



Adirondack Health Institute

Lead • Empower • Innovate

It's Time to Clear the Air in the North Country

Raising the Tobacco Sale Age in Warren County

PRESENTED BY:

Traves Bethel

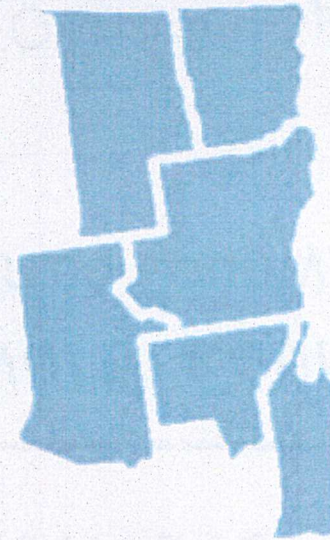
Population Health Improvement Program Outreach Specialist

February
25th, 2019



North Country Tobacco Use Reduction Task Force

More than 35 organizations working together to increase awareness and build support for raising the sale age for tobacco products to 21 years in each county in the North Country.





Leading Cause of Premature Death

Tobacco remains the
**leading cause of preventable disease and
premature death in the U.S.**

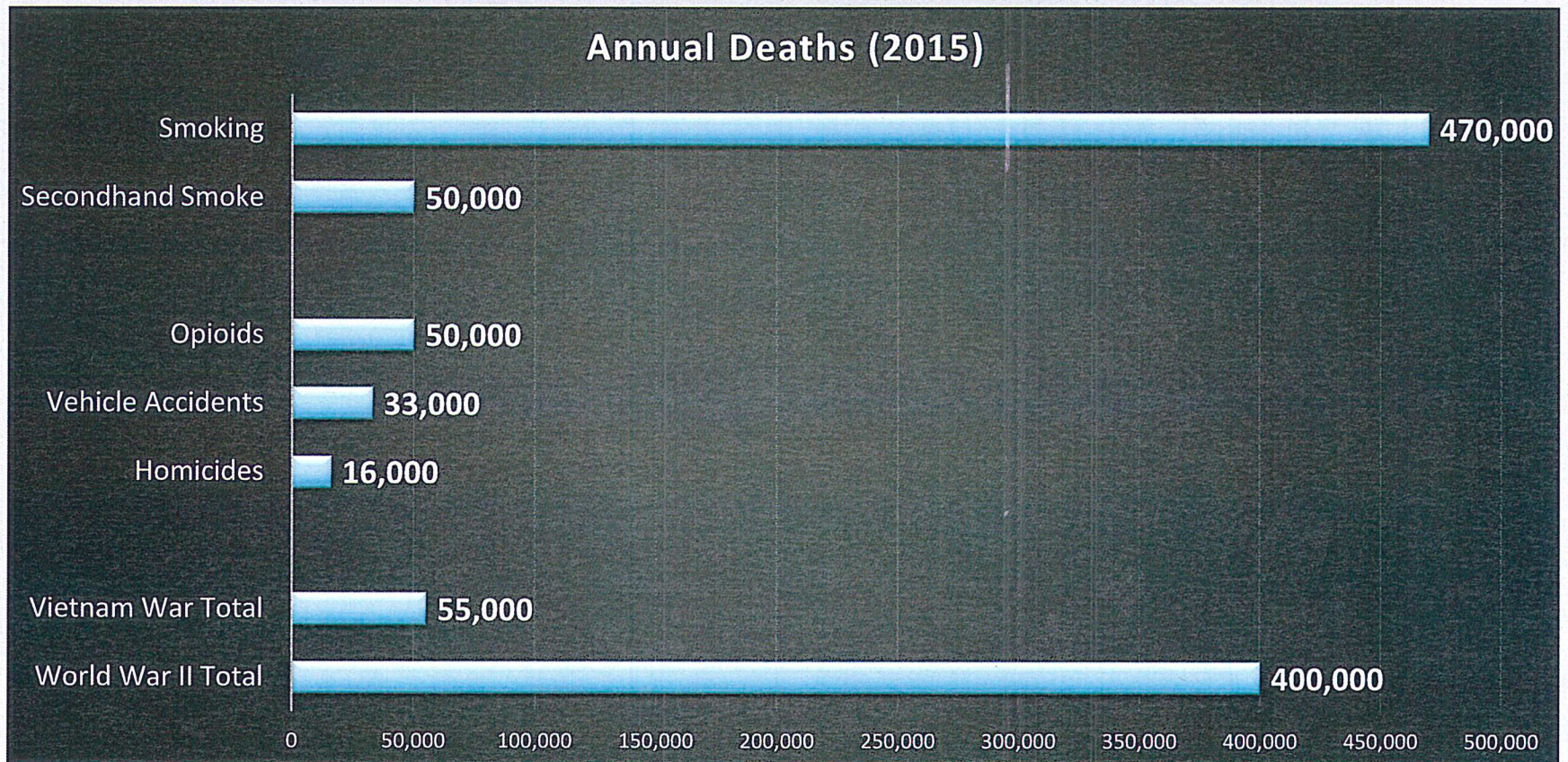
More than half a million Americans die each year due to smoking, including as many as **28,000 New Yorkers.**



