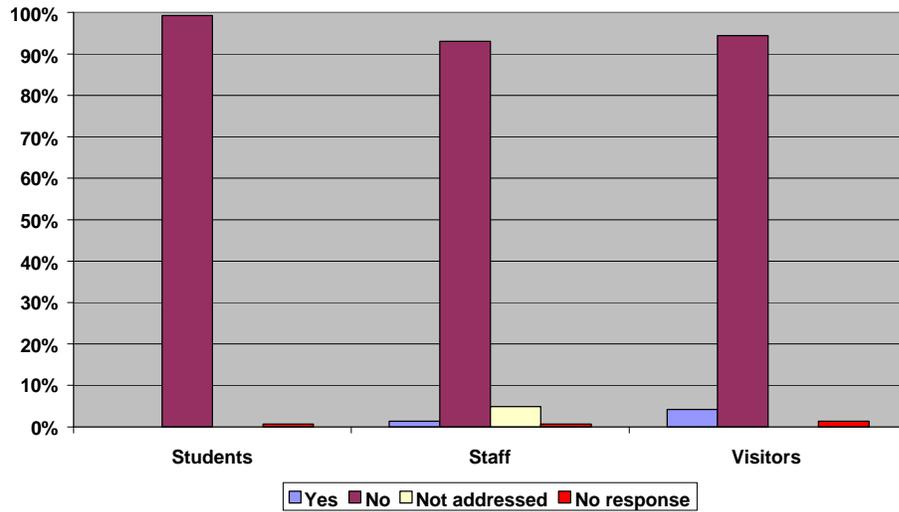
No schools participating in the survey allow students to chew spit tobacco during regular school hours at school sponsored off-campus events. Seventeen schools (17 or 12%) allow staff and thirty-eight (38 or 27%) of the schools allow visitors to chew spit tobacco during regular school hours at school sponsored off-campus events.

**Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during regular school hours at school sponsored off-campus events?**



None of the school representatives interviewed said their school allows students to chew spit tobacco during regular school hours in a school vehicle. Two schools (2 or 1%) allow staff and five (5 or 4%) of the schools allow visitors to chew spit tobacco during regular school hours in a school vehicle.

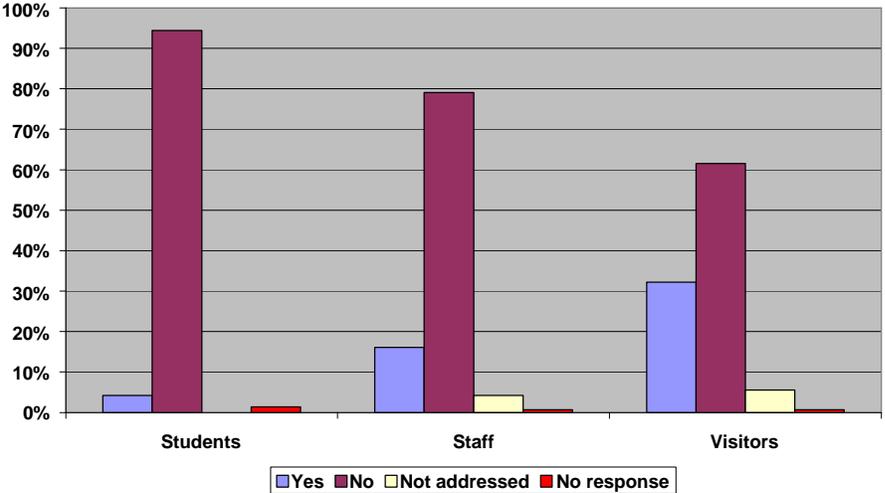
**Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during regular school hours in school vehicles?**



