

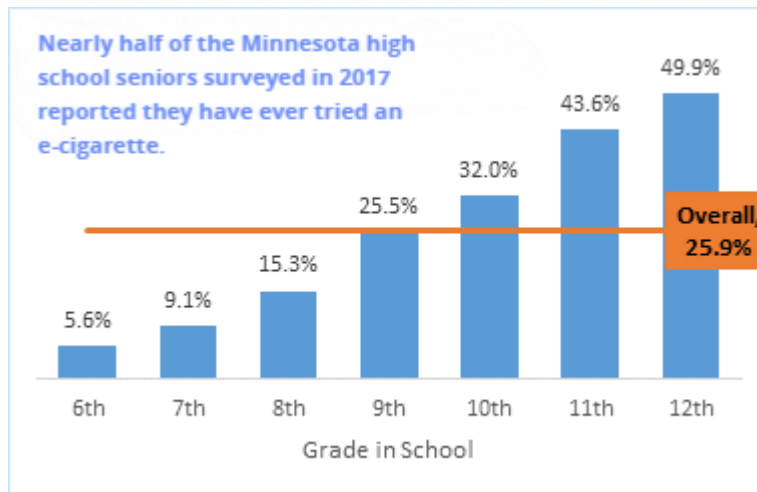


What's the ^{data} point?

TURNING DATA
INTO ACTION

This edition looks at e-cigarette use by youth in Minnesota and what you can do to take action.

DATA



Source: 2017 Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey

The data above shows the higher the grade level, the larger the percentage of Minnesota students who report they have tried an e-cigarette. Most notably, twice as many 12th graders reported trying these products as compared to 9th graders.

RESOURCE

RAISING THE TOBACCO AGE TO 21 WILL PREVENT YOUTH TOBACCO USE AND SAVE LIVES.

21 YEARS

30,000 KIDS

Research predicts a 25 percent reduction in smoking initiation among 15-17-year-olds, and 30,000 fewer young smokers in Minnesota.

IN 2017, YOUTH TOBACCO USE IN MINNESOTA ROSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 47 YEARS.

Over 26 percent of Minnesota high-school students use tobacco.

OVER 26%

ALMOST 85 PERCENT OF ADDICTED ADULT SMOKERS STARTED SMOKING BY AGE 21.

Increasing the age gap between kids and those who can legally buy tobacco will help remove access to tobacco products from the high-school environment.

THERE IS BROAD SUPPORT FOR RAISING THE TOBACCO AGE TO 21.

A national survey shows that 75 percent of adults favor increasing the minimum sale age for tobacco to 21.

Even 70 percent of smokers are in support of raising the minimum age.

MINNESOTANS FOR A SMOKE-FREE GENERATION

The popularity of e-cigarettes among high school students is one argument for increasing the minimum age for tobacco sales to 21.

"Increasing the age gap between kids and those who can legally buy tobacco will help remove access to tobacco products from the high-school environment." - [Minnesotans for a Smoke Free Generation](#).

See more talking points in [this factsheet](#).

If a person can get married, join the military, and vote at age 18, is it a restriction of individual freedom to raise the tobacco sales age to 21?

[This article](#) in the American Journal of Public Health argues Tobacco 21 laws do not impinge on individual freedom. The authors conclude these laws are "ethically justifiable." For access to the full article, contact lindsey@ansrmn.org.

Want more? Browse other prevention resources at mnprc.org/resources.



TAKE ACTION

Use the data and resources featured here to:

Learn more about youth e-cigarette use and Tobacco 21 (T21) laws.

- [Health Impacts of Raising the Minimum Tobacco Sale Age](#)
- How many MN cities and counties have raised the sale age to 21? [Find out here.](#)

Use the [talking points](#) about T21 to:

- Talk with friends, family, coworkers, and others who care about youth.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about this issue.
- Have a conversation with community partners and/or your coalition about possible next steps in your community.

Learn how to work on T21 in your community. You can get help!

- For help in the Metro Area, contact [Association for Nonsmokers - MN](#)
- For Greater MN, contact [American Lung Association](#)

You can also find help in your region on any substance abuse prevention topic by contacting your [Regional Prevention Coordinator](#).

What's the (data)point? is a monthly e-news feature, distributed to *MN-Prev* subscribers.

It brings together the data, information, and personalized support that is available to you from the

following:



Substance Use in Minnesota

Minnesota Prevention Resource Center

Regional Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention Coordinators



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