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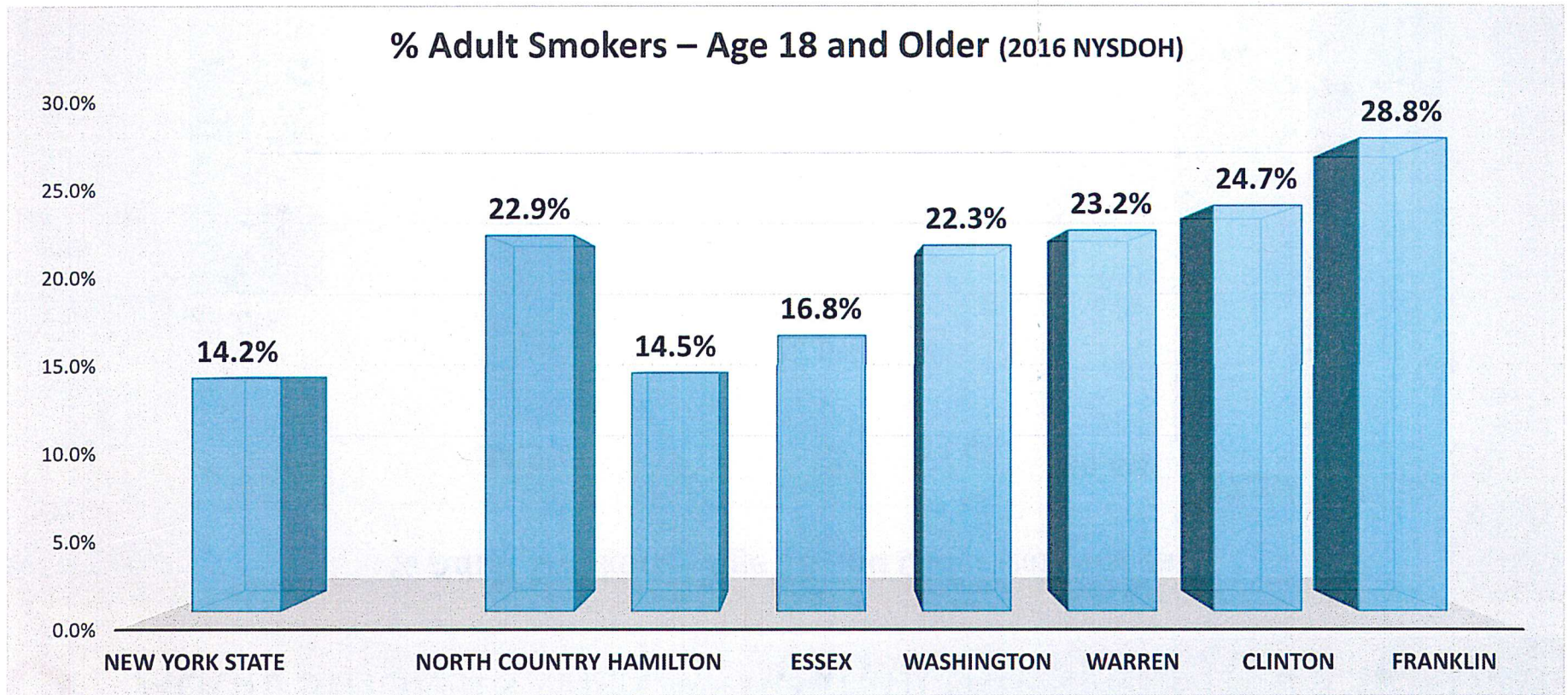


Causes of Death in the U.S.



