



# Raising the Minimum Legal Sales Age to 21

Joanne Fuller, Health Department  
Director

Rachael Banks, Deputy Public Health  
Director

Dr. Jae Douglas, Environmental Health  
Services Director

April 13, 2017

# Public Health Successes & Ongoing Challenges

- Over the past 50 years, tobacco control in the U.S. has led to an estimated 8 million fewer premature deaths.
- Tobacco use continues to significantly affect public health and more than 40 million Americans still smoke.
- The vast majority of current smokers (90%) started before they were 19 years of age.



# Overall Tobacco Use by Youth in Multnomah County, 2015

	8th Grade	11th Grade
Past 30 Day Use		
Overall Tobacco Use	9.6%	21.4%
Cigarettes	2.9%	7.0%
E-Cigarettes	7.2	16%
Hookah	4.3%	7.2%
Little Cigar/Cigarillo	2.4%	5.4%
Chew (males only)	1.7	5.3%

*Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 2015*



# Youth Access: Multnomah County Protects Youth from Harms

- March 2015 – BOCC enacted an ordinance
  - to prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to minors
  - added inhalant delivery systems to our Smoke-Free Work and Public Spaces Ordinance
- November 2016 – BOCC enacted Tobacco Retail License Ordinance



*Multnomah County: Nafisa Fai of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance tells commissioners of tobacco and e-cig marketing to children at Dec. 18, 2014 board briefing*



*Multnomah County: Dr. Jennifer Vines demonstrates how e-cigarettes work at Nov. 13, 2014 board briefing on access to tobacco and e-cigarettes*



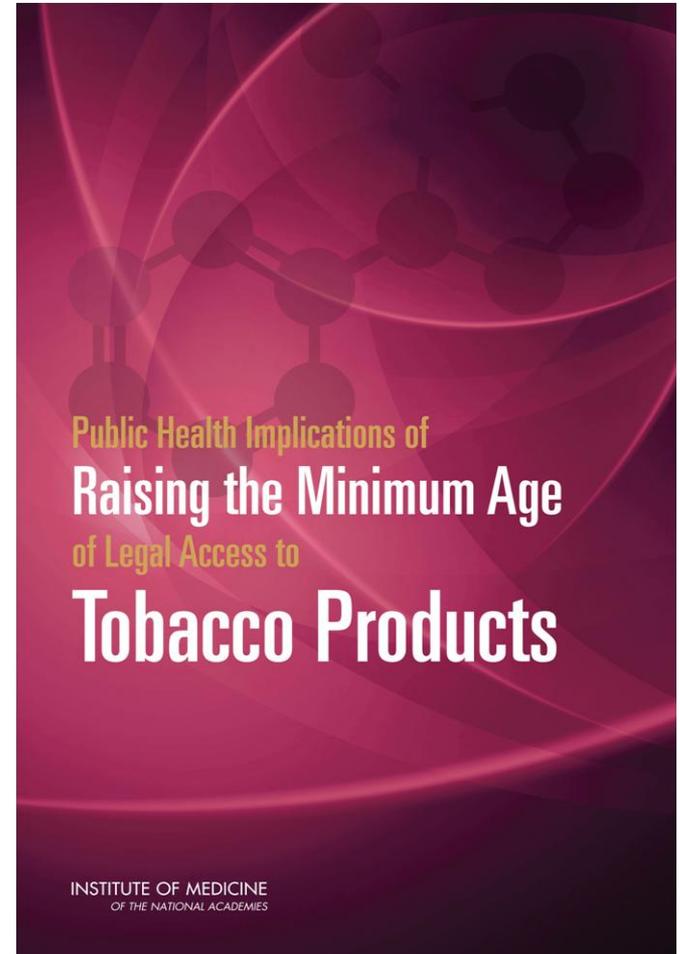
# Actions by Congress and the FDA

- Family Smoking Prevention & Tobacco Control Act
- Prohibition on establishing a *nationwide* minimum legal sales age (MLA)
- FDA's request to the Institute of Medicine (IOM)



