

Comprehensive Smoke-Free State

What is a Smoke-Free Law?

A smoke-free law is an effort to reduce exposure and protect the public from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. There is no comprehensive statewide law in Texas prohibiting smoking in certain public places. Public smoking restrictions are currently determined by local ordinances. There are local ordinances that cover five key settings: smoke-free municipal worksites, smoke-free private worksites, smoke-free restaurants, smoke-free bars in restaurants, and smoke-free bars not in restaurants.

At the end of March 2017, 52% of the Texas municipal population was covered by a comprehensive smoke-free local ordinance.

What Will It Do?

A statewide smoke free law includes:

- Elimination of smoking in all public places including all places of employment.
- Elimination of smoking at outdoor events, including bleachers or grandstands at sporting or other public outdoor events.
- Prohibiting smoking within a 15 feet distance of an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited.
- The Department of State Health Services would be instructed to conduct a continuing education program to inform employers, owners, operators, and managers of the law on how to comply.
- Some exceptions are included, such as cigar bars, private homes not used as a child or adult care facility or a health care facility, a limited number of hotel rooms per hotel, some nursing home rooms, and private clubs that do not have any employees.



74% of Texas voters support a statewide smoke-free law²

In multiple legislative sessions, the Texas Legislature has considered a statewide smoke-free law, but has yet to pass such legislation.

The Toll of Tobacco in Texas

Health Costs Associated with Tobacco Use in Texas⁴

- **15.2%** of adults smoke
- **10.8%** of high school students smoke
- **14.4%** of high school students use e-cigarettes
- **13,700** youth under age 18 become new daily smokers each year
- **28,000** adults die annually from their own smoking
- **498,000** youth under age 18 alive in Texas today who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking
- **3,600** adult non-smokers die annually from exposure to secondhand smoke

Monetary Costs of Smoking in Texas⁴

- **\$8.85 billion** – Annual health care costs in Texas directly caused by smoking
- **\$8.22 billion** – Loss of productivity costs caused by smoking
- **\$738** per household – Residents' state & federal tax burden from smoking--caused government expenditures

Secondhand Smoke and Your Health

- Secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in nonsmokers -- there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma.
- Smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children.
- Secondhand smoke exposure has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer.
- Eliminating smoking in indoor places fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke.³



104 Texas Cities have Comprehensive Smoke-Free Ordinances³

Making Progress

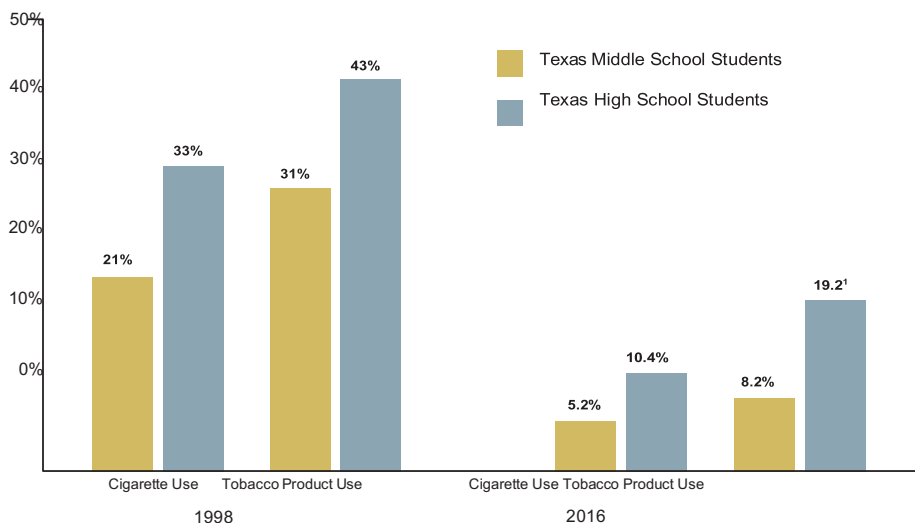
Public health activities continue to have a positive impact on the rates of tobacco use by both adults and youth in Texas. Overall tobacco use in Texas has dropped since 1990.⁵

Adult smoking rates in Texas reached a high of **23.7%** in 1993 and dropped to **5.2%** in 2016.

In 2014, **14.1%** of high school student smoked, and this dropped to **10.8%** in 2016.⁴

Beginning in 1998, the Texas Youth Tobacco Survey (TYTS) is conducted throughout the state on even-numbered years. This survey is given at randomly selected middle and high schools (grades 6-12) across Texas.

The overall youth tobacco use rates (middle school and high school) in Texas have dropped, as indicated in the graph below. This shows that significant progress has been made in reducing tobacco use among youth.¹



¹ Department of State Health Services. Texas Youth Tobacco Survey Spring, 2016. Ret. from <https://www.texasschoolsurvey.org/Documents/Reports/Methods/2016Methods.pdf>

² Baseline & Associates survey of 836 Texas voters, February, 2013

³ www.smokefreetexas.org

⁴ Campaign For Tobacco Free Kids, The Toll of Tobacco in Texas, 2014

⁵ Department of State Health Services. Texas and Tobacco: A Report on the 81st Legislature, Texas Tobacco Prevention & Control Program, Jan. 2009