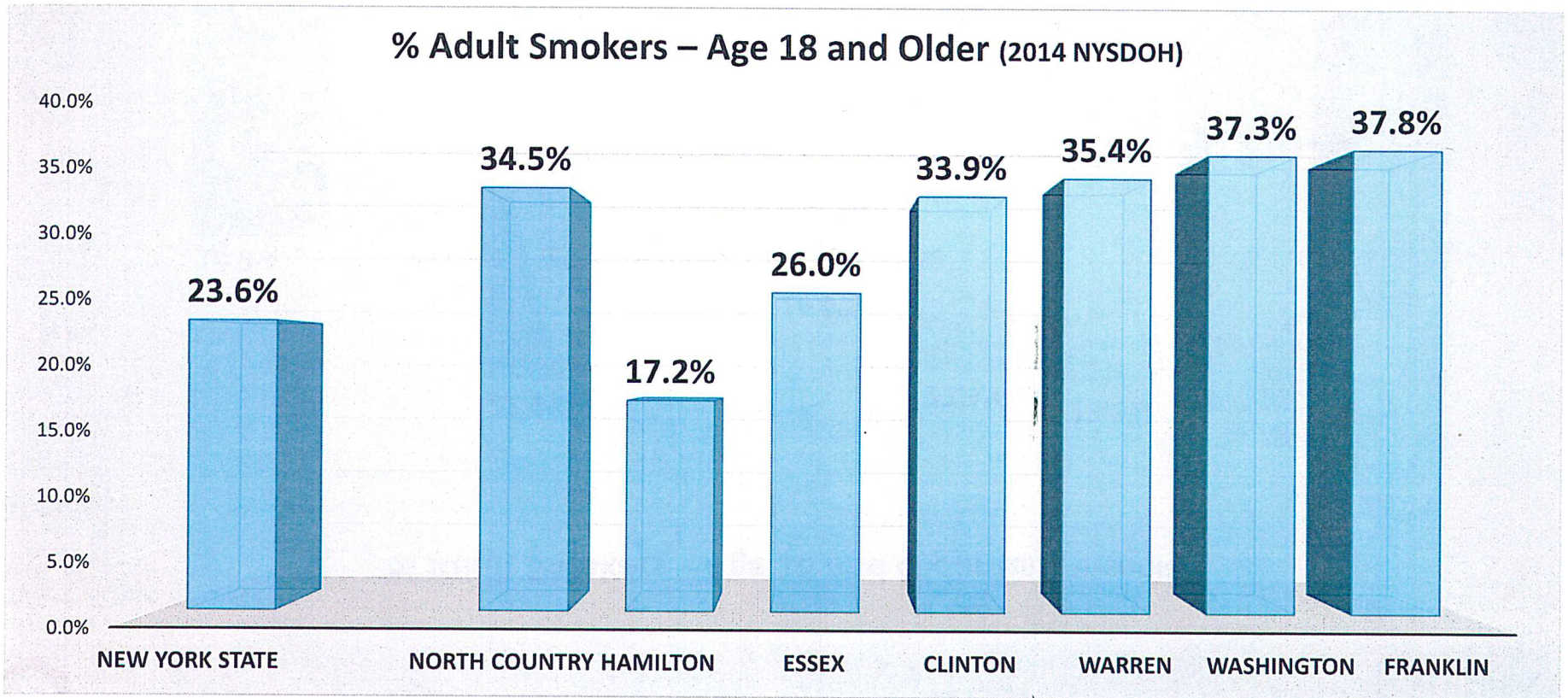


Adult Smokers in the North Country



