



Tobacco 21

"Raising the legal minimum age for cigarette purchaser to 21 could gut our key young adult market (17-20) ..."

– Philip Morris report, January 21, 1986





Tobacco remains the #1 cause of preventable death

1 of 3 cancer deaths directly caused by smoking

In Vermont in 2019 ...

- Spend \$348 MILLION on smoking related medical expenses
- Smoking will **kill** 1,000 Vermonters
- 200 children will become daily smokers
- 3,100 kids currently smoke
- 1 out of 4 kids now use some tobacco product

We know: 95% of smokers start before their 21st birthday

CRITICAL AGE 18-21 transition from experimental smokers to daily smokers





Let's join other states that have made tobacco prevention a priority

WHERE HAS T21 PASSED?

440+ LOCALITIES

New York City
Boston
Washington D.C.
Chicago
Cleveland
Minneapolis
Kansas Cities (2)

FULLY PASSED

Virginia
California
New Jersey
Massachusetts
Maine
Oregon
Hawaii
Arkansas
Utah

PASSED LEGISLATURE

New York
Washington
Maryland
Illinois

*awaiting Governor's signature

BALLOT ITEMS

Burlington
South Burlington



Tobacco 21 and our neighbors...

STATEWIDE

*New York
Massachusetts
Maine

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Keene
Dover



CONNECTICUT

Bridgeport
Hartford
South Windsor

RHODE ISLAND

Barrington
Central Falls

*pending Governor's signature



Governor Scott Budget Address - 2019

“...Today, I’d like to address another threat to public health. Between 2017 and 2018, 1.5 million more kids began using e-cigarettes and vape products across the nation. This is the biggest one-year spike of any substance in nearly 50 years. Right here in Vermont, use among young people nearly doubled. And the Surgeon General has declared this an epidemic. After all the progress made to lower nicotine addiction, this is not only concerning—it’s frustrating. I think you all know it’s not my first instinct to add a tax, but with a growing health risk for our kids, I’m proposing to levy the same tax as we do on tobacco products. Let’s learn from the past, let’s not make the same mistakes with e-cigarettes or anything else. Our kids must know the dangers of these behaviors, and we should stop it in its tracks...”

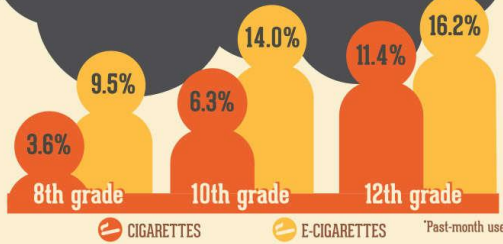


Teens, e-cigs and the link to tobacco

[National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)

Teens and E-cigarettes

TEENS ARE MORE LIKELY TO USE E-CIGARETTES THAN CIGARETTES.^{*1}



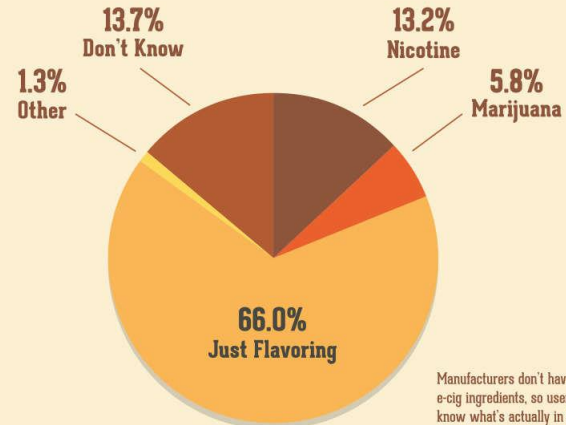
TEEN E-CIG USERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO START SMOKING.^{*2}

Start Smoking Within 6 Months



*Includes combustible tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, and hookahs)

WHAT DO TEENS SAY IS IN THEIR E-CIG?^{*3}

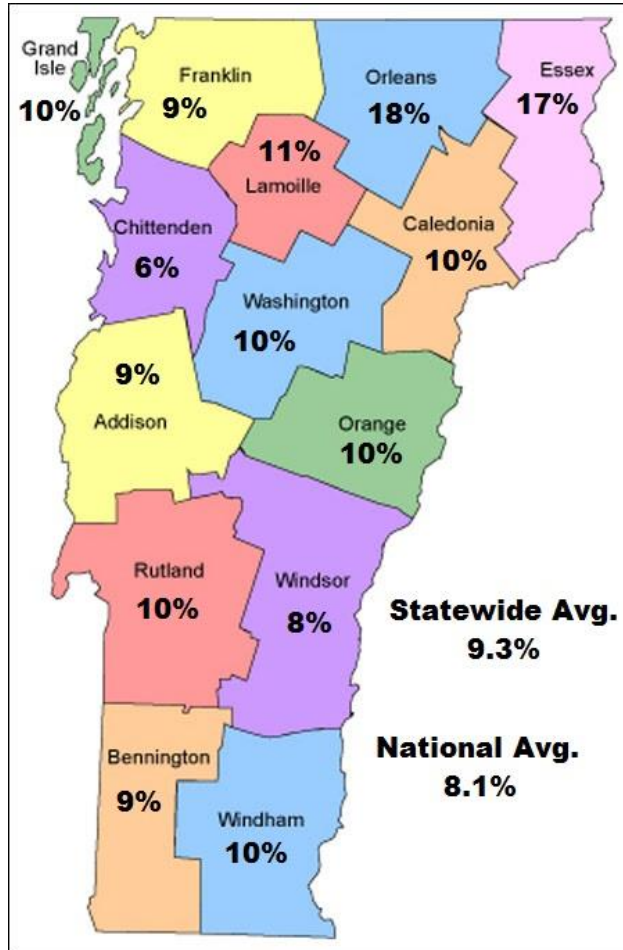


Ultimately, this is about **tobacco...**

Latest CDC [report](#) shows:

- Tobacco use by U.S. high school students increased by 38% between 2017-2018.
 - CDC blames exploding youth e-cigarette use.
- E-cigarettes are the most commonly used product in combination with other tobacco products.
- Cigarette smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals, including about 70 that cause cancer.

Vermont Youth Smoking Rates



Over the past decade there has been a 50% decrease in the percent of students who smoked cigarettes.

18% (2007) vs. 9% (2017)

BUT Vermont's youth smoking rates remain higher than the national average; some VT counties are **double** the national average.



Don't let progress be erased

“The skyrocketing growth of young people’s e-cigarette use over the past year threatens to erase progress made in reducing youth tobacco use. It’s putting a new generation at risk for nicotine addiction. Despite this troubling trend, we know what works and we must continue to use proven strategies to protect America’s youth from this preventable health risk. Youth use of any tobacco product, including e-cigarettes, is unsafe.”

Robert Redfield, M.D., CDC Director





Please support S.86

- Restricting youth and young adult access to tobacco products can be a critical component to a comprehensive strategy to reduce initiation and a lifelong addiction.
- Laws aimed to restrict youth commercial access to tobacco products are only effective when combined with interventions to educate retailers, mobilize the community, and actively enforce the laws.
- Laws prohibiting sales to minors have historically not been effective stand-alone measures. Compliance with the law should be the responsibility of the retailer, and penalties for violations should not fall on the youth attempting to purchase tobacco.
- For those adolescents who do smoke, what they need most is access to evidence-based cessation resources, not fines.

