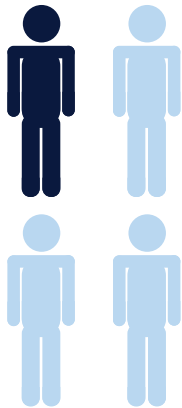


YOUTH TOBACCO USE IN KANSAS

Updated 2020

Nearly nine out of ten current smokers start smoking by age 18, and 98% start by age 26.¹ Youth tobacco use has negative health consequences including addiction and lifelong chronic disease.² More than 60,000 Kansans currently under 18 years of age will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.³ Although we have seen a decline in the use of conventional cigarettes among Kansas youth, 5.8 percent of Kansas high school students still smoke, and emerging products including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) highlight the continued need for youth tobacco control and prevention programs.

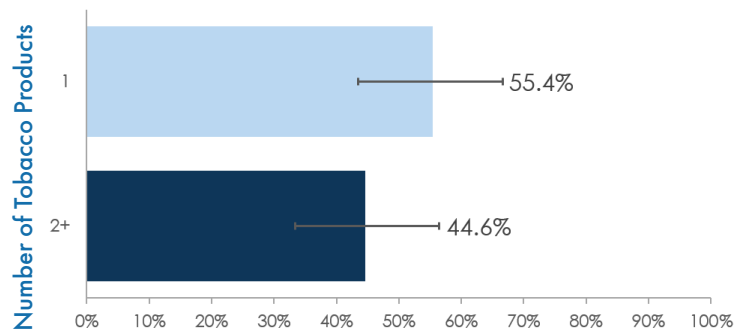
Any Tobacco Use



More than **one in four** (25.8%) Kansas high school students report using at least one of the following tobacco products:⁴

Cigarettes
E-cigarettes
Cigars
Smokeless Tobacco

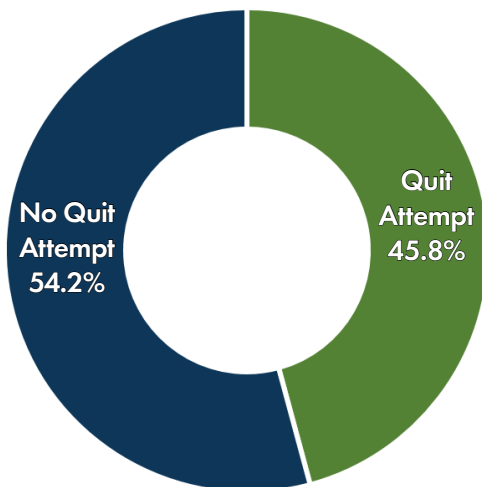
Use of Multiple Tobacco Products



Percent among Kansas High School Students Currently Using Tobacco (%)

Among Kansas youth who use tobacco, more than **two in five** (44.6%) use **two or more*** tobacco products.⁴

Quit Attempts



More than **two in five** (45.8%) Kansas high school students who use tobacco made an attempt to quit using all tobacco products within the past 12 months.⁴

Tobacco-21

Research has shown that raising the minimum legal sale age for tobacco products from 18 to 21 ("Tobacco-21") will likely prevent or delay use of tobacco among youth.⁵ Tobacco-21 was enacted at the federal level in December 2019.



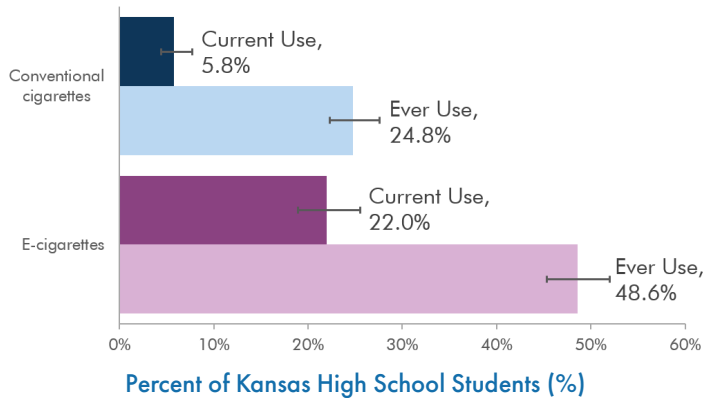
www.kdheks.gov/tobacco
www.resisttobacco.org

*Tobacco products reported include cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco.

Conventional and E-Cigarettes

Nearly **one in four** (24.8%) Kansas high school students have ever tried conventional cigarettes (even one or two puffs) and **5.8% currently smoke conventional cigarettes.**

Nearly **half** (48.6%) Kansas high school students have ever tried e-cigarettes, and **22.0% currently use e-cigarettes.**⁴



Reasons Why Youth Use E-Cigarettes

When asked to report the main reason they have used e-cigarettes, the three most common reasons selected by Kansas high school students who have ever or currently use e-cigarettes were:⁴

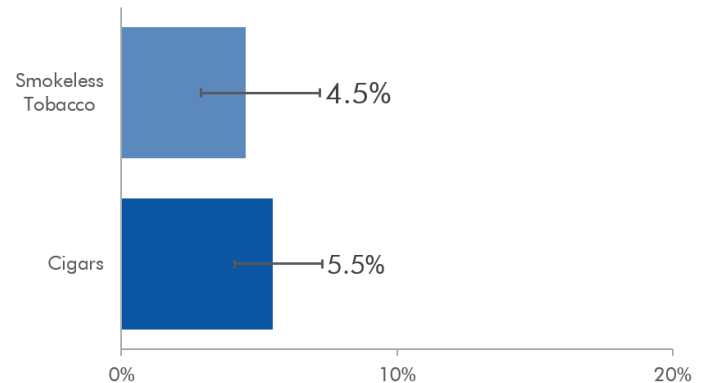
Friend or family member uses (40.2%)

Available in flavors, such as mint, candy, fruit, or chocolate (10.7%)

Less harmful than other forms of tobacco (7.7%)

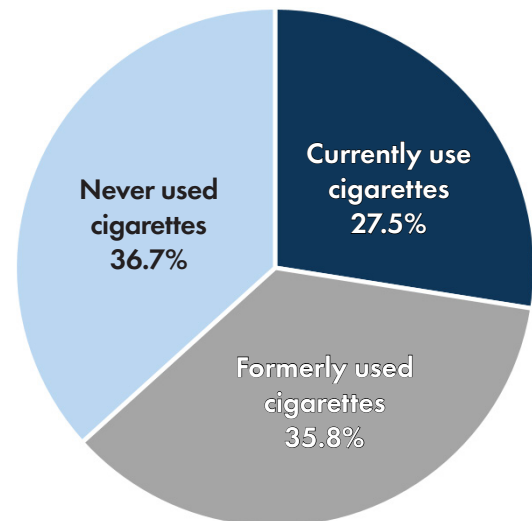
Other reported reasons included using e-cigarettes to quit using other tobacco products, easier to get than other forms of tobacco, and costs less than other forms of tobacco.

Kansas High School Students Who Currently Use Other Tobacco Products



Kansas youth are also currently using other types of tobacco products including **smokeless tobacco** and **cigars.**⁴

Use of Conventional Cigarettes Among Youth who Currently Use E-Cigarettes



More than one in four (27.5%) Kansas high school youth who use e-cigarettes also currently use conventional cigarettes (called "dual use").

In addition, both youth who **formerly used** and youth who **never used conventional cigarettes** are also using e-cigarettes. This shows the need to be vigilant of emerging tobacco products.⁴

References:
 1 Office of the Surgeon General. The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014.
 2 Office of the Surgeon General. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012.
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