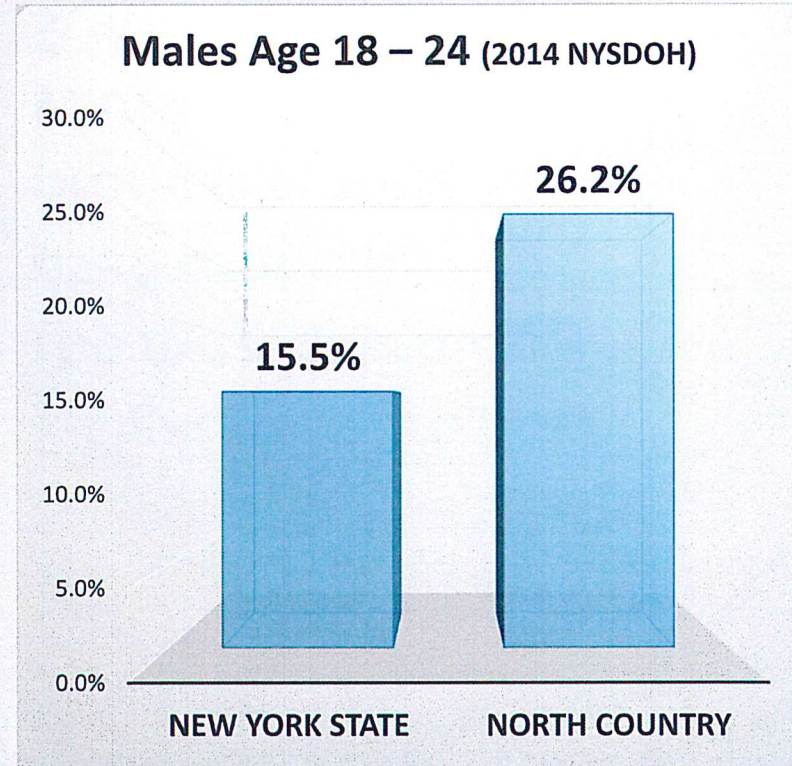
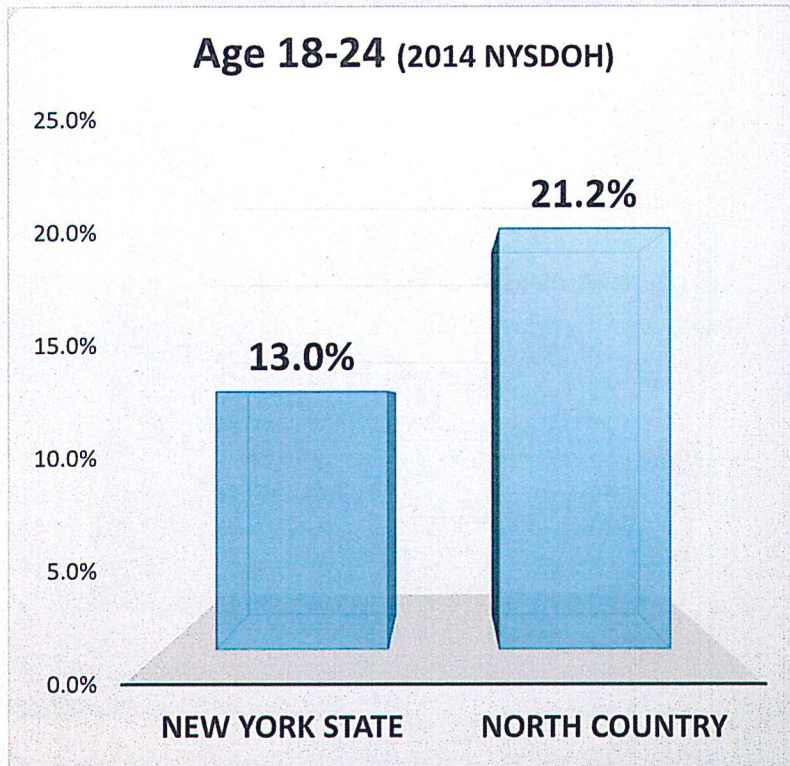


