

YOUTH TOBACCO USE IN KANSAS

Updated 2019

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 Kansas youth now 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, 7.2 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.

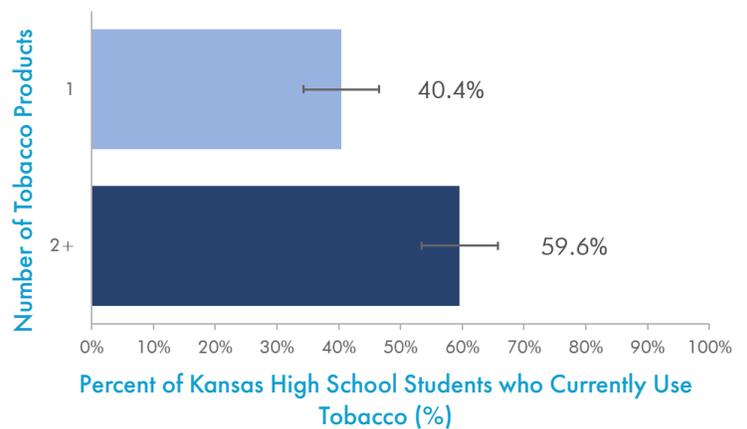
Any Tobacco Use



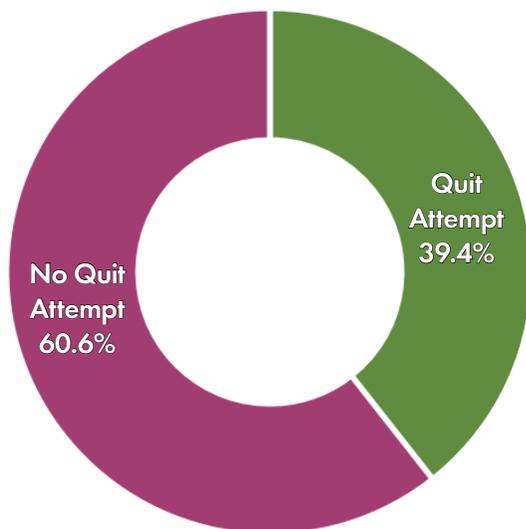
One in six (17.1%) Kansas high school students report using at least one of the following tobacco products:⁴

- Cigarettes
- E-cigarettes
- Cigars
- Smokeless Tobacco

Use of Multiple Tobacco Products



Quit Attempts



Two in five Kansas high school students who use tobacco **made an attempt to quit** using all tobacco products within the past 12 months.⁴

Among Kansas youth who use tobacco, **a majority (63.7%)** use **two or more*** tobacco products.⁴

Tobacco-21 Ordinances

Research has shown that raising the minimum legal sales age of tobacco products from 18 to 21 ("Tobacco-21") will likely prevent or delay use of tobacco among youth.⁵ To date in Kansas, 20 cities and unincorporated areas in 5 counties have enacted Tobacco-21 ordinances:

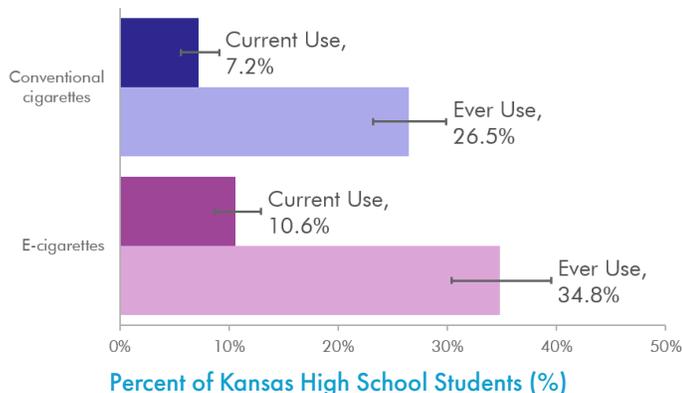
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|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Finney County (uninc.) | Lansing | Merriam |
| Garden City | Leavenworth | Olathe |
| Holcomb | Wyandotte County (uninc.) | Prairie Village |
| Iola | Bonner Springs | Westwood |
| Parsons | Edwardsville | Lenexa |
| Shawnee County (uninc.) | Kansas City | Mission Hills |
| Topeka | Johnson County (uninc.) | Overland Park |
| Douglas County (uninc.) | Leawood | Roeland Park |
| | | Westwood Hills |

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

Conventional and E-Cigarettes

More than one in four (26.5%) Kansas high school students have ever tried conventional cigarettes (even one or two puffs) and **7.2% currently smoke conventional cigarettes.**

More than one in three (34.8%) Kansas high school students have ever tried e-cigarettes, and **10.6% 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 (38.2%)

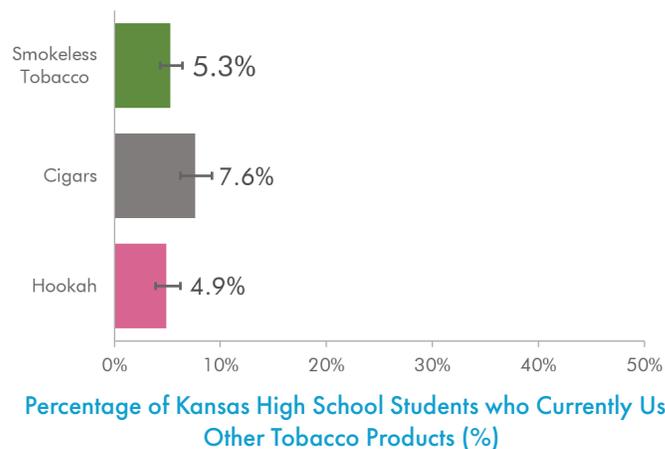
Available in flavors, such as mint, candy, fruit, or chocolate (18.6%)

Less harmful than other forms of tobacco (12.6%)

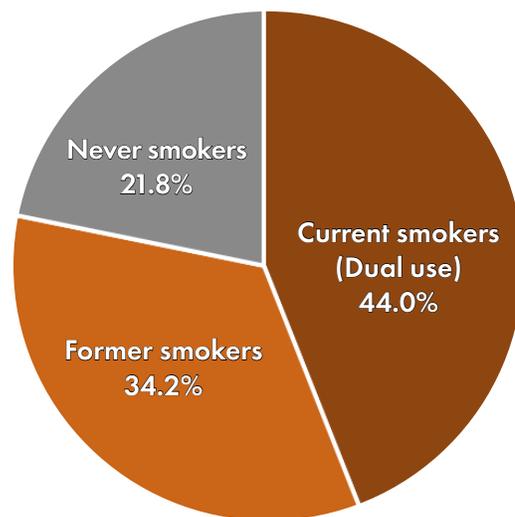
Other reported reasons included using e-cigarettes to quit using other tobacco products, easier to get than other forms of tobacco, and costs less than other forms of tobacco.

Other Tobacco Products

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



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



Many (44%) Kansas high school youth who use e-cigarettes also currently use conventional cigarettes (called "dual use"). In addition, both **former smokers** and youth who **never tried conventional cigarettes** are also using e-cigarettes. This shows the need to be vigilant of emerging tobacco products.⁴

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