### Spit Tobacco (Chew) During Non-School Hours

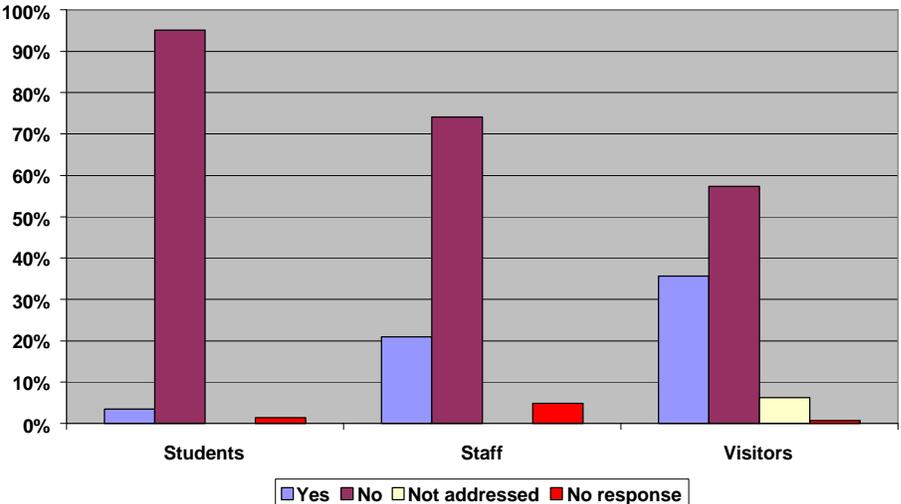
Six of the school districts (6 or 4%) allow students to use spit tobacco (chew) during “non-school” hours on school grounds other than on the parking lots. Twenty-three schools (23 or 16%) allow staff and forty-six (46 or 32%) schools allow visitors to chew spit tobacco during “non-school” hours on school grounds, not including on the parking lots.

Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during "non-school hours" on school grounds, not including parking lots?



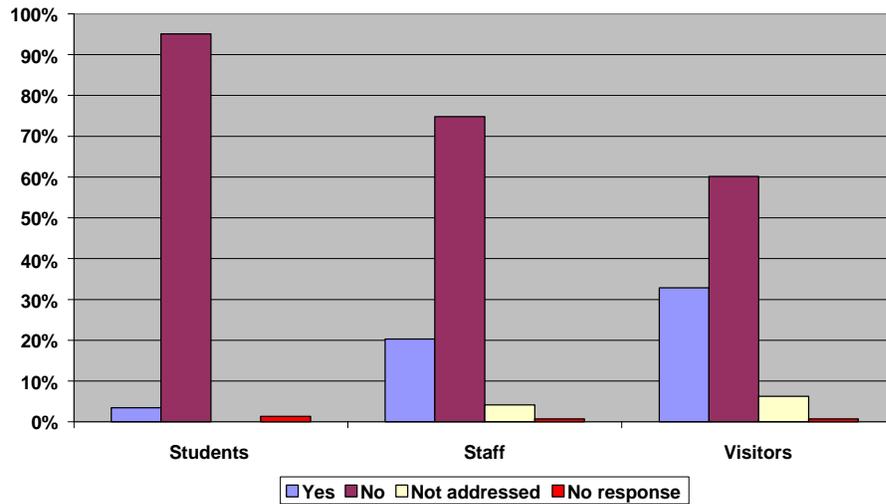
Five schools (5 or 4%) allow students to chew spit tobacco during “non-school” hours while on their parking lots. Thirty schools (30 or 21%) allow staff and fifty-one (51 or 36%) of the schools allow visitors to use chew during “non-school” hours while on their parking lots.

Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during "non-school hours" on parking lots?