Adult Smokers with Annual Income Less than \$25,000



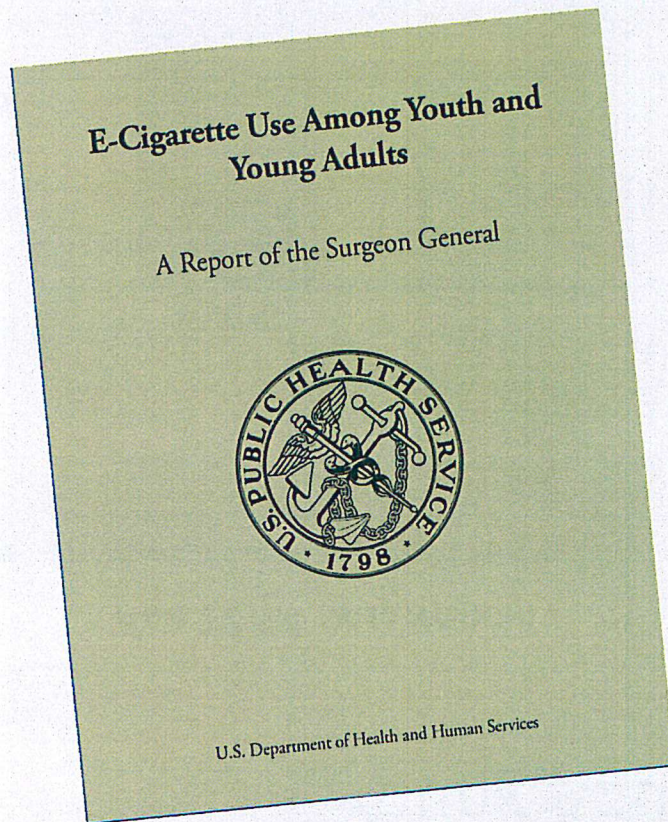


Young Adult Smokers in the North Country





Surgeon General Report



E-cigarettes are now the most commonly used tobacco product among youth in the United States.



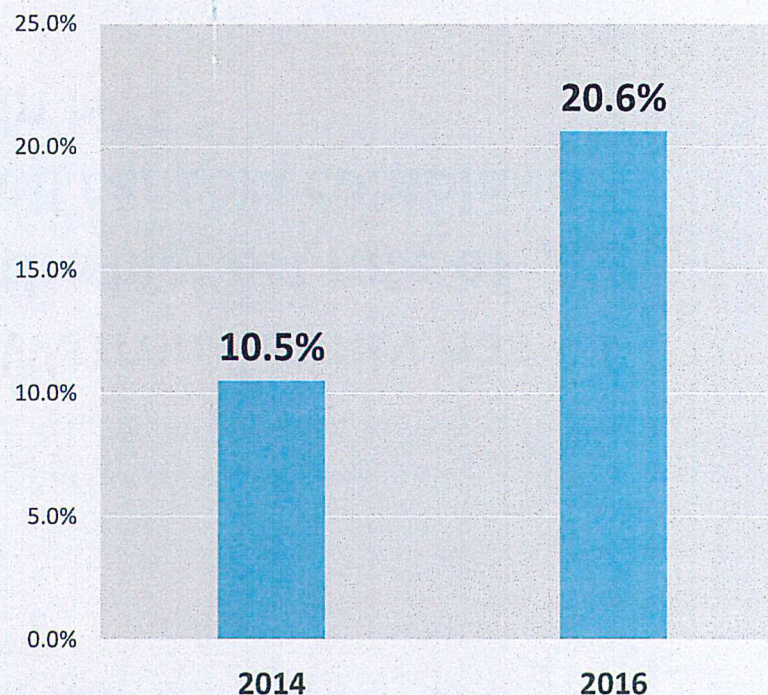
ENDS – Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems



Vaping among high school students in New York State **doubled** between 2014 and 2016 and far exceeds the rate of cigarette smoking.

Studies show that youth who vape are **more likely to smoke cigarettes** than those who don't vape.

% of NYS HS Students Using ENDS






Governor's Cancer Research Initiative

GOVERNOR'S CANCER RESEARCH INITIATIVE UPDATE


Overview
Governor Cuomo's Cancer Research Initiative, announced in October 2017, is examining cancer trends and the potential causes of cancer in four regions of the state that have higher cancer rates, based on 2011-2015 data. These investigations are expected to be completed within the next few months. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) will use the findings to work with partners to enhance community cancer prevention, recommend appropriate screening efforts, and support access to appropriate high-quality health care.



