

Adult Perception of the Importance of Tobacco Use as a Health Problem

Although prevalence of youth and adult smoking in New York declined in the last decade, 113,000 high school students and about 2.7 million adults continue to smoke. Tobacco-related disease kills nearly 25,000 New Yorkers and results in \$8.2 billion in health care costs annually. Similarly, recent focus groups and surveys suggest that large portions of the public do not believe that youth smoking is a major problem.

- In 2011, 40% of New Yorkers said that tobacco use is “among the most important” health problems facing their communities.
- There has been no change in New Yorkers’ perceptions of the importance of tobacco use as a health problem between 2005 and 2011.
- Relative to the United States as a whole, New Yorkers are more likely to believe tobacco use is among the most important health problems in their communities.

Percentage of Adults Who Believe That Tobacco Use Is Among the Most Important Health Problems in Their Community

