

The Prevalence of Smoking and Attitudes towards Tobacco Use among Minors in the Czech Republic



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SUMMARY: *Attitudes and beliefs concerning tobacco and the prevalence of smoking among minors are crucial factors for the development of tobacco use in adulthood. Smoking among minors in the Czech Republic is monitored by several international studies. These studies show that more than 20% of adolescents aged 13–16 smoke regularly and 25% of adolescents aged 16 smoke daily. The data from these studies further show that children are influenced not only by parental smoking but also by tobacco advertising. Despite the ban on the sale of tobacco to minors (below the age of 18), 68% of adolescents who smoke reported having bought their cigarettes in a shop. The studies also suggest that children are not protected from second-hand smoking in public places. In summary, it has been shown that the effectiveness of the efforts to protect children from tobacco is very low.*

KEY WORDS: SMOKING PREVALENCE – TOBACCO – ADOLESCENTS – PRIMARY PREVENTION – EPIDEMIOLOGY

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