Regions and Cancers Investigated

- Warren County of Northwestern NY** – Highest rate of all cancers combined in NYS. Specific focus on lung, larynx/voice box, esophagus, oral cavity (mouth and throat), colon, thyroid, and brain cancers; melanoma (skin cancers), and leukemias and blood cancers.
- East Buffalo and Western Cheektowaga area of Western NY** – 4 cancers elevated: colon, esophagus, kidney, lung, and prostate.
- Staten Island (Richmond County)** – Highest rate of all cancers combined in NYC. Specific focus on thyroid cancer, which was significantly elevated compared to other areas of NYC.
- Carterech, Farmingville, and Selden area in Suffolk County** – 4 cancers elevated: bladder, lung, leukemia, and thyroid.

Stakeholder Input
In July 2018, DOH met with community members and stakeholders in each study area to determine the design, goals, and approaches of each investigation. Community members and stakeholders provided input at the meetings. They were also encouraged to email DOH with feedback and concerns.



Progress to Date
DOH staff are finalizing reports for each study area. They are reviewing data about a variety of factors that might be related to higher rates of cancer in each area. DOH staff have been in contact with local partners at institutions near two of the study areas (Rowles Park Cancer Institute for the East Buffalo and Western Cheektowaga study area and Stony Brook University Hospital for the Carterech, Farmingville, Selden study area), who have provided useful advice and information about the local areas, and are exploring partnerships for the implementation of recommendations in each community.

Cancer Registry Review
DOH staff are examining New York State Cancer Registry data, including the age and gender of patients diagnosed with cancer. They are reviewing cancer trends over time and examining characteristics of the cancers, such as the type of cells that are concerned, tumor size, and the stage of the disease at the time of diagnosis. They are also considering whether access to health care and medical screening could be affecting the frequency of diagnoses.

Demographic Factors and Environmental Review
DOH staff are examining data about each area, such as population age, education, income, and occupational patterns to see if these factors could be related to higher cancer rates. DOH staff also continue to work with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to identify potential sources of environmental contaminants that might be affecting cancer rates in these four regions.

See p. 2-3 for an example of an analysis and finding for each study area.
More details about the environmental review are on p.4.

Warren County has the highest rate of all cancers combined in NYS.



Family Members, Friends, Neighbors, Co-Workers

The negative health outcomes of tobacco use for Warren County residents are significantly above NYS rates (per 100,000 population):

Condition	Warren County Rate	New York State Rate
Lung & Bronchus Cancer Incidence Rate	81	59
Lung & Bronchus Cancer Death Rate	41	39
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease Death Rate	58	29
Cardiovascular Disease Premature Death Rate	115	101
Premature Births Percentage (< 37 weeks)	9.3%	10.7%



Why 21 is a Critical Age

95% of current adult smokers began before the age of 21.

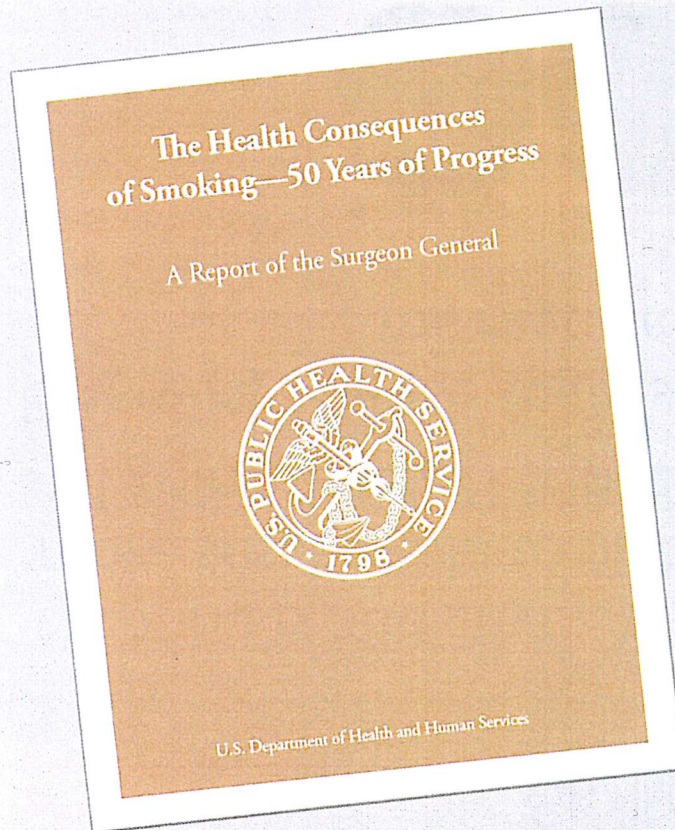
The ages of 18 to 21 are a critical period when many smokers move from experimental smoking to regular, daily use.



