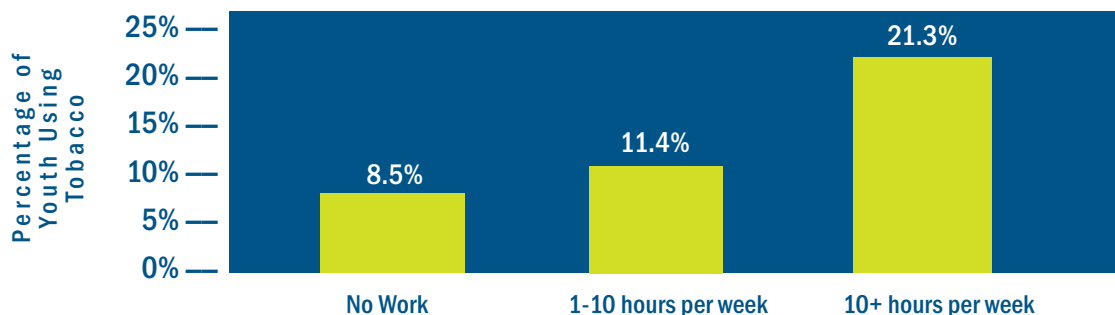




## Youth With High-Intensity Jobs More Likely to Use Tobacco

According to a new report in the *American Journal of Public Health*, youth who work longer hours are more likely to use tobacco than their peers. Researchers used survey data collected from a group of 400 students in Baltimore, Maryland, between 1993 and 2004. The study began following students in first grade and followed them through eleventh grade, at which point they were between the ages of 14 and 18. Results indicate that students working high-intensity jobs (i.e., more than 10 hours per week) were almost three times as likely to report current<sup>1</sup> tobacco use compared to non-working students (21.3% vs. 8.5%). The correlation between working and tobacco use was not as strong for students working moderate-intensity jobs (i.e., one to 10 hours per week). Additionally, results indicate that moderate-intensity workers began using tobacco later than both non-workers and high-intensity workers, suggesting that moderate-intensity work may offer some level of protection against tobacco use.

Percentage of Youth Who Currently Used Tobacco at 10-Year Follow-Up, by Work Status, 1993-2004



**Source:** Ramchand, R., Jalongo, N. S., and Chilcoat, H. D. (2007). The effect of working for pay on adolescent tobacco use. *American Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 97, No. 11, November 2007.

<sup>1</sup> Current use is defined as use within the past 30 days.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at [www.centerforhealthandjustice.org](http://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org).

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