



TOBACCO 21 LAWS

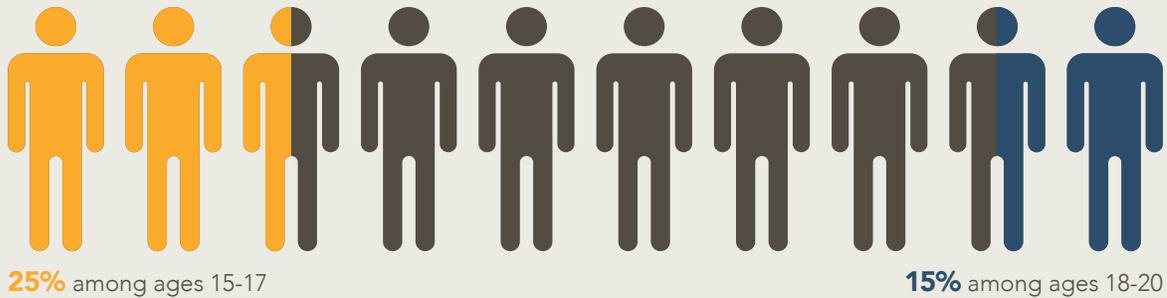
Benefit Public Health and Save Lives

21

The developing brain is highly vulnerable to the effects of nicotine: most adult smokers had their first cigarette **before turning 21**.

Raising the minimum sale age for tobacco products to 21 can reduce smoking and tobacco use, particularly among youth.

If the minimum age were increased to 21 across the nation, smoking initiation would be reduced by¹:



Tobacco 21 policies save lives and have a major impact on public health. From 2016-2018, **five states, Washington, D.C., and Guam** enacted Tobacco 21 laws.*



Tobacco 21 laws contain several types of provisions, such as:

	Hawaii	New Jersey	California	Maine	Oregon	Washington, D.C.	Guam
Vendor penalties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buyer penalties	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Exemption for military			✓	✓			
Exemption for compliance check	✓	✓			✓		
Grandfathering provisions for individuals between 18 and 21 as of the effective date				✓			

What Works?

Effective strategies for adopting and implementing Tobacco 21 laws include:

- Bundling Tobacco 21 policies into larger legislative packages as part of a comprehensive tobacco control program.
- Identifying community partners and coalitions who can serve as champions for Tobacco 21 policies.
- Developing educational materials for retailers and the public early on to clarify exemptions and the timeline for implementing the law.

By preventing young adults from becoming smokers, Tobacco 21 policies can save millions of lives.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/2D0txEk>.

1. Institute of Medicine. "Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products." Available at <https://bit.ly/1QS0hvr>. Accessed Feb. 13, 2019.
 * Not reflected in this analysis is Massachusetts. The state enacted a Tobacco 21 law on Dec. 31, 2018.