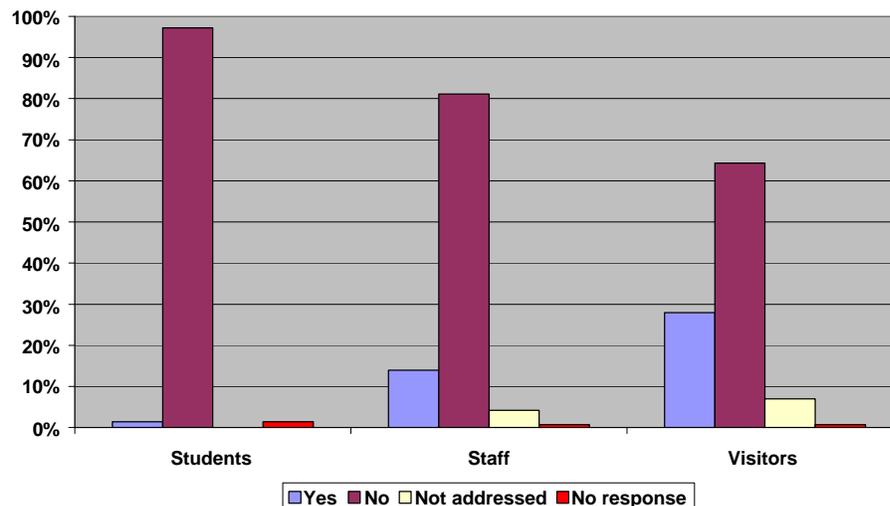
Five schools (5 or 4%) said they allow students to chew on the playing fields during “non-school” hours. Twenty-nine schools (29 or 20%) allow staff and forty-seven (47 or 33%) of the schools allow visitors to chew spit tobacco during “non-school” hours on their athletic playing fields.

**Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during "non-school hours" on playing fields?**



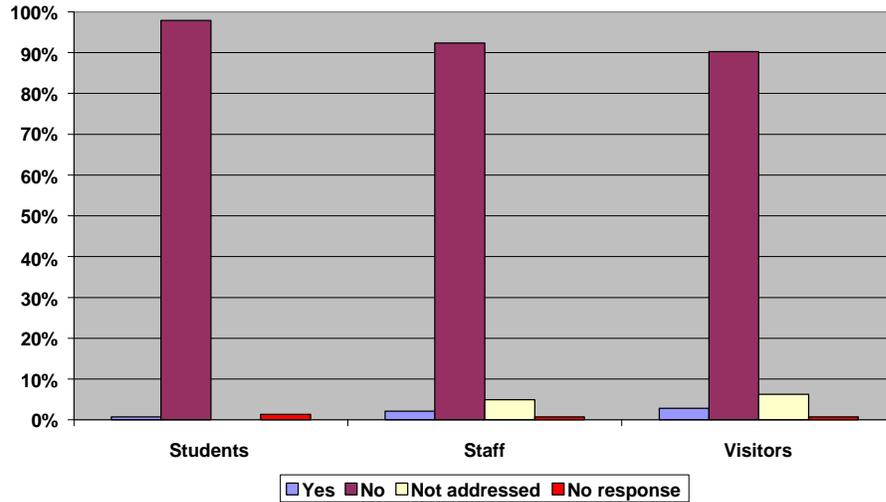
Two schools (2 or 1%) participating in the survey allow students to chew spit tobacco during “non-school” hours at school sponsored off-campus events. Twenty schools (20 or 14%) allow staff and forty (40 or 28%) of the schools allow visitors to chew spit tobacco during “non-school” hours at school sponsored off-campus events.

**Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during "non-school hours" at school sponsored off-campus events?**



One of the schools (1 or 1%) allows students to chew spit tobacco during “non-school” hours in a school vehicle. Three schools (3 or 2%) allow staff and four (4 or 3%) allow visitors to chew spit tobacco during “non-school” hours in a school vehicle.

