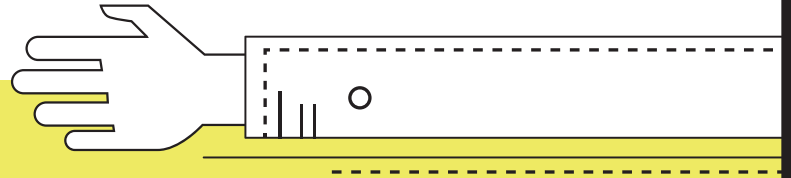
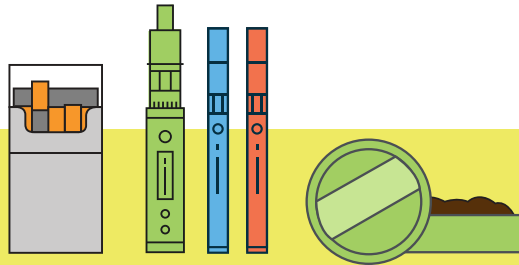


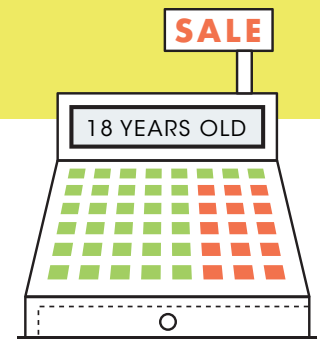
RAISE THE AGE OF TOBACCO SALES TO 21

One in three Colorado high school students use tobacco.¹ Vaping's rising popularity among youth threatens to completely erase decades of progress to reduce nicotine and tobacco addiction.



Nearly 90% of adult cigarette smokers first tried tobacco before the age of 18² and nearly 95% by the age of 21.³

Current laws aren't enough. The legal age to purchase tobacco in most Colorado communities is 18 years old, but 56% of high school students think it's easy to get cigarettes and 58% think it's easy to get e-cigarettes.⁴



WHEN PAIRED WITH A STRONG RETAILER LICENSING ORDINANCE, RAISING THE MINIMUM LEGAL SALE AGE TO 21 WILL HELP SAVE LIVES.

There is evidence that raising the minimum legal sale age prevents youth use: The rate of youth smoking decreased by nearly 50% in Needham, MA within five years of raising the age to 21.⁵



¹ Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. (2017). Retrieved July 2018 from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/hkcs>

² Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults. (n.d.). Retrieved September 20, 2016, from <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/factsheet.html>

³ Calculated based on data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s public online data analysis system (PDAS), National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2016, <https://pdas.samhsa.gov/#/survey/NSDUH-2016-DS0001>

⁴ Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. (2017). Retrieved July 2018 from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/hkcs>

⁵ Kessel Schneider S, Buka SL, Dash K, et al "Community reductions in youth smoking after raising the minimum tobacco sales age to 21 Tobacco Control" 2016;25:355-359. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2014-052207>

**More than a dozen states
and 475+ cities have
raised the legal sale age
for tobacco to 21.**



As of June 2019, Colorado city and town councils in Aspen, Basalt, Edgewater and Snowmass Village have added a provision raising the minimum legal sales age to 21 to their tobacco retail licensing law.



Service members between 18 and 21 deserve the same protections as their civilian counterparts from tobacco addiction. Of current smokers in the military, 38% report they began after joining the service.⁶



Raising the minimum legal sales age should be done in conjunction with retailer licensing in order to provide enforcement and have the greatest impact on reducing youth access to tobacco.

www.tobaccofreeco.org/tobacco21



¹ Secretary of Defense Ash Carter April 2016 Policy Memorandum 16-001. Department of Defense Tobacco Policy. Available at <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Documents/health-promotion-wellness/tobaccofree-living/INCOMING-CARTER-Tobacco-Policy-Memo.pdf>; accessed December 20, 2016.