## **Smokeless Tobacco**



- 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.



<u>Snuff</u>: Finely shredded tobacco is "parked" in the cheek and gums and releases nicotine when crushed.



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

## Why do we care?

- Using can increase your risk of developing oral, throat, pancreatic cancers, to name a few.
- Tooth loss and gum disease can occur, along with permanent facial disfigurement, facial paralysis and scars.



<u>Chewing Tobacco</u>: Larger pieces of dried tobacco that are chewed to release the nicotine.



<u>Snus</u>: 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.

## Is smokeless tobacco 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.



Tobacco Prevention Toolkit Division of Adolescent Medicine, Stanford University For more information go to: <u>med.stanford.edu/tobaccopreventiontoolkit.html</u>