



NEWS

Home page
 City & Region
 Regional
 Westmoreland
 Fayette
 State
 Lottery
 Election
 Nation
 World
 Most Read Articles
 Education
 Lottery
 North Suburbs
 East Suburbs
 South/West Suburbs
 Science News
 Road Work
 Police & Courts
 Middle East Reports
 Photo Galleries
 All Stories

SPORTS

BUSINESS

OPINION & COMMENTARY

LIVING

FOCUS

OBITUARIES

STAFF BLOGS

ABOUT US

Help Desk
 Mobile Edition
 Contact Us
 Frank L. Craig,
 Editor
 Robert Fryer,
 Managing Editor
 Steve Adams,
 Multimedia Editor
 Newspapers in
 Education
 Outstanding Young
 Citizen Awards

PITTSBURGH
TRIBUNE-REVIEW
[Back to headlines](#)
[TTT Larger text](#) [TTT Smaller text](#)

Students hooked on hookahs

By Allison M. Heinrichs

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Thursday, September 4, 2008



More than two in five college students have smoked tobacco from a waterpipe, or hookah, and researchers are concerned because a third of those students otherwise would have been tobacco-free, according to a University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine study.

"Over one-third of those who used waterpipes to smoke tobacco over the past year had never smoked a cigarette," Dr. Brian Primack, assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics at Pitt and lead author of the Annals of Behavioral Medicine research article, said in a news release today.

"Clearly young people believe hookah smoking is somehow different than smoking cigarettes, but waterpipe smoke has many of the same chemicals as cigarette smoke and likely poses many of the same health risks.

A waterpipe is used to inhale tobacco that is usually flavored and sweetened. According to the researchers, more than 200 waterpipe cafes have opened in the United States over the past decade.

Researchers received survey responses from 647 undergraduate and graduate students at a large U.S. university, which they did not identify. Just over 40 percent said they had smoked tobacco from a waterpipe, slightly higher than the 39.6 percent who said they had smoked cigarettes.

"Waterpipe smoking may become even more popular in the near future since many of the new smoke-free ordinances being passed by local governments exempt waterpipe cafes," Primack said. "Waterpipe smoking is going to be a crucial public-health issue that will require increased surveillance and study."

Pennsylvania's smoking ban goes into effect Sept. 11 and exempts waterpipe cafes that file for and are granted an exception because the majority of their sales are tobacco-related.

Allison M. Heinrichs can be reached at ahenrichs@tribweb.com or 412-380-5607.

[Back to headlines](#)

Today's Most-Read Articles

1. Steelers' Sweed bidding his time
2. Pens forward keeps 'em loose
3. Druckenmiller yanks \$800 million bid
4. Therrien felled during practice

Today's Most-Sent Articles

1. Parkways may be jammed as Bucs, Panthers, Skynyrd play
2. Ex-Trib president had delightful sense of style

Pgh Science Newsletter



Weekly wrap-up of local stories about health, the environment and science that affect you and your family

[Sign up to this newsletter](#)

Top News

- Druckenmiller yanks bid
 - Dead man's car found
 - Wall Street gives \$50M
- [Read All Local News](#)

Top Living

- Humane Society benefit
 - LaBute's thriller
 - Review: 'Ghost Town'
- [Read All Local Living](#)

Top Sports

- Colorado beats WVU
 - Sweed bides time
 - Max keeps Pens loose
- [Read All Local Sports](#)

[All Multimedia](#) | [Penguins](#)
[Steelers](#) | [Pirates](#)

Tools

- [Print this article](#)
[E-mail this article](#)
[Subscribe to this paper](#)
 TTT [Larger text](#) | [Smaller text](#)



5. [Dead Ligonier man's car found](#)

3. [Franklin Regional dominates Plum](#)

4. [Penn Township man accused of sending child porn](#)

5. [Jeannette conference seeks answers on Bigfoot](#)

Reproduction or reuse prohibited without written consent from Tribune-Review Publishing Co.

C