Youth and Tobacco

- 7% of Portage County youth in grades 6-12 were smokers, increasing to 16% of those ages 17 and older. 27% of youth vaped e-cigarettes.

Source: 2019 Portage County Community Health Assessment

E-cigarette use among youth rising

Tobacco product use among US youth has grown. More than 1 in 4 high school students and about 1 in 14 middle school students in 2018 had used a tobacco product. This was a considerable increase from 2017, which was driven by an increase in e-cigarette use. E-cigarette use increased from 11.7% to 20.8% among high school students and from 3.3% to 4.9% among middle school students from 2017 to 2018. No change was found in the use of other tobacco products, including cigarettes, during this time.

Want to learn more? Source: www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/youth-tobacco-use/

PROBLEM

Most Tobacco Use Begins in Adolescence:

- Youth nicotine use can lead to addiction and impact learning, memory and attentiveness by harming brain development.

- Tobacco products contain harmful chemicals including nicotine; about 70 could cause cancer.

- Flavored e-cigarettes have become the most commonly used tobacco product among youths; highest for middle school boys and high school students.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Everyone can:

- Parents and educators can set a positive example by not using tobacco products: www.smokefree.gov

- Learn about the different types of risks of using tobacco products to young people, including e-cigarettes: www.e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov