

Tar Wars[®] Evaluation Fact Sheet 1999-2000 Academic Year

Data were collected during the 1999-2000 academic year from 533 schools in 34 states and Guam. A total of 21,720 students responded, with an average of five days between the pre-test/classroom presentation and the administration of the post-test.

- Results indicate a 93 percent satisfaction rate with the program.
- Of the 10 knowledge-based questions, the correct response was reported by more than 90 percent of respondents on eight of these items. The remaining two questions were answered correctly at 86 percent and 83 percent, respectively.
- 71 percent of the fourth- and fifth-grade students polled correctly identified the percentage of tobacco-free youth at their same age to be about 95 percent.
- 92 percent of the youth polled responded that they would NOT use tobacco in the next year.
- Based on self-reporting, 1.1 percent of the fifth-grade students polled identified themselves as current tobacco users, compared to 2.3 percent on the 1998-99 evaluation.
- Youth from households where a tobacco user resides are four times as likely to be current tobacco users than youth from nontobacco-using households.

Two studies from New York State also support a positive, short-term change in knowledge concerning tobacco use. One of these studies has been published in the October 2000 issue of the *Journal of School Nursing* (Vol. 16, Issue No. 4), and the other is currently being analyzed for manuscript preparation. The published study describes a qualitative, cross-sectional evaluation of the Tar Wars program among fifth-grade students (n=888), along with impressions from classroom teachers and program presenters.

Results from this comprehensive evaluation reveal that all constituencies involved with the Tar Wars program indicated high satisfaction with this youth tobacco education program. Students indicated understanding of the key themes, classroom teachers felt the program was worthwhile in presenting unique information, and presenters were enthusiastic about the ease of presentation and opportunities for future presentations.

Should you have any questions regarding the Tar Wars evaluation efforts, please feel free to contact the Tar Wars program at (800) TAR-WARS or via e-mail at tarwars@aafp.org.