**Are permitted to use spit tobacco (chew) during "non-school hours" in school vehicles?**



## Tobacco Industry Sponsorships and Donations

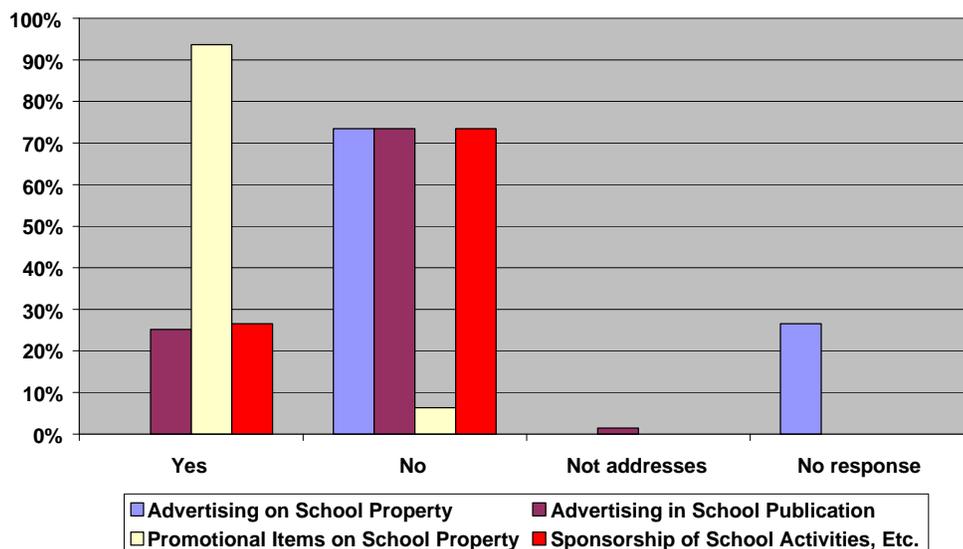
Four questions were asked on this topic after the following introduction: “Does your school policy prohibit sponsorship/donations by tobacco companies in any of the following ways?”

1. Tobacco advertising on school property?
2. Tobacco advertising in school publications?
3. Students bringing or wearing tobacco promotional items on school property?
4. Sponsorship of school activities, facilities, or programs by tobacco companies?

There is no predominance of policy in these areas with the exception of students bringing or wearing tobacco promotional items on school property. Nearly ninety-four percent (93.7%) of the schools responding to the survey said that the school did have a policy in this regard.

Sponsorship / Donation	Yes	No	Not Addressed	No Response
<b>Advertising</b>				
On Property	0%	73.4%	0%	26.6%
In Publications	25.2%	73.4%	1.4%	0%
<b>Promotional Items</b>				
On Property	93.7%	6.3%	0%	0%
<b>Sponsorship</b>				
Of School Activities	26.6%	73.4%	0%	0%

