



**Saving our kids from a  
lifetime of addiction:**

**Raising the tobacco sales  
age to 21**

# No amount of nicotine is safe for youth

» The addictive properties of nicotine are particularly harmful to youth and can lead to **heavier daily tobacco use and a difficult time quitting later in life.**



Sources:  
Nelson et al. 2008.  
Abreu-Villaca et al. 2003.



# Youth tobacco use is still a problem

- » In Minnesota, **19%** of students used tobacco in the past 30 days.
- » 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders are now using e-cigarettes at **twice the rate** of regular cigarettes.
- » Flavored tobacco products are appealing to youth.

Sources:

Minnesota Department of Health. Teens and Tobacco in Minnesota. November 2014.

Minnesota Student Survey 2016.





**95% of current adult smokers  
started before they were 21.**






# Many youth get tobacco from older peers

Keeping tobacco out of high schools will reduce the number of youth under 18 who become addicted to tobacco.

Sources:  
Ribisl et. al. 1999  
Ahmed, S et. al. 2005





# Public support for raising tobacco sales age

75% of adults



70% of current smokers



65% of young adults ages 18-24





**Favor raising the tobacco sales age to 21**





# **Our kids need your help**

- » Preventing youth from initiation is essential to saving kids from a lifetime of addiction.
  - » Raising the tobacco sales age to 21 is one of the best ways we can protect our kids.
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