

# Fact Sheet



Life Education Centres

## Smoking December 2008

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- In 2007, **6% of pupils aged 11 - 15 smoked regularly, lower than at any time since pupils' smoking was first measured in the survey in 1982.**
- **33% have smoked at least once.**
- **Girls were more likely than boys to smoke regularly** (8% compared with 5%).
- **The proportion of regular smokers increased with age:** from 1% of 11 year olds to 15% of 15 year olds.
- **10% of pupils had smoked in the last week** (12% of girls and 8% of boys).
- **Pupils classified as regular smokers smoked an average of 44.1 cigarettes a week, approximately six a day. Occasional smokers smoked an average of 4.3 cigarettes a week.**

Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2007, Elizabeth Fuller (Editor), A survey carried out for the NHS Information Centre by the National Centre for Social Research and the National Foundation for Educational Research, 2008.

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- **Over 80% of smokers start before the age of 19.**
  - **Half of all long-term smokers will die of cancer or other smoking-related diseases.**

Cancer Research UK, 2008.

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- **In the United Kingdom about 450 children start smoking every day.**

ASH Fact Sheet, 2007.

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- **The annual cost to the NHS in England of treating smoking related illness reached £2.7 billion in 2007. This equates to £50 million every week.**

ASH with the National Cancer Research Institute and British Heart Foundation, October 2008.

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