



Usage of Tobacco Products

A Resolution of the American Association of Health Education (AAHE)

Whereas, it is the responsibility of professionals in health education, physical education, sport, recreation, and dance to promote and protect the health of the people of this nation; and

Whereas, tobacco users have an increased risk of cancer in relation to non-users; and¹

Whereas, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths for both men and women in the United States, and 30% of all cancer deaths and 87% of lung cancer deaths are due to tobacco use; and^{1,2}

Whereas, the use of nicotine typically produces a pattern of tolerance and increased dose usage over time; and

Whereas, there are nicotine-related consequences of smoking such as atherosclerotic disease, hypertension, and bronchitis; and¹

Whereas, secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; and²

Whereas, results from recent studies revealed that 45 million Americans currently smoke tobacco products, with 32% of male high school students and 25% of female high school students, as well as 21% of adults, indicating some form of tobacco use; and¹

Whereas, results from recent studies showed that 14% of U.S. male high school students and 2% of female high school students are users of chewing tobacco, snuff or dip; and¹

Whereas, much of the marketing promotion and usage of tobacco products is directed towards adolescents; therefore, be it resolved that the American Association of Health Education (AAHE) actively will promote the following recommendations:

- Support of schools, worksites, universities and communities in their efforts to develop written policies regarding non-use of tobacco products in schools, worksites, universities, and community places (e.g., restaurants, parks, public facilities);
- Encourage employers and employees of worksites to refrain from tobacco use during work-related functions and non-designated work breaks;
- Encourage all teachers, coaches and administrators in elementary and secondary schools and universities to refrain from tobacco use during school hours and school/university-related activities thereby reducing the impact of nonsmokers' exposure to secondhand smoke and serving as exemplars; and
- Support the efforts of schools, universities, worksites, health agencies and communities in the presentation of tobacco cessation programs for adolescents and adults.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be communicated to the American Association of School Administrators, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association for Elementary School Principals, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Parent Teachers Association, and other relevant organizations in order to encourage support and collaboration in addressing our nation's number one preventable cause of morbidity and mortality.

References

1. American Cancer Society (2007). *Cancer Facts and Figures: 2007*. Atlanta, GA.
2. American Cancer Society (2007). *Tobacco-Related Cancers Fact Sheet*. Retrieved April 26, 2007 from www.cancer.org.

2008

The mission of American Association of Health Education is to advance the profession by serving health educators and others who strive to promote the health of all people through education and other systematic strategies.

Copyright © by the American Association of Health Education • 1900 Association Drive • Reston, Virginia 20191 T/ 703-476-3437 • F/ 703-476-6638 • www.aahperd.org/aahe • All rights reserved.