

9.0: SMOKING AND HEALTH CONCERNS:

In response to a general question on whether the students saw smoking as dangerous to their health, the overwhelming response was a definite "Yes". Here, 83% of students believed that smoking was dangerous to their health, while a further 9% believed that it was probably dangerous to their health. More specifically, 55% believed that smoking would make them lose weight, while 40% felt that it would have a neutral impact on their weight. This section is somewhat curious since this year there was less smoking, however in 1999, 90% of students indicated that that smoking was dangerous to their health. There was also a similar pattern relating to the harmful effect of other people's smoke. Cumulatively 84% of students in 2002 felt that other people's smoke was harmful to them, while 88% of students felt this way in 1999. Among those thinking that other people's smoke was harmful in 2002, 16% were somewhat less certain of the effect of second-hand smoke.