



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT

Tobacco 21

Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD
Director

City Council B Session
December 6, 2017

Agenda Item #

Tobacco

- Leading cause of **preventable disease, disability, and death** in the United States.
- **Each year**, nearly half a million Americans **die prematurely** of smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke.
 - 16 million more **live with a serious illness** caused by smoking.

Tobacco and Teens

- **Every day, nearly 2,100 youth and young adults** who have been occasional smokers **become daily cigarette smokers.**
- **Every day, more than 3,800 youth younger than 18 years** **smoke their first cigarette.**

Tobacco's Burden



Prevalence

Tobacco Use:

- **31.4%** of high school **youth** use tobacco products, including e-cigarettes
- **10.8%** of high school **youth** smoke **cigarettes**

Economics

- Annually, \$300 billion is spent on health care and lost worker productivity costs related to tobacco use

Health

- 20% of all deaths are attributed to smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke
- Tobacco use is associated with cancer, heart disease, behavioral and learning disorders, drug use, and pregnancy complications

Tobacco Use in Bexar County Youth

% Bexar County high school students
currently smoke:

Males 12.6%


Females 9.9%



For the **first time** in decades, overall tobacco use **increased among high school students**

Increasing the Sale Age to 21

A Public Health Solution



People who have not used tobacco by age 21 are unlikely to ever start.

Why Raise the Age?

Most Smokers Start Before Age 21

- 95% of adult smokers began smoking before they turned 21.
- Many smokers transition to regular use during the ages of 18-21.
- About 3 out of 4 teen smokers continue smoking into adulthood.

Why Raise the Age?

Nicotine Is Addictive

- The **adolescent brain is more susceptible to nicotine** because teens are still going through critical periods of growth and development.
- Using **nicotine can rewire the teenage brain to become more easily addicted to other drugs.**

Why Raise the Age?

- **Older youth smokers (18-19 years)** are a **major supplier of cigarettes for younger teens** who rely on friends and classmates to buy them.
 - 63% of 9-12th graders had given money to someone of legal age (18 years or older) to purchase cigarettes for them.
- More 18-19 year olds **in high school** means younger teens have **daily contact with students who can legally purchase** tobacco.

Why Raise the Age?

Benefits of Increasing the Sale Age

- Delay the age when people first use tobacco and reduce risk of becoming a regular smoker.
- Help keep tobacco out of schools.
- Younger adolescents would have a harder time passing themselves off as 21 year olds.
- Simplify ID checks for retailers.

E-cigarettes

- The **most popular** tobacco product used by youth.
- **81% of youth** who tried e-cigarettes started with a flavored e-cigarette.
- Tobacco companies market smokeless tobacco, little cigars and electronic cigarettes in youth-friendly flavors like **cotton candy, gummy bear, cherry and watermelon.**



Tobacco and Retailers

18-20 year olds
**purchase only 2% of
cigarettes** sold but are
90% of the supply of
addictive tobacco to
younger youth.

E-cigarette use by youth
continues to exceed use
of cigarettes and other
tobacco products.



Tobacco and the Military

- **Smoking is not allowed during basic training.**
- Tobacco takes a toll on troop readiness and places a financial burden on the military health care system.
- Military leaders are actively taking steps to reduce tobacco use.



“Tobacco impairs reaction time and judgment. It stands in the way of a Marines number one priority; to be in top physical and mental shape – combat ready.”

- General Robert Magnus, Assistant Commander of the Marine Corps

18 Not the age of majority for everything...



- Drink or purchase alcohol
- Gamble in casinos
- Obtain concealed weapon permit
- Rent a car
- Check into a hotel
- Foster/adopt a child

Tobacco 21 (T21)



The **Institute of Medicine** concluded that increasing the legal age to purchase tobacco to 21 will:

reduce the smoking rate by **12%**

result in **249,000** fewer premature deaths

reduce smoking related deaths by **10%**

result in **45,000** fewer deaths from lung cancer

4.2 million fewer years of life lost

Where is T21 already in place?

