

# Delaware DDATA

## Delaware Drug and Alcohol Tracking Alliance

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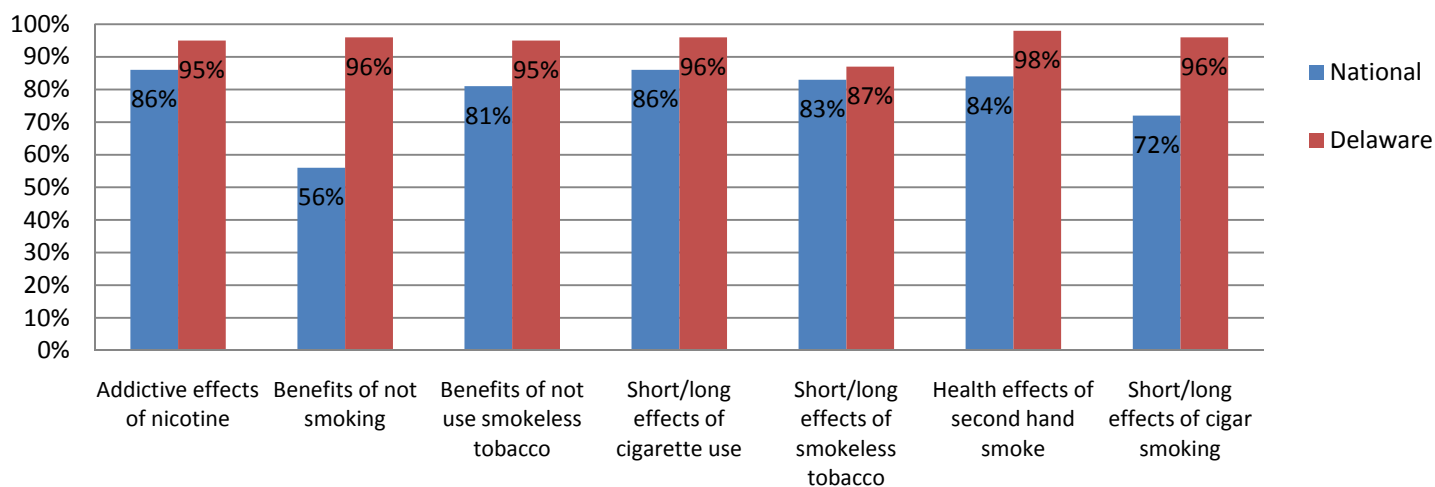
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### ***Tobacco Prevention Education has an Impact on Youth Tobacco Use***

Tobacco use primarily begins in early adolescence with one-third of all smokers having their first cigarette by the age of 14. Early tobacco use produces significant health problems, and if current tobacco use patterns persist, it is estimated that 6.5 million children will die prematurely from a smoking related disease ([www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org)). The 2007 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the 2007 Delaware Youth Risk Behavior Survey both found that 20% of high school students were current smokers (smoked within the past 30 days).

National and state prevention efforts have sought to reduce the number of teen tobacco users. Compared to national averages, Delaware public school health educators in grades 6-12 are more likely to teach about individual topics on tobacco use, but appear to be less comprehensive in tobacco use prevention education. See diagram below.

**Percentage of Schools That Taught Health Outcomes/Risks of Tobacco Use in Required Health Education Course**



**Source: 2006 School Health Education Profile**

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Additional DDATAgrams are available at: [www.udel.edu/delawaredata](http://www.udel.edu/delawaredata)