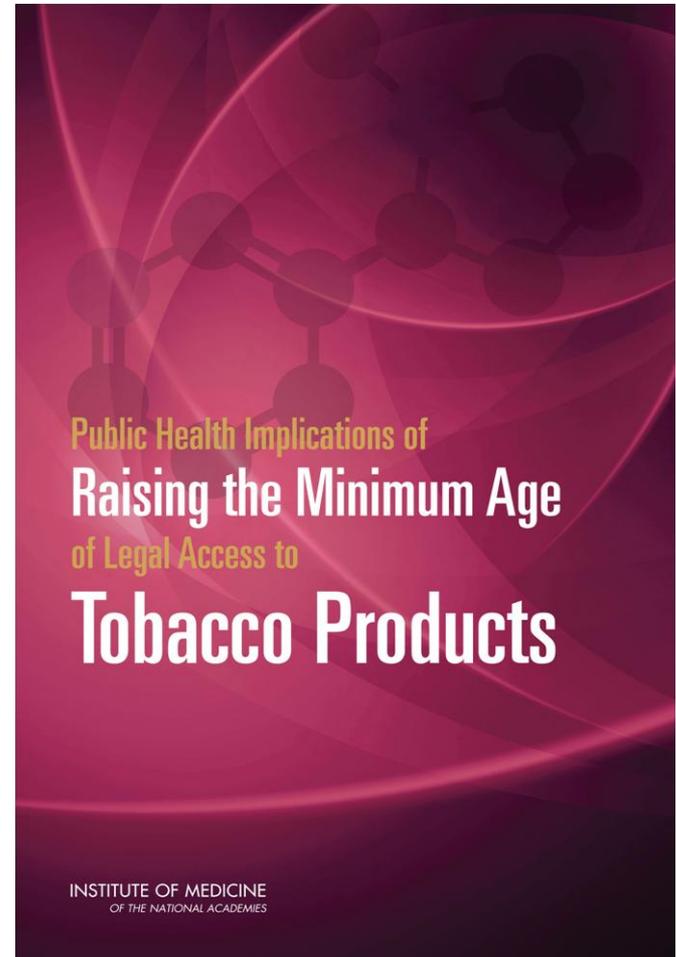
# Evidence that T-21 Works

- The IOM Committee concluded that raising the MLA will likely:
  - Prevent or delay initiation of tobacco use.
  - Improve the health of Americans across the lifespan.
  - Save lives by substantially reducing smoking-related mortality.



# Findings: Lowering Initiation Rates

- Among adults who become daily smokers:
  - ≈ 90% report first use before reaching 19 years of age.
  - ≈ 100% report first use before age 26.
- The majority of underage users rely on social sources



# T-21 Policies are a Growing Trend

- Jurisdictions with T-21 :
  - California and Hawaii
  - New York, Chicago, Boston, Cleveland and Kansas City +201 others
  - Fourteen counties
  - LOTS of Cities



# Jurisdictions in 16 States Have Enacted T-21

**Arizona:** Cottonwood **Arkansas:** Helena-West Helena **California:** Healdsburg • San Francisco • Santa Clara County **Hawaii:** Hawaii County **Illinois:** Chicago • Evanston • Naperville • Oak Park **Kansas:** Bonner Springs • Iola • Kansas City • Lansing • Leavenworth • Leawood • Lenexa • Mission Hills • Olathe • Overland Park • Prairie Village • Westwood Hills **Maine:** Portland **Massachusetts:** Acton • Amherst • Andover • Arlington • Ashland • Attleboro • Belchertown • Belmont • Blackstone • Boston • Braintree • Brewster • Bridgewater • Brimfield • Brockton • Brookline • Buckland • Cambridge • Canton • Carver • Charlemont • Chelmsford • Chelsea • Cohasset • Concord • Danvers • Dedham • Deerfield • Dover • Duxbury • Eastham • Easton • Egremont • Essex • Everett • Falmouth • Foxborough • Framingham • Franklin • Gill • Gloucester • Grafton • Great Barrington • Greenfield • Hadley • Halifax • Hamilton • Hanover • Hatfield • Holbrook • Holyoke • Hopedale • Hudson • Hull • Kingston • Lanesborough • Lawrence • Lee • Lenox • Leverett • Lexington • Lincoln • Lowell • Malden • Mansfield • Marblehead • Marion • Marlborough • Marshfield • Mashpee • Maynard • Medfield • Medford • Medway • Melrose • Mendon • Methuen • Middleton • Milford • Millis • Milton • Montague • Natick • Needham • Newton • Norfolk • North Adams • North Andover • North Attleborough • Northborough • Northampton • Norwell • Norwood • Orleans • Peabody • Pittsfield • Plainville • Provincetown • Randolph • Raynham • Reading • Revere • Rockport • Salem • Saugus • Scituate • Sharon • Shelburne • Sherborn • Somerville • South Hadley • Southampton • Southborough • Southwick • Stockbridge • Stoneham • Stoughton • Sunderland • Swampscott • Tewksbury • Topsfield • Townsend • Tyngsborough • Wakefield • Walpole • Waltham • Wareham • Watertown • Wayland • Wellesley • West Boylston • Westfield • Westford • Weston • Westwood • Whatley • Whitman • Williamstown • Wilmington • Winchester • Worcester • Yarmouth **Michigan:** Ann Arbor • Genesee County **Mississippi:** Adams County **Missouri:** Columbia • Gladstone • Grandview • Independence • Kansas City • Lee's Summit • Liberty • St. Louis City • St. Louis County **New Jersey:** Belleville • Bergenfield • Bloomingdale • Bogota • East Rutherford • Englewood • Fair Lawn • Garfield • Haledon • Hanover • Highland Park • Maplewood • Paterson • Princeton • Raritan • Rutherford • Sayresville • Teaneck • Tenafly • Trenton • Union City • West Orange • Westwood • Wyckoff **New York:** Albany County • Cattaraugus County • Chautauqua County • Cortland County • New York City • North Hempston • Orange County • Schenectady County • Suffolk County **Ohio:** Bexley • Cleveland • Columbus • Euclid • Grandview Heights • New Albany • Upper Arlington **Oregon:** Lane County **Rhode Island:** Central Falls *Washington, D.C.*



