

Youth and Tobacco

According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, more than 3 million kids age 12 – 17 are current smokers. The high number is alarming for many, but Kane County Health Department is doing many things to help solve this epidemic. Some of the things we are doing include:

- Current research by the Teen Research Institute and other researcher states that one of the most effective ways to reduce teen tobacco use is to build an understanding of the deceptive practices of the tobacco industry. So, the Kane County Health Department offers a program for middle school and high school age groups that focuses on Big Tobacco's manipulation to the teenager.
- Research also shows that many teens under 18 buy tobacco products from retailers that sell tobacco (even though the sale of tobacco to a minor is illegal in the state of Illinois).
- Many educators believe in peer to peer education, so, the Kane County Health Department is working in schools. Some 8th graders have been trained to teach the 6th graders about tobacco.
- Kick Butts Day is celebrated each year. (Website: kickbuttsday.org) Area schools are asked to participate in activities that promoted a free from tobacco image.



Tobacco Program 630/264-7674