



THE TOLL OF TOBACCO IN TEXAS

Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable disease and premature death in Texas.

Over 3 million Texas adults smoke cigarettes¹, and most smokers (95 percent) took their first puff well before age 21.² Youth tobacco use increases risk of nicotine addiction, and continued use through adulthood causes lung cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, and early death.³

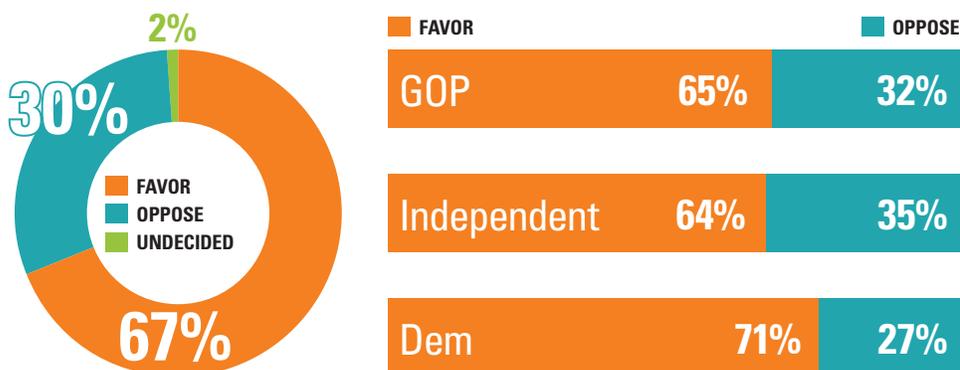
TEXAS YOUTH USE TOBACCO

New electronic vapor products such as JUULs, e-cigarettes, and vape pens — with sweet, candy-like flavors — continue to entice youth.

41% of high school students have tried vapor products⁴ | **30%** of high school students have tried cigarettes⁴

Approximately 10,400 youth in Texas under the age of 18 become new smokers annually. Prevention strategies, such as raising the minimum legal age for purchasing tobacco products to 21, will help prevent or delay youth tobacco use by lowering the likelihood of youth being in the same social networks as those who can legally purchase tobacco.⁵ Nearly 70 percent of voters favor raising the minimum legal age to 21,⁶ and 68 percent want increased funding for tobacco prevention programs in Texas.³

TEXANS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT RAISING THE TOBACCO AGE TO 21



28,000

TEXANS DIE EACH YEAR BECAUSE OF TOBACCO²

SMOKING COSTS TEXANS

\$8.8 BILLION

in annual direct health care costs²

\$8.2 BILLION

in annual productivity losses²

THE TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION RECOMMENDS:

1. **Support SB 21, and support and sign on as coauthor to HB 749 to raise the age of sale for tobacco products to 21**, including all electronic smoking devices and future tobacco-related products.
2. **Restore Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) tobacco-use prevention funding to 2016-17 levels**, \$16.4 million in state funds for the biennium.
3. **Support and sign on as coauthor to HJR 12 and HB 39, and support HB 438** to sustain the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.
4. **Eliminate the budget rider prohibiting DSHS from using paid media** to combat tobacco industry marketing.



The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

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MEMBERS

Alzheimer's Association
American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
Children's Hospital Association of Texas
The Cooper Institute
Harris County Public Health
The Immunization Partnership
March of Dimes
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Texas Academy of Physician Assistants
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Texas eHealth Alliance
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Medical Association
Texas Nurses Association
Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Texas Public Health Association
Texas Renal Coalition
Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

REFERENCES

- 1 America's Health Rankings, 2018. <https://www.americashealthrankings.org>
- 2 Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, The Toll of Tobacco in Texas, Oct. 17, 2018, <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/texas>
- 3 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; 2014.
- 4 Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), YRBS Data Brief: Tobacco Products, November 2018, <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/yrbs/attachments/November-2018-Data-Brief.pdf>
- 5 Institute of Medicine (IOM), Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products, 2015, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
- 6 ACS CAN Texas Cancer Poll, conducted by Public Opinion Strategies, Dec. 10-13, 2016