Smokeless Tobacco

Is smokeless tobacco even an issue for young people?

- About 1 in 20 high school students use smokeless tobacco.
- While use is more common among boys, products such as dissolvables and snus are intended to addict girls.
- Use of smokeless tobacco may lead to cigarette use.

What do they do?

- Blood vessels in gums and cheeks take in nicotine and other toxic and cancer-causing chemicals and deliver it to the brain.

Why do we care?

- Oral, throat, pancreatic cancers, to name a few.
- Tooth loss and gum disease.
- Permanent facial disfigurement, facial paralysis and scars.

Snuff: Finely shredded tobacco is "parked" in the cheek.

Dissolvables: Finely ground tobacco held within a solid chemical shell that melts in saliva.

Chewing tobacco: Larger pieces of dried tobacco that are chewed to release the nicotine.

Snus: Chemically treated tobacco stuffed in a cloth-like pouch and placed against the gum like snuff.

Is smokeless tobacco addictive?

Yes, these products all contain nicotine, which is extremely addictive. Users will develop strong cravings for nicotine and will experience withdrawal symptoms when their nicotine levels drop.

Tobacco Prevention Toolkit
Division of Adolescent Medicine, Stanford University
www.tobaccopreventiontoolkit.stanford.edu
tobprevtoolkit@stanford.edu