

Top Facts: Beedies and Clove Cigarettes

Beedies vs. Cloves

- Beedies, also formally known as bidis, are unfiltered cigarettes, wrapped in leaves from tendu or temburni Asian plants. Flavoring, such as chocolate, cherry, berry, and mango, are added to the tobacco.¹
- Cloves, also known as kreteks, are imported from Indonesia. They are made of 2/3 tobacco and 1/3 cloves mixed together. Clove oil and other additives are also included.²
 - The clove oil gives the cigarette its distinct smell.
 - Cloves can be filtered or unfiltered.

Beedies and Cloves Pose the Same Health Risks as Other Cigarettes

- Beedies contain three times the amount of nicotine and more than five times the amount of tar as American cigarette brands.¹
- Cloves contain two to three times the amount of nicotine and tar as American cigarettes brands.³
- Because both beedies and cloves contain nicotine, both are as addictive as other types of cigarettes.
- Beedie smokers are at risk for cancers such as cancers of the throat, larynx (voice), lung, stomach, and liver.¹
- Clove cigarettes can raise the risk of lung and respiratory infections and asthma attacks.¹

Why Might Youth and Young Adults Want to Use Beedies or Cloves?

It is possible the tobacco companies found a new way to addict youth. Take a look at how beedies are marketed, and decide for yourself who might be attracted to them:

- The packages are brightly colored.
- They smell like candy.
- The flavors are attractive to youth and those new to smoking – berry, strawberry and chocolate.
- They are marketed with drawings similar to the cartoon character Joe Camel that was banned in 1998. Note: Using cartoon characters in cigarette marketing is illegal, using drawings is not.⁴

Are Youth and Young Adults Using Beedies and Cloves?

- Just over 2% of middle and high school students use beedies and cloves, mostly males.¹
- Tracking young adult use of beedies or cloves is not conducted on a regular basis. According to a college survey of six campuses across the U.S., only 7.4% reported smoking beedies or cloves in 2004.⁵
- A major concern is that there may be a misperception among the young adult population that beedies and cloves are safe alternatives to cigarettes.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2004, July). Bidis and kreteks fact sheet. Retrieved August 23, 2006, from the World Wide Web at www.cdc.gov/tobacco/factsheets/bidisandkretteks.htm

² Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). (2002, February 23). New tobacco threat: flavored cigarettes. Retrieved August 23, 2006, from the World Wide Web at <http://www.no-smoking.org/feb02/02-05-02-1.html>

³ Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Candy flavored cigarettes gain popularity. Retrieved July 1, 2005, from the World Wide Web at <http://gdcada.org/stories/bidi.htm>

⁴ USA Today. (2005, January 5). Flavored cigarettes, colorful wrappers ignite ire. Retrieved August 23, 2006, from the World Wide Web at http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2005-01-05-smokes-usat_x.htm

⁵ The BACCHUS Network. (2004). Unpublished data. Tobacco Use and Attitude Survey.