Policy prohibiting sponsorship or donations from tobacco interests

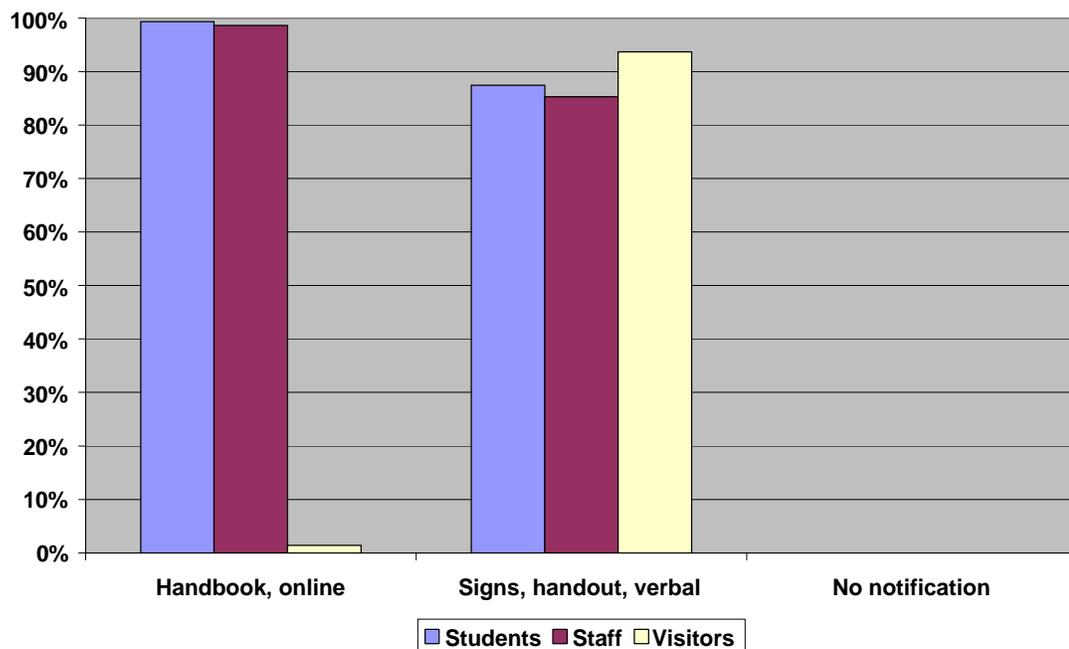


## Policy Awareness

The leading method for getting the word to students (99%) and staff (99%) is by way of handbooks and online materials. Nearly all of the schools deliver materials in one or the other methods. It is possible that they do both.

Signs, handouts and verbal distributions of information are common means for conveyance for students (87%), staff (85%) and visitors (94%). It is no surprise that point of contact is the primary conveyance for visitors. Contact with many of the visitors will be limited other than at events and formal gatherings.

How are students, staff and visitors made aware of tobacco policy?

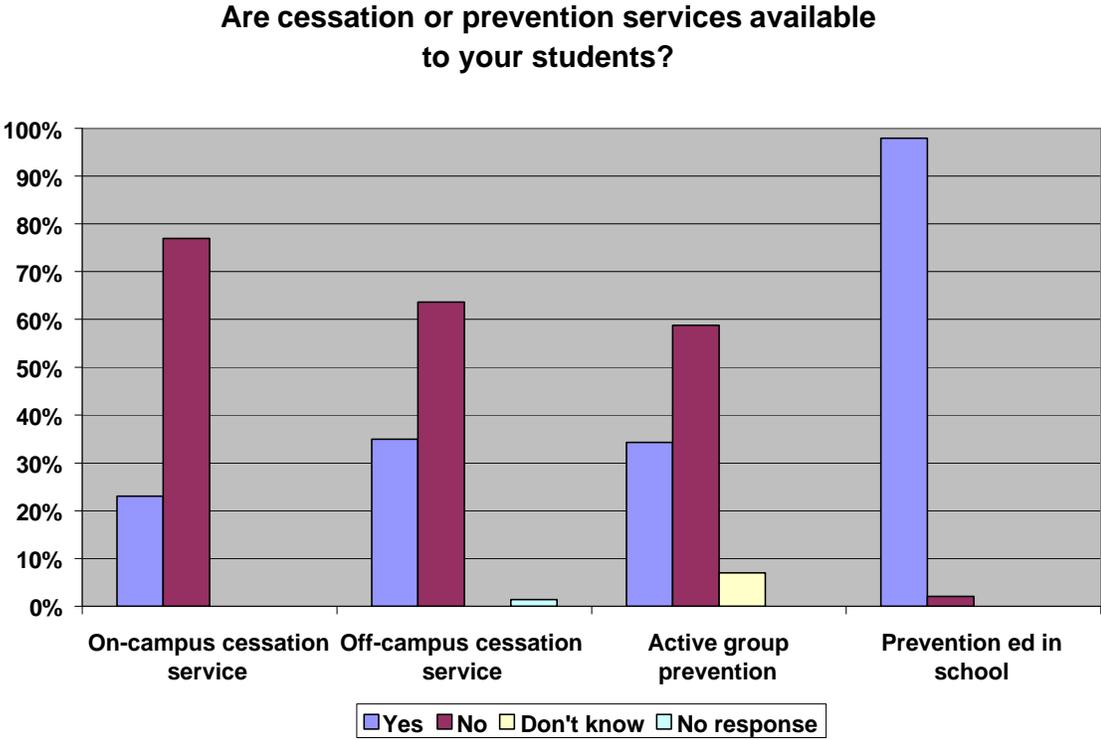


## Cessation and Prevention Services

A series of questions were asked to determine if there are “on-campus” or “off-campus” tobacco use cessation services available to a school’s students. Just under one in four (33 or 23%) of the schools responding indicated that the service was available on-campus. Just over one in three (50 or 35%) of the survey participants said there was an off-campus service available.