25% of
Americans
covered



- **5 states:** Hawaii, California, New Jersey, Maine, Oregon
- **Over 260 Communities**, including these **large cities** outside of the states above: Chicago, Boston, Kansas City, St. Louis City, Ann Arbor, Columbus (OH), Columbia (MO), New York City, Washington D.C.

Local Support for Tobacco 21

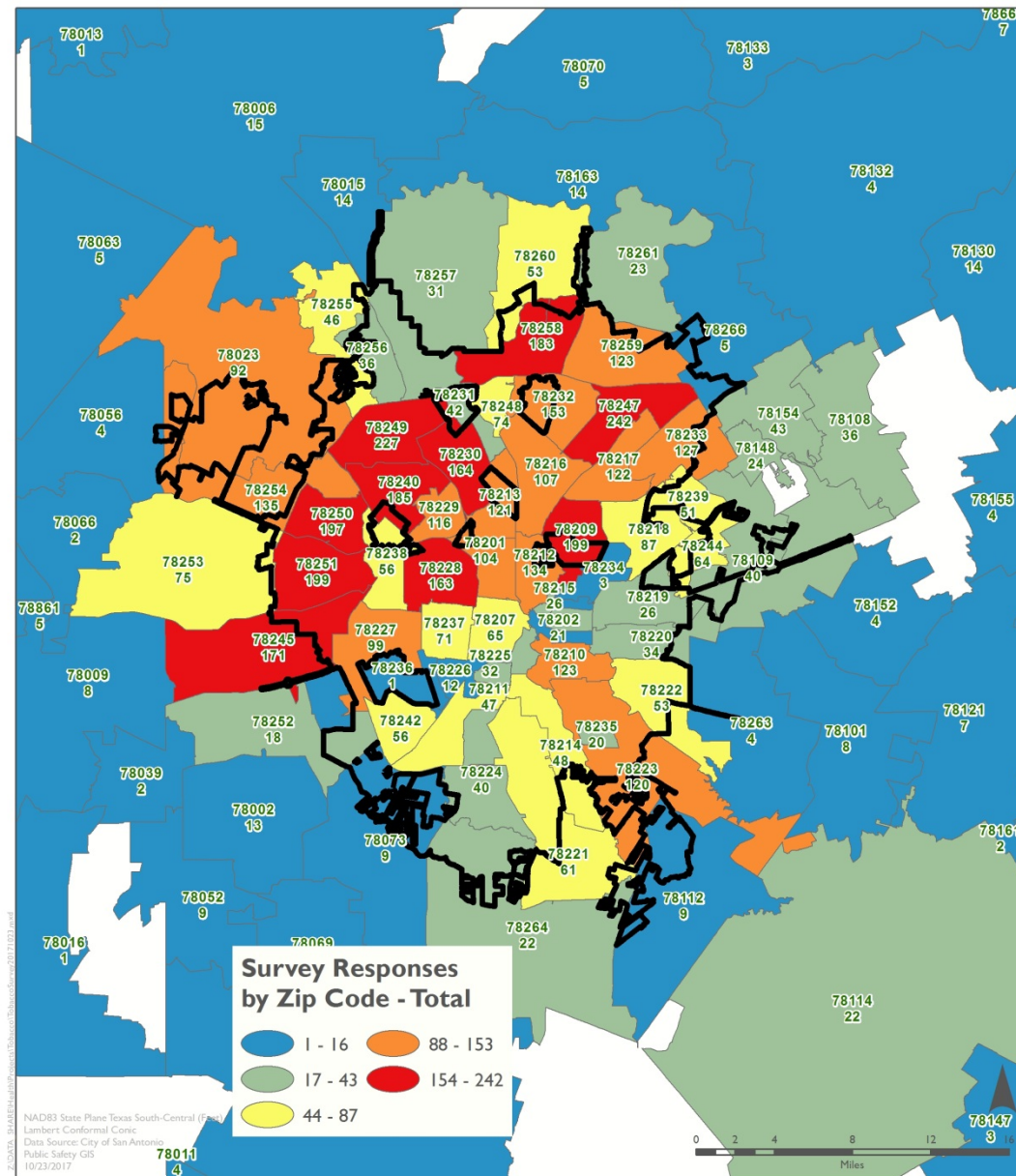
- **5,447** individuals responded to our Tobacco 21 survey that asked the question:

