




Initiative to Save Lives of Present and Future Generations by Raising Tobacco Sale Age to 21

Tobacco use is started and established during adolescence; nearly 90% of cigarette smokers first try smoking before the age of 18. Raising the minimum legal age of sale (MLA) to 21 will **reduce tobacco use initiation by an estimated 25% in youth ages 15-17**, according to the National Academy of Medicine.



Reducing & Preventing Youth Tobacco Use

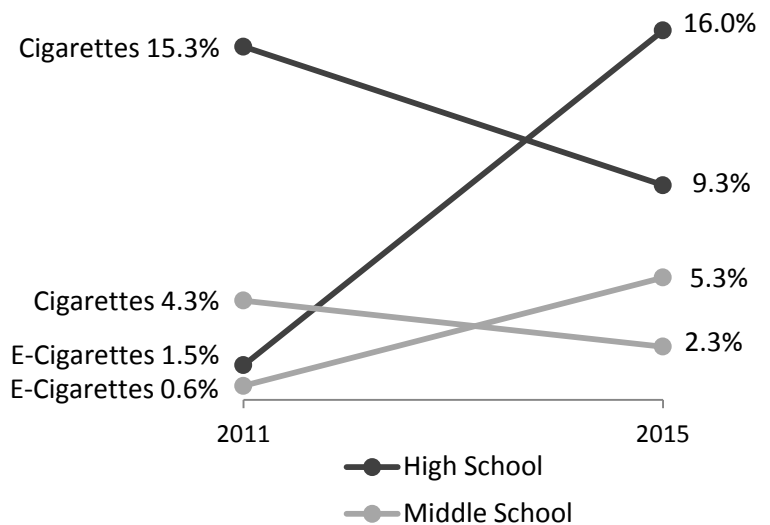
Program activities at the national, state, and local level have been shown to reduce and prevent youth tobacco use when implemented together:

-  Higher costs for tobacco products (e.g., increased taxes)
-  Anti-tobacco media messages targeted toward youth
-  Community policies & interventions supporting tobacco-free environments

12.9%
of PA high school students
smoke, and 6,700 kids
under 18 become new daily
smokers each year.

244,000
kids under 18 in PA will
ultimately die prematurely
from smoking if current rates
don't change.

Although there has been a decrease in cigarette use, youth are increasingly using alternative tobacco products nationwide.



 **RECOMMENDATION: Implement Tobacco 21 policy, focus on improving regulation of alternative tobacco products, and support tobacco cessation and prevention programs targeting youth.**

Sources:
CDC, Youth and Tobacco Use.
Center for Tobacco Free Kids, Pennsylvania
Tobacco Control in PA, 2017
Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, 2015