# Reducing Prevalence, Decreasing Disease

- T21 nationwide would result in:
  - ≈223,000 fewer premature deaths
  - ≈50,000 fewer deaths from lung cancer
  - ≈4.2 million fewer years of life lost for those born between 2000 and 2019



*Image from Tobacco 21 toolkit*



# Multnomah County Youth Affected by Raising MLA

- 15 – 20 year olds:  
**43,630**
- 15 – 17 year olds:  
**23,258**

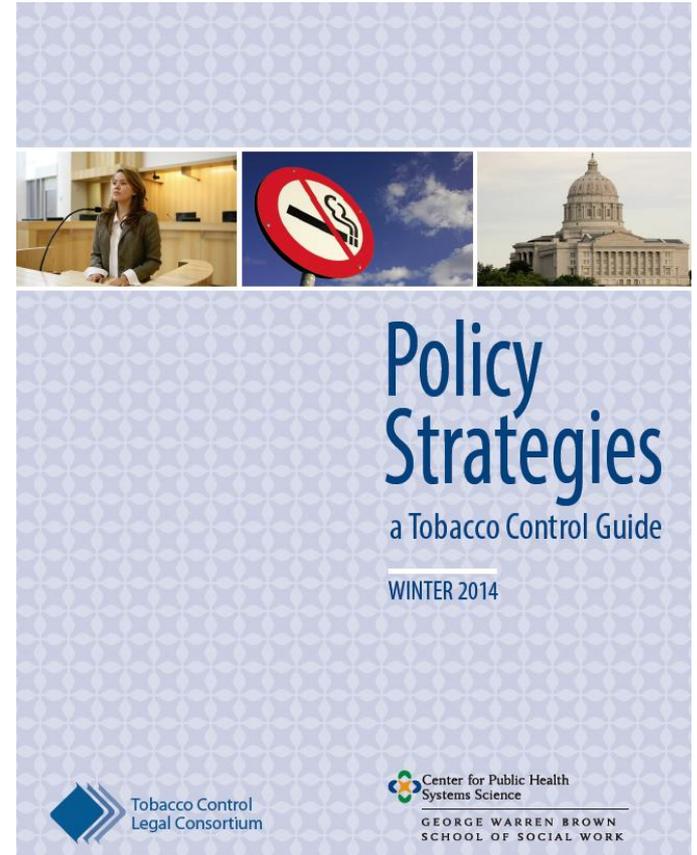


*U.S. Census Bureau, 2010*



# Equity Considerations: Minor in Possession Laws

- Ineffective at reducing youth tobacco use.
- May be inequitably enforced among specific communities.
- More effective to keep enforcement focused on retailers.



# T-21 in Oregon: SB 754 A

- Raising legal sales age for tobacco and nicotine inhalant products to 21.
- Provides fines for clerk and retail owner for selling to a minor.
- Prohibits anyone under 21 from purchase, use or possession of tobacco or nicotine inhalant products.
- Becomes effective January 1, 2018



# T-21: Policy Considerations in Multnomah County

- Strong voter support for T21
- Strengthens TRL effort to reduce youth access
- TRL provides the programmatic infrastructure
- Focus on outreach and education to retailers and youth
- MIP not effective and not recommended
- No state preemption



# Recommended Next Steps

- Closely follow SB 754 A
- Public engagement
- Develop Multnomah County T-21 process
- Recommendations to Board of County Commissioners



**Questions?**

