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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

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Tobacco remains the #1 cause of preventable death

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

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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)

STATES

Virginia
California
New Jersey
Massachusetts
Maine
Oregon
Hawaii

BALLOT ITEMS

Burlington
South Burlington

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Tobacco 21 and our neighbors…

NEW YORK

25 Counties

INCLUDING:

ESSEX COUNTY

ALBANY COUNTY

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Keene

Dover

STATEWIDE

Massachusetts

Maine

CONNECTICUT

Bridgeport

Hartford

South Windsor

RHODE ISLAND

Barrington

Central Falls

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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…"

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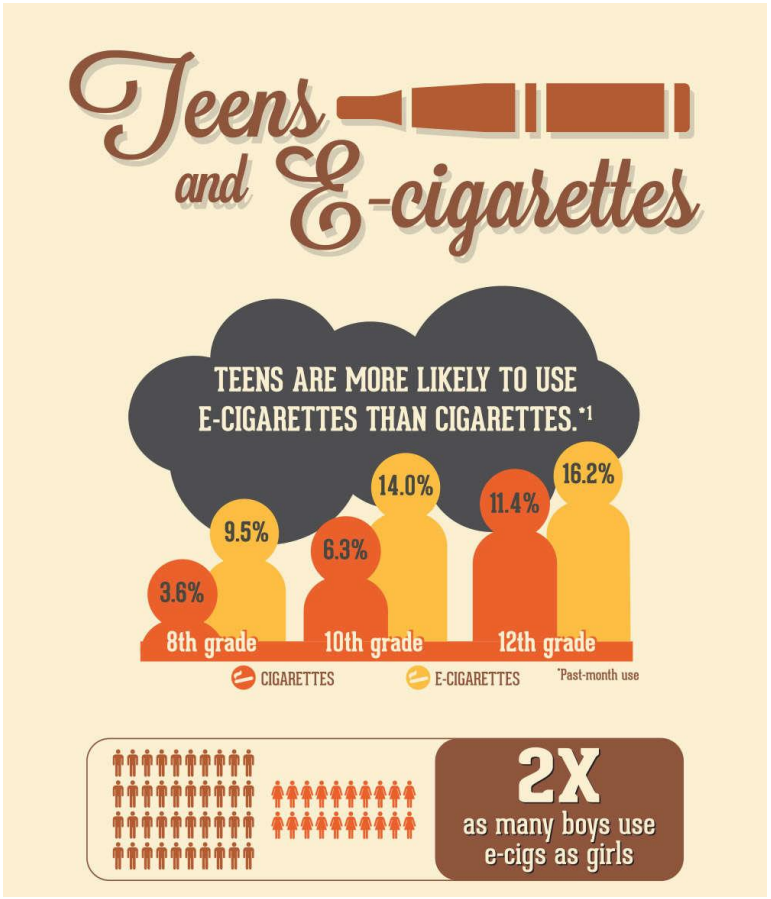
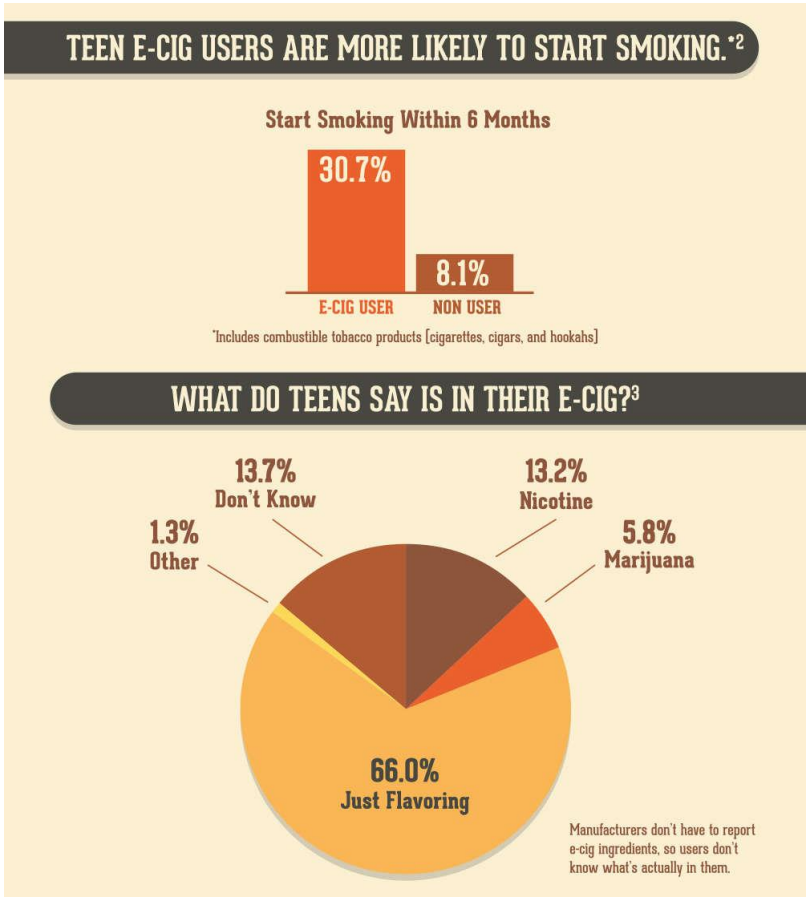
Teens and e-cigarettes…

National Institute on Drug Abuse





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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.

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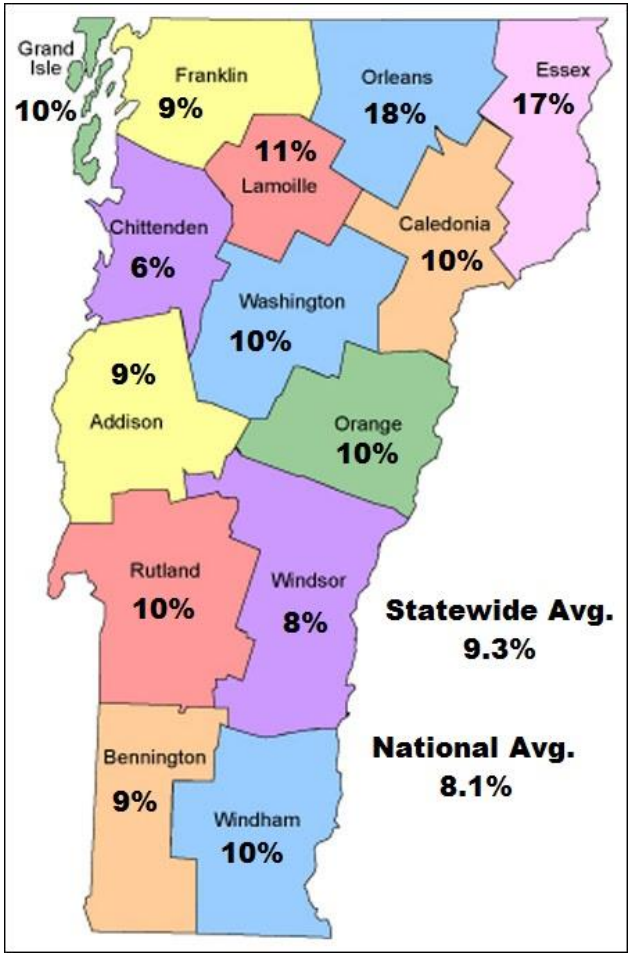
Vermont Youth Smoking Rates



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

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

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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

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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.
- 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.

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