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Surgeon General Report

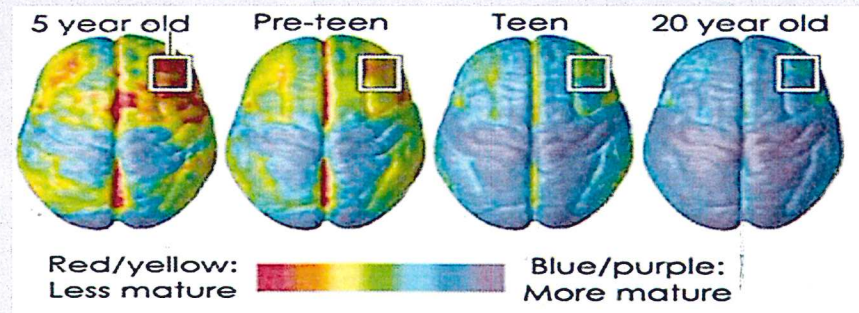


Individuals who begin smoking at a young age have a greater risk of becoming addicted, progressing to daily use, transitioning to heavier use in adulthood, and having difficulties quitting.



Early Nicotine Use Changes the Brain

Nicotine is addictive. Adolescents and young adults are more susceptible to nicotine's effects because they are still going through critical periods of brain development. Emerging science suggests that most people don't reach full maturity until the age 25.





Nicotine's Impact on Young People

Compared to non-smokers, adolescent smokers experience...

- ✓ **3** times more alcohol use
- ✓ **8** times more marijuana use
- ✓ **22** times more cocaine use
- ✓ **Higher** school dropout rates
- ✓ **Higher** rates of unplanned pregnancy





You Must Be 21 To...

- ✓ Buy alcohol
- ✓ Gamble in a casino
- ✓ Get a license to possess or carry a handgun (in NYS)
- ✓ Rent a car (must be age 25)
- ✓ Rent a hotel room in some hotels



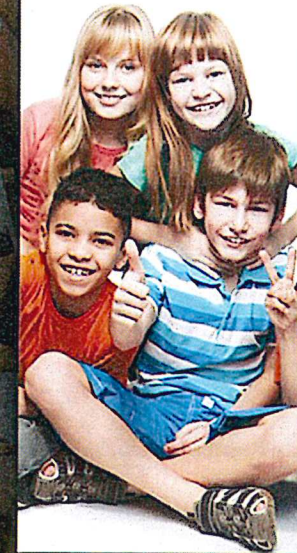


Tobacco Supply to Younger Kids

18–20 year olds purchase only 2% of cigarettes sold, but are 90% of the supply of addictive tobacco to younger kids.

2%

90%





Scientific Evidence

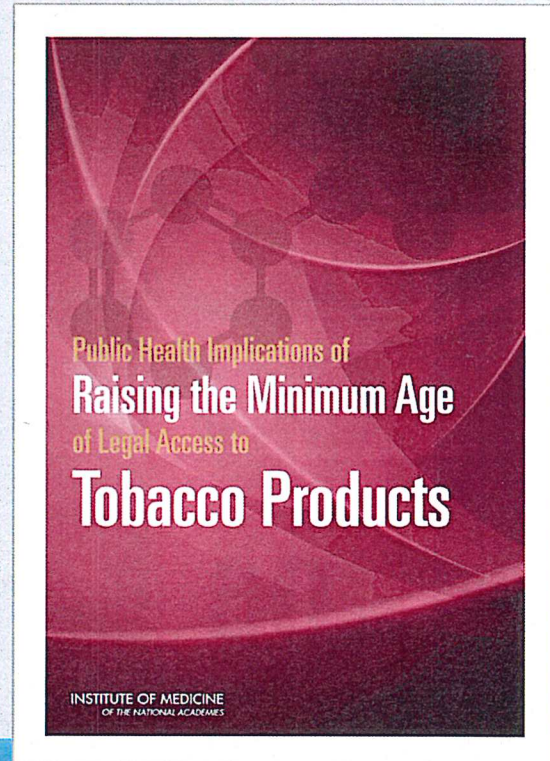
There is increasