

Research Brief: Association between Achievement and Smoking

This brief examines the relationship between self-reported smoking, and achievement, based on the 2009/10 Satisfaction Survey. It finds a significant negative relationship – on average, students who report that they do not smoke at all also report significantly higher levels of academic achievement than those who report that they smoke daily.

Analysis was based on positive responses (i.e. those who responded “all of the time” or “many times”). All results are based on responses from about 110,000 students in Grades 3, 4, 7, 10 and 12 who answered both questions being compared.

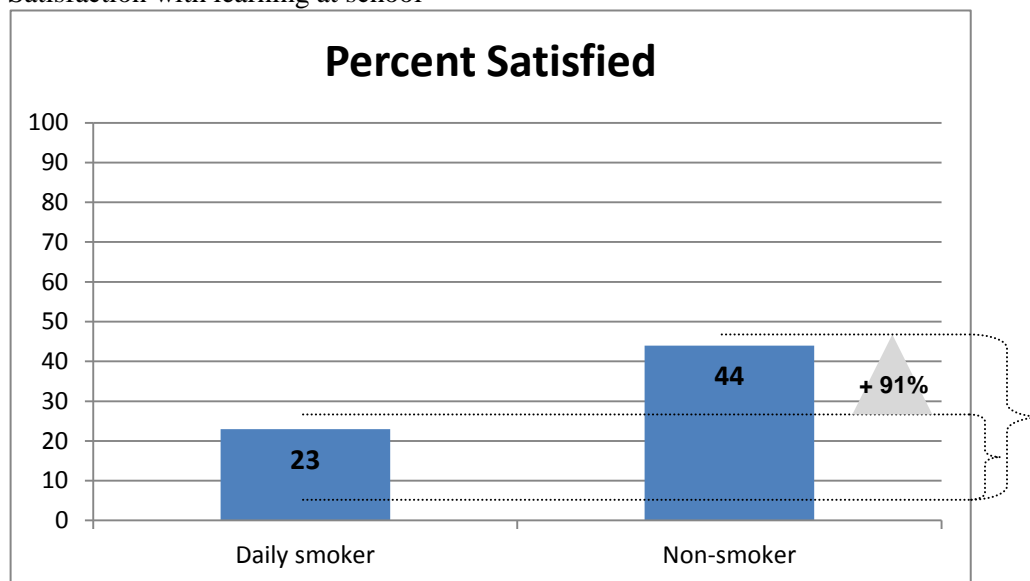
Of those students who reported not having smoked:

- 44 per cent reported being satisfied with what they were learning at school compared to 23 per cent of those who reported that they smoked every day.

Students who did not smoke were almost twice as likely to report satisfaction with their learning (see table below).

- 58 per cent reported improvement in their reading development at school compared to 39 per cent of those who reported that they smoked every day.
- 60 per cent reported improvement in their writing development at school compared to 41 per cent of those who reported that they smoked every day.
- 57 per cent reported improvement in their mathematics development at school compared to 33 per cent of those who reported that they smoked every day.

Satisfaction with learning at school



Specific question wording and other details about the Satisfaction Survey can be found on the web at:
http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/welcome.htm