



Why raise the age?

Nicotine is addictive

Nicotine is highly addictive, and adolescents are more susceptible to its effects because they are still going through critical periods of growth and development.

Most smokers start before age 21

- Nationally, 18-20 year olds are twice as likely as 16-17 year olds to be current smokers.
- 18-and 19-year-old smokers are a major supplier of cigarettes for younger kids, who rely on friends and classmates to buy them.
- More than two-thirds of 10th grade students and nearly half of 8th grade students say it's easy to get a cigarette.

Tobacco companies target kids and young adults

- Tobacco companies need to replace those adults who quit or die of tobacco-attributable diseases. Increasing the sale age will help counter tobacco company efforts to target young adults at a critical time when many of them initiate regular smoking.
- Since tobacco is so harmful, we should do everything we can to prevent tobacco use among young people. Increasing the legal sale age of tobacco products will help reduce smoking and save lives.

In Texas...

- Annual health care expenditures directly caused by tobacco use: **\$8.85 billion**
- State Medicaid program's total health expenditures caused by tobacco use: **\$1.96 billion**
- Estimated annual health care expenditures from secondhand smoke exposure: **\$486.3 million**
- Smoking-caused productivity losses: **\$8.22 billion**
- Annual tobacco industry spending on marketing its products: **\$611.1 million**

The Institute of Medicine predicts that increasing the legal age to sell tobacco will:

reduce the smoking rate by 12%	result in 249,000 fewer premature deaths
reduce smoking related deaths by 10%	result in 45,000 fewer deaths from lung cancer

4.2 million fewer years of life lost

Facts:

Tobacco kills more than **480,000** Americans each year.

The vast majority of smokers (**88%**) started before age 18

Each day, more than **3,200** people under 18 smoke their first cigarette and an estimated **2,100** young adults become daily smokers.

In the United States...

- Total annual public and private health care expenditures caused by smoking: approximately: **\$170 billion**
- Annual federal and state government smoking-caused Medicaid payments: **\$39.6 billion**
- Federal government annual smoking-caused Medicare expenditures: **\$45 billion**
- Other federal government tobacco-caused health care costs: **\$23.8 billion**
- Annual health care expenditures solely from secondhand smoke exposure: **\$6.03 billion**
- Productivity losses caused by smoking each year: **\$151 billion**
- Annual tobacco industry spending on marketing its products: **\$9.5 billion**



13 states and over 450 localities in 28 states have raised the tobacco sale age to 21.



- Arkansas, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Washington have all passed bills raising the age of sale to 21.
- New York City, Chicago, San Antonio, Boston, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Kansas City, KS and Kansas City, MO have raised the age to 21.
- San Antonio became the first city in Texas to raise the sale age to 21. Leon Valley and Kirby have followed suit.

References:

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- "Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs - 2014." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014).
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- "The Health Consequences of Smoking - 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2014).
- "WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2011." World Health Organization (2011).
- Winickoff, Jonathan P., et al. "Public Support for Raising the Age of Sale for Tobacco to 21 in the United States." *Tobacco Control* (2015).