When asked if there was an active group or club with tobacco prevention as one of its main goals in their school, about one in three (49 or 34%) indicated that there is such a group.

Tobacco prevention education is the most common effort among the schools. Nearly all of the schools (140 or 98%) indicated that prevention education is offered at their institution.



Schools that have a group or club in their school with a main goal of tobacco prevention were asked to provide the name of the group and the name of a contact person.

1 "FCCLA-Joni Lowe, Cheryl Knutson"	Irene
2 "FCCLA, SADD - Chad Caldwell"	Brookings
3 All Stars- Becky Heath	Colome
4 Bacco Busters-Barb Ohleen	Webster
5 Bacco Busterz-Barb Ohleen (counselor)	Roslyn
6 Darcie Jenson (Prairieview Prevention) 331-5724	Sioux Falls
7 Diana Larson-HS counselor	Madison
8 Erika Kotab (school psychologist)	Wagner
9 FCCLA-Brenda Bak (email)	Fort Pierre
10 FCCLA-Diana Helfrich	Highmore
11 FCCLA-Ellen Hohbach	Plankinton
12 FCCLA-Kathy Olson	Tulare
13 Improv group	Timber Lake
14 Just Say 'No' To Drugs-Perry Holmes	Hot Springs
15 may have a TATU group	Miller
16 Middle School Health Counsel-Connie Vermeulen	Forestburg
17 Natural Helpers-Cherrlyn Fast	Iroquois
18 Natural Helpers-Chris McMeeken	Elk Point
19 Pat Jones	Rapid City
20 Peer Helpers-Natalie Selchert	Gayville
21 SADD-Dr. Dan Morand (guidance)	Ramona
22 SADD Barry Hehn (barry.hehn@aberdeen.k12.sd.us)	Aberdeen
23 TATU- Dawn Wirth	Hurley
24 TATU-Amy Firman	Flandreau
25 TATU-Angela Blaha (guidance counselor)	Tripp
26 TATU-Bruce Olson	Dell Rapids
27 TATU-Coleen Globke	Parkston
28 TATU-Dallas Schnaack	Vermillion
29 TATU-Dawn Rodriguez	Geddes
30 TATU-Dawn Wirth	Viborg
31 TATU-Diane Thaler-South Central Coop	Avon
32 TATU-Jami Woodford (counselor)	Clark
33 TATU-Jody Sweeney (Prairie View Prevention Service	Canton
34 TATU-Julie Mueller	Garretson
35 TATU-Karen Allen (chemical dependency prevention )	Mitchell
36 TATU-Kier Murphy (guidance coueslor)	Hartford
37 TATU-Krissy Leshner (guidance)	Menno
38 TATU-Lauren Lutz	Waubay
39 TATU-Lawrence Oliver-school counselor	Burke
40 TATU-Leah	Pierre
41 TATU-Lori Sombke	Sisseton
42 TATU-Michelle Bartels (jr. high science)	Hamlin
43 TATU-Phil Breed	N. Sioux City
44 TATU-Rob Smits	Scotland
45 TATU-Tonya Derald (Drug and Alcohol Counselor)	Chamberlain
46 TATU-Vicki Leibel	Colman
47 TATU	Lake Andes
48 TATU; Stephanie Duffek (stephanie.duffek@k12.sd.us)	Tyndall
49 Tobacco Coalition-Janelle Wishard	Watertown
50 TORCH-Diane Kludt	Winner
51 TORCH-Ryan Decker	Henry
52 TORCH-Sherri Bruinsma (guidance counselor)	Wessington Springs
53 Youth To Youth-Dennis Karau	New Underwood

Among the options presented, health courses are clearly the most common venue (80%) for prevention education. Please note the graphic that follows. Other venues from which the respondent was asked to choose include TATU (11%), presentations (9%), and life skills curricula (4%). One school indicated FACTS (1%) as their venue for prevention education but it does not appear that “FACTS” was a response option presented to all survey participants.

**If you have tobacco prevention education, which of the following do you have or offer?**