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

Local T21 Survey

Quantity of
Responses
by Zip Code

5,447

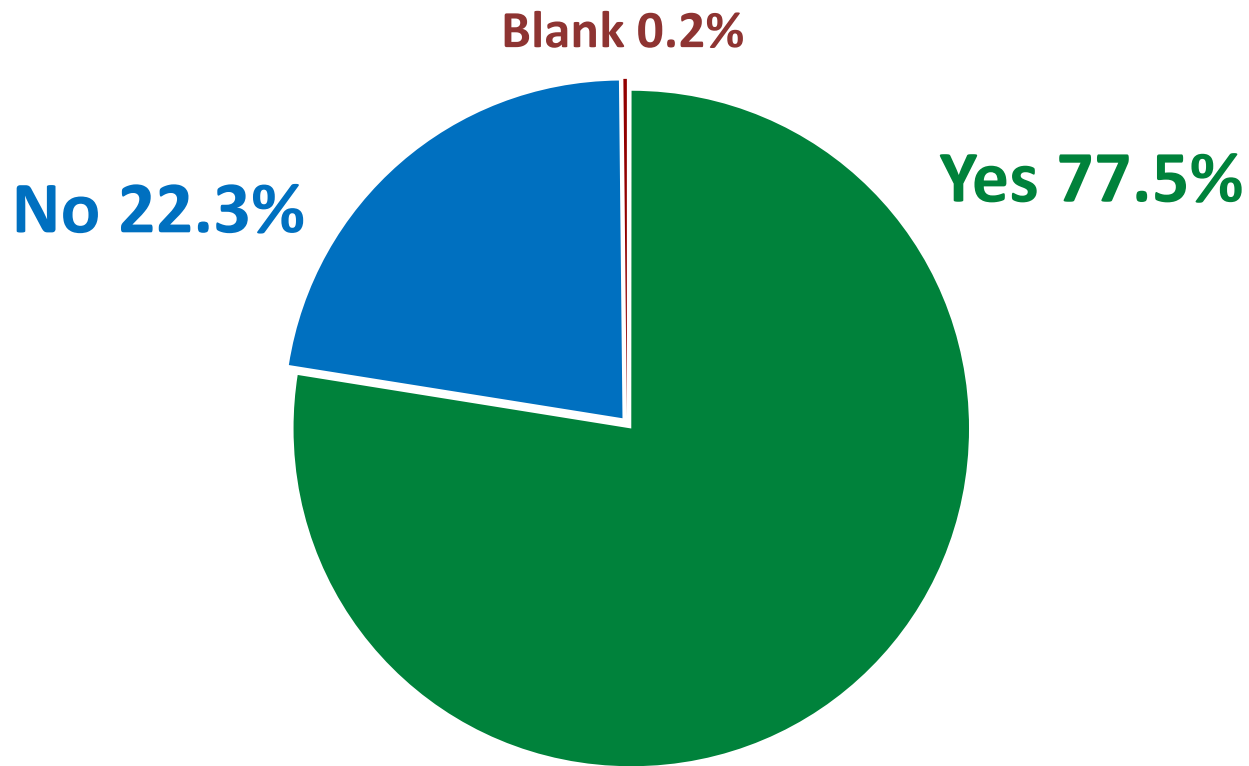


Metro Health
Responses to Tobacco 21 Survey
10/23/2017 Total Responses = 5,447



Local T21 Survey – Support

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

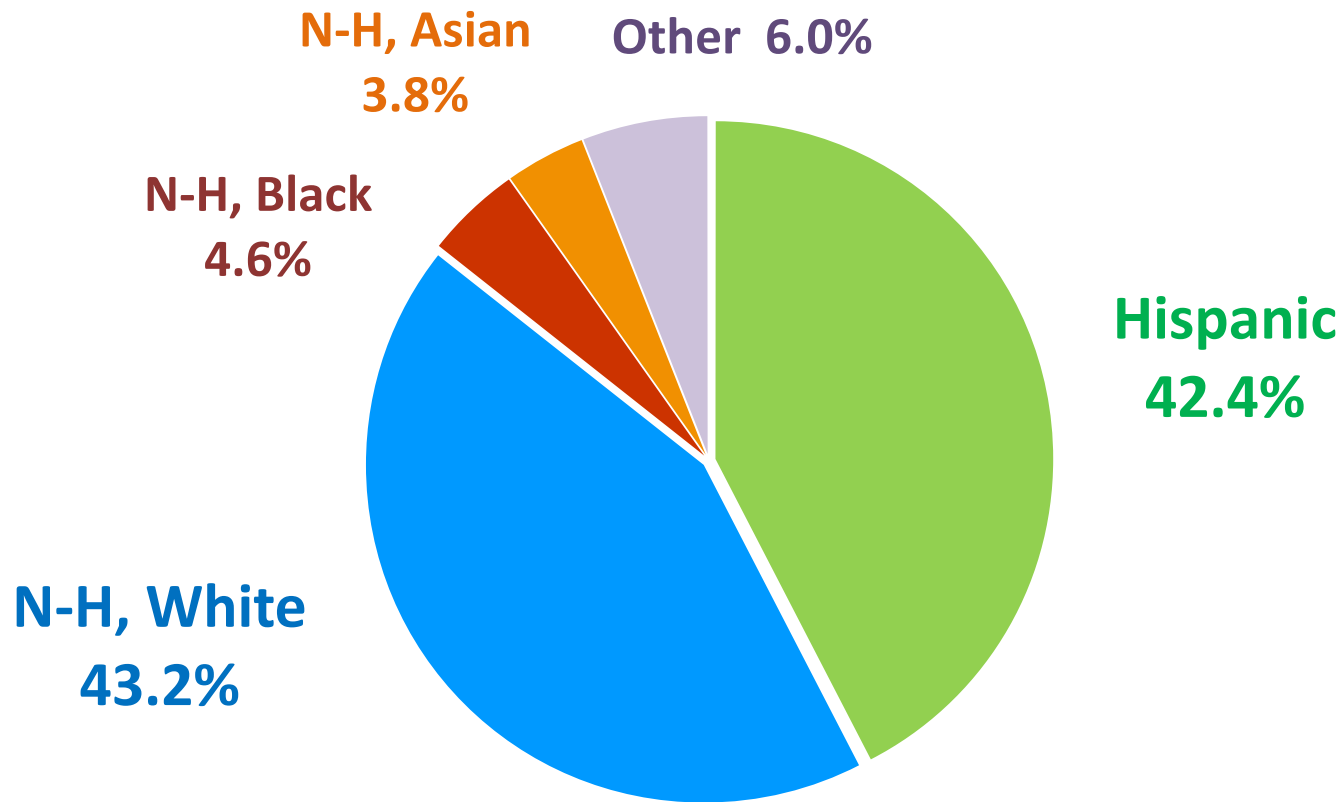


N=5,447

Data from 9-15-2017 to 10-23-2017

Local T21 Survey – Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents



Draft Ordinance and State Law

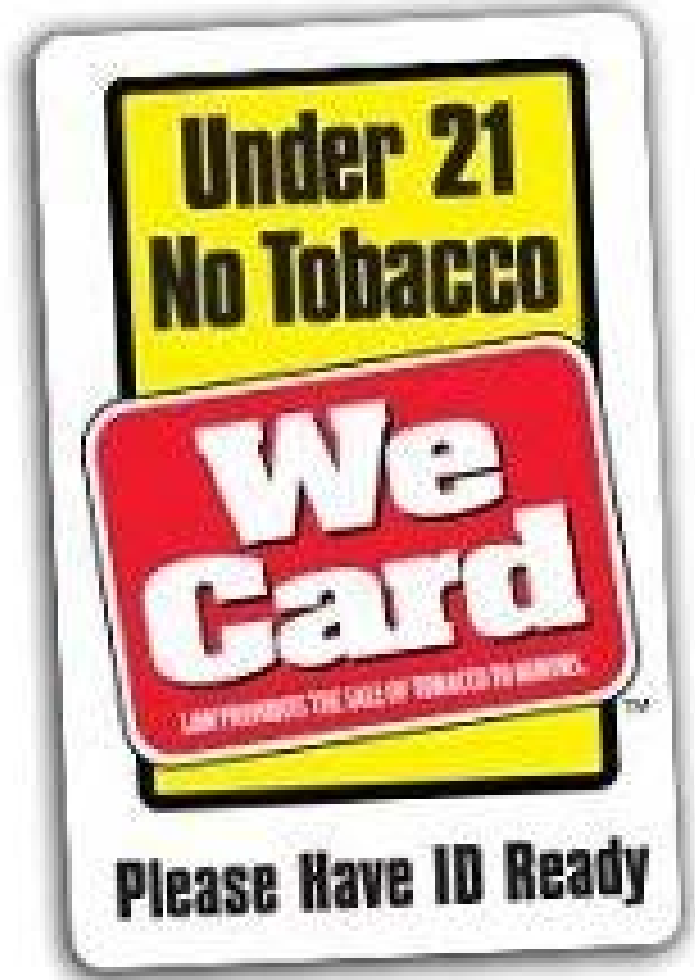
- The current Texas Health and Safety Code addresses the sale, purchase and possession of tobacco products to persons under 18 years of age.
- State law includes e-cigarettes and electronic smoking devices within these provisions.
- State law permits a political subdivision to create stricter standards regarding these provisions.

