

# Tobacco 21 in South Dakota

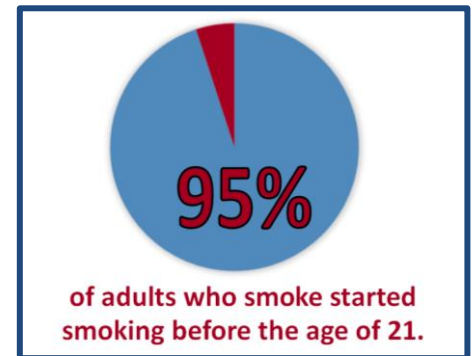


The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) supports raising the minimum age for sale of all tobacco products to age 21, or Tobacco 21, as part of its comprehensive strategy to prevent youth from starting to use tobacco.

## Protecting South Dakota Youth from Tobacco

Over 30 percent of South Dakota high school students currently use some form of tobacco including:<sup>i</sup>

- 10.1 percent currently smoke cigarettes
- 11.7 percent currently use smokeless tobacco
- 9.6 percent currently smoke cigars
- 17.3 percent currently use electronic smoking devices



Nationally 95% of adults who smoke start before they turn 21.<sup>ii</sup>

Adolescents and young adults are a critical population to target with evidenced-based, tobacco control strategies. This time period is when the brain is fully developing, including the parts responsible for decision making, impulse control, sensation seeking, and susceptibility to peer pressure.<sup>iii</sup>

## Impact of Tobacco 21

Tobacco 21 is predicted to reduce smoking prevalence by about 12 percent and smoking-related deaths by nearly 10 percent for future generations.<sup>iv</sup> Additionally, Tobacco 21 for all tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, is predicted to prevent tobacco use, reduce suffering and death from tobacco-related diseases and save lives among the next generation of Americans.

Tobacco 21 would be a significant step to prevent South Dakota youth from starting to use tobacco.

## Support for Tobacco 21

Nationwide, three out of four adults favor tobacco 21, including seven out of ten adults who smoke.<sup>v</sup>

As of January 2018, five states and at least 280 localities have already passed laws to raise the minimum age of sale of tobacco products to 21. It's time for South Dakota to join them.



<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2015.

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2014. ICPSR36361-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2016-03-22.

<sup>iii</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prevention Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.

<sup>iv</sup> Institute of Medicine. *Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products*, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2015.

<sup>v</sup> King, B.A., Jama, A.O., Marynak, K.L., and Promoff, G.R. "Attitudes Toward Raising the Minimum Age of Sale for Tobacco Among U.S. Adults." *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*. October 2015. 49:4. pages 583-588.