

Who Smokes?

Directions: Read the story, then answer the questions. Write your answer in the space provided, calculate the answer, or circle the letter next to the correct answer.

Slightly more men than women smoke overall, and in all categories, African American, White, Asian American, and Indian American, more men smoke than women do. Since the Surgeon General's first warnings in 1965 about the health risks of smoking, adult cigarette use has declined from 42% to 25%. Research shows that very few people begin smoking after they are adults. This means that the great majority of tobacco users began the habit before they were 18. In fact, nearly 1 million teens and pre-teens begin smoking each year. This is nearly 3,000 new adolescent smokers per day! Most of tomorrow's adult smokers will come from today's teenage smokers. If the image of tobacco use has changed to be health-related, why are teens choosing to smoke? The answer is that for some teens the image of tobacco use is still one of "coolness". By the time they become adults and realize that smoking is not cool, it is most often too late --- they are addicted to the habit and will now become members of the group at greater risk for heart disease, cancer, hearing loss, and early death. Remember, while there are 3,000 kids starting to use tobacco each day, there are over 60,000 kids choosing not to.

Using the statistics above, calculate the following:

1. How many teens and preteens begin smoking each hour?
2. What has been the percentage decline in adult smokers since 1965?
3. If smoking rates for teens and preteens steadily declined 20% per year, how many teens **who would have otherwise** smoked not start smoking in a two-year period?
4. Make a graph illustrating one of the statistics detailed above.

FCAT Writing

Select a segment of the population (teens, toddlers, senior citizens, Asian-Americans, etc.) you feel needs education about smoking issues. Now describe why you selected this group and how you might design a tobacco educational program for them.