Draft Ordinance - Chapter 36 of City Code

- Proposed **revisions mirror current state law**, but will revise the age restriction for the sale, purchase and possession of tobacco products to 21 years of age.
- Penalties for **violations of purchase and possession** provisions will be a misdemeanor crime, and upon conviction is punishable by a **maximum fine of \$250.**
- Penalties for **violations of sale of tobacco products** will be a misdemeanor crime, and upon conviction is punishable by a fine set at **a maximum of \$500.**

Enforcement

- Metro Health will be responsible for enforcement.
- Conduct unannounced compliance checks annually.



Timeline

Dates	Activity
9/15 to 10/23	Community Survey
10/26	City Council CH&E Committee
11/13	Stakeholder Meeting
11/16	Town Hall Meeting
Potential Council Dates if moved forward each time:	
12/6	City Council B Session
12/14	Possible City Council A Session
If voted on and passed in December, then implementation timeline:	
5 months (1/2018 – 5/2018)	Educate retailers, community, enforcement
6 th month (6/2018)	Tobacco sale age raised from 18 to 21

Key Messages

- **Tobacco kills more than 480,000 Americans each year. Virtually all of them started using tobacco before age 21.**
- **Increasing the tobacco age to 21 will help to prevent young people from ever starting to smoke and to reduce the deaths, disease and health care costs caused by tobacco use.**
- **Increasing the sale age will help counter tobacco company efforts to target young adults at a critical time when many move from experimenting with tobacco to regular smoking.**

Thank you. Any Questions?



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT

Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD
Director