

Common Characteristics of Young Smokers



The Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education

- ✓ They have more spendable income than teenagers who have never smoked.
- ✓ Have a parent or older sibling who smokes.
- ✓ Associates with other young smokers.
- ✓ Are left home alone or unsupervised for more than ten hours per week.
- ✓ Know more people who use chewing tobacco, sniff, marijuana, cocaine, or other illegal substances, than nonsmokers.
- ✓ Know more people who are sexually active than nonsmokers.
- ✓ Report liking school less than nonsmokers.
- ✓ Perform less well in school than nonsmokers.
- ✓ Perceive what they learn in school as being less useful later on in life than nonsmokers.
- ✓ Absent or frequently cut or ditch school more than nonsmokers.
- ✓ Less likely than nonsmokers to attend religious services.
- ✓ More likely than nonsmokers to:
 - ✓ Feel tired.
 - ✓ Have trouble sleeping.
 - ✓ Feel sad or depressed.
 - ✓ Feel hopeless, tense, anxious or worried.
 - ✓ Engage in risk-taking behaviors.