



# TOBACCO 21 LAWS

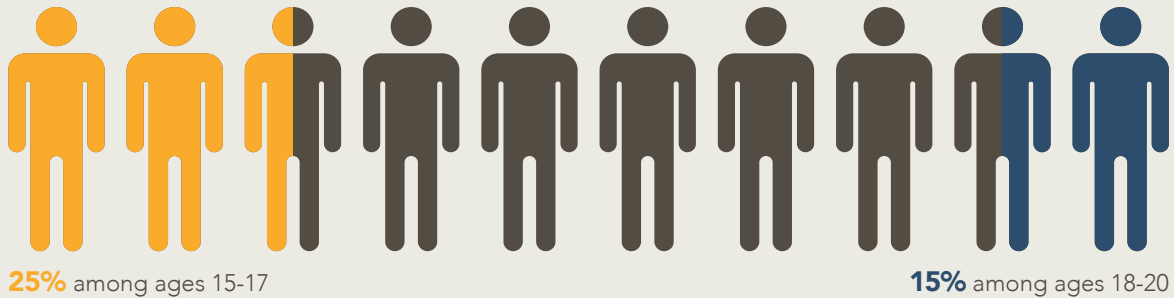
## Benefit Public Health and Save Lives

**21**

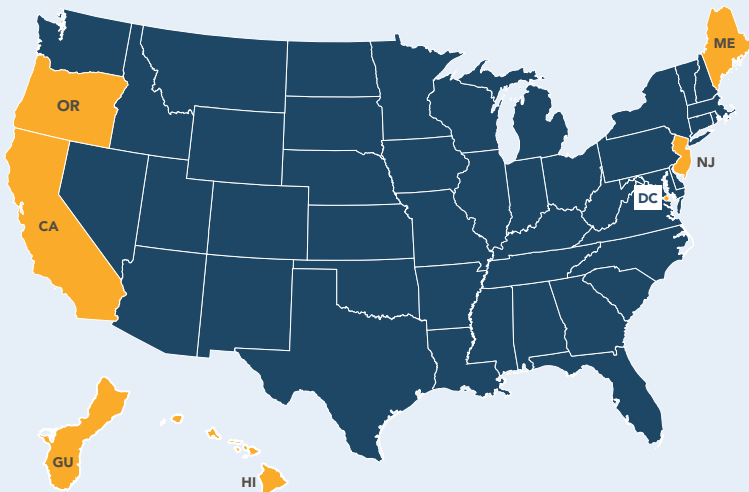
The developing brain is highly vulnerable to the effects of nicotine: most adult smokers had their first cigarette **before turning 21**.

**Raising the minimum sale age for tobacco products to 21** can reduce smoking and tobacco use, particularly among youth.

If the minimum age were increased to 21 across the nation, smoking initiation would be reduced by<sup>1</sup>:



**Tobacco 21** policies save lives and have a major impact on public health. From 2016-2018, **five states, Washington, D.C., and Guam** enacted Tobacco 21 laws.\*



**Tobacco 21** laws contain several types of provisions, such as:

	Hawaii	New Jersey	California	Maine	Oregon	Washington, D.C.	Guam
Vendor penalties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buyer penalties	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Exemption for military			✓	✓			
Exemption for compliance check	✓	✓			✓		
Grandfathering provisions for individuals between 18 and 21 as of the effective date				✓			

### What Works?

Effective strategies for adopting and implementing Tobacco 21 laws include:

- Bundling Tobacco 21 policies into larger legislative packages as part of a comprehensive tobacco control program.
- Identifying community partners and coalitions who can serve as champions for Tobacco 21 policies.
- Developing educational materials for retailers and the public early on to clarify exemptions and the timeline for implementing the law.

**By preventing young adults from becoming smokers, Tobacco 21 policies can save millions of lives.**

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/2D0txEk>.

1. Institute of Medicine. "Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products." Available at <https://bit.ly/1QS0hvr>. Accessed Feb. 13, 2019.  
\* Not reflected in this analysis is Massachusetts. The state enacted a Tobacco 21 law on Dec. 31, 2018.