



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT**

# **Tobacco 21**

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**Director**

City Council A Session  
January 11, 2018

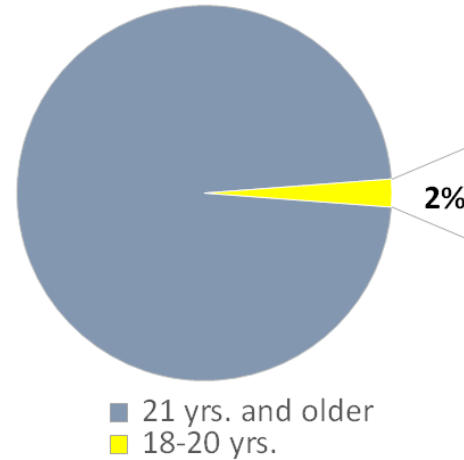
# Tobacco

- Leading cause of **preventable** disease, disability, and death in the United States.
- Every day, nearly 2,100 young people under the age of 21 become daily cigarette smokers.
- Nicotine is highly addictive and the adolescent brain is more susceptible to it.

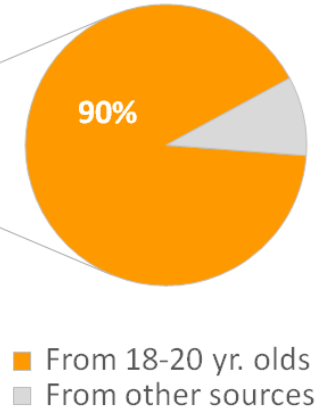
# Why Raise the Age?

- 95% of adult smokers began smoking before they turned 21.
- Only 2% of tobacco sold is purchased by 18-20 year olds, but that 2% supplies 90% of the addictive tobacco to younger people.

Sale of Tobacco Products by Age



Supply of Tobacco to People 17 years and younger



# Increasing the Sale Age to 21

## A Public Health Solution

- Delay age of first tobacco use and reduce risk of becoming regular smoker.
- Help keep tobacco out of schools.
- Younger teens have harder time passing themselves off as 21.



# Where is T21 already in place?

25% of  
Americans  
covered



# Timeline

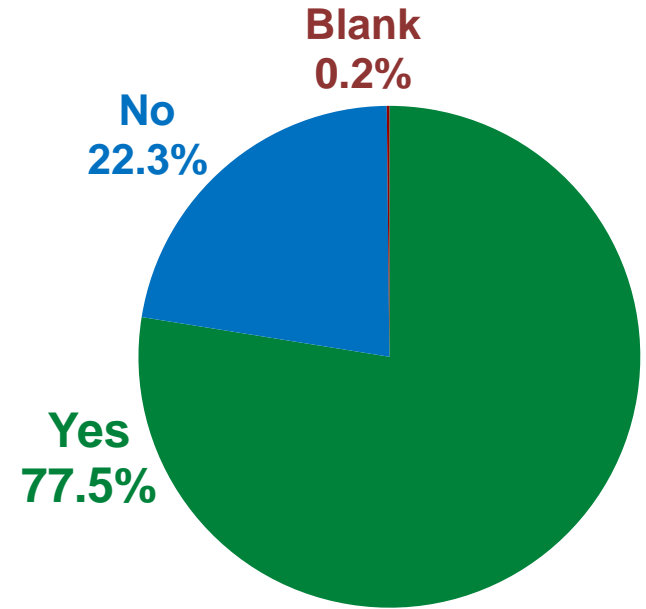
Dates	Activity
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Introduced T21 to Community Health & Equity Committee
Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> – Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Community Survey
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	T21 presentation to Community Health & Equity Committee
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mailed letter & town hall invite to over 1,600 local tobacco retailers
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	T21 Supporter / Stakeholder Meeting
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Town Hall Meeting
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	City Council B Session
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	City Council A Session
<b>Proposed implementation timeline:</b>	
January – Sept. 2018	Educate retailers and community on ordinance and enforcement
October 1, 2018	Tobacco sale age raised from 18 to 21

# Local Survey Results

5,447 individuals responded to our Tobacco 21 survey that asked the question:

Do you believe that the minimum tobacco sales age should be raised from 18 to 21?

77.5% answered Yes



# Economic data

Concern	Response
Will this program save lives?	Just under 500 San Antonio 18-20 year old lives will be saved each year from implementing T21.
Is this program cost effective?	The Texas DSHS estimated \$406 million saved in health care spending on pre-term birth and low birth weight related expenses alone for statewide implementation.
Is this program bad for business?	Since implementation in Needham, MA in 2005, no convenience stores have gone out of business. Smokers cost employers almost \$6,000 more per year than non smokers.





# Concerns Raised at B Session

Concern raised in December	Addressed by
Proposed method of selecting stores for unannounced compliance checks	Will use random sampling
Enforcement on 18-20 year olds purchase, use and possession	Have dropped enforcement on 18-20 year olds; retaining enforcement on retailers

# Draft Ordinance

Age group	Tobacco Retailers (sale)	Youth (PUP)
< 18 years of age	<u>State law</u> Violations of sale – misdemeanor, with max. fine of \$500.	<u>State law</u> Violations of youth PUP – misdemeanor, with max. fine of \$250.
18-20 years of age	<u>COSA Ordinance</u> Mirror state law, but will raise age restriction to 21	<u>COSA Ordinance</u> No enforcement

# Implementation Plan

- Nine month grace period – effective October 1, 2018
- Provide education to youth and families to ensure awareness of new law and educate tobacco retailers and staff on changes in law.
- Metro Health will lead enforcement
- Random sampling used to determine locations of unannounced compliance checks at tobacco retailers

# Fiscal Impact

- Minimal fiscal impact
- As proposed, the fine is up to \$500 for the sale of tobacco products to someone under 21 years of age.
- Revenues from these fines will be deposited in the General Fund.

# Recommendation

Staff recommends City Council approve the proposed changes to Chapter 36 of the City Code, titled Smoking



Thank you. Any Questions?



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