

Kittitas County Tobacco Prevention & Control Program

- YOUTH PREVENTION -

Total Kittitas County Youth Reached: 3,341

Total TATU Teens Trained in Washington State: 14,517

Total Youth Reached in Washington State: 285,163

“Teens Against Tobacco Use is a peer education program that trains thousands of Washington teens each year to share the tobacco-free message with younger students. The program also helps teens build leadership skills and become advocates for tobacco free communities.”

Jacqueline Diaz | Tobacco Control Coordinator Serving Central Washington, American Lung Association

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WHAT ARE TATU TEENS SAYING ABOUT SMOKING?

Since the implementation of the state's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, youth cigarette smoking decreased dramatically from 1999 to 2004. **However, since 2004, reductions in youth cigarette smoking have stalled.**

According to some TATU teen teachers, here are some possible reasons why:

"I think that they have become more aware of the dangers of tobacco."

"They get influenced by their friends or it just has become an addiction."

"People already heard of those old ideas and need something free and new to learn about."

"Peer pressure. Teens want to fit in and will sometimes do anything it takes to do so."

"It's the average of kids that don't care what they do to their body or these are the kids that smoke because their parents smoke."

"With more teens today some will quit but then other teens start smoking as they quit so the number doesn't change."

"With new products that appeal to teens its more tempting to buy those and then to smoke. The ability to quit is tough so they just keep doing it."

"Because of the different influences like the media. You see many movies and t.v. shows that show the use of tobacco and many younger generations are highly influenced by what they see."

"People may have been influenced by someone or the teens don't understand the risks they are taking."



T.A.T.U. FUNDING...

In the past, TATU advisors received a \$600 dollar stipend from funding through the local educational service district. With funding cuts coming from the state level, TATU advisors are no longer compensated. Kittitas County is lucky to have several advisors who fill the advisory role anyway. Although, how will the program be sustained after 2011 when tobacco funding is virtually gone?



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following schools, advisors, and locations for assisting with the Kittitas County Teens Against Tobacco Use program:

Easton High School
 Brian Todd
Cle Elum Roslyn High School
 Jan Bender
Morgan Middle School
 Jean Countryman
Ellensburg High School
 Sam Nelson
Kittitas High School
 Lance Hyatt



Important T.A.T.U. Messages



For additional copies of this newsletter or for more information on the Kittitas County Tobacco Prevention and Control Program contact Kasey Knutson at (509) 962-7515.

We're on the web at <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/tobacco/>

Quitline.com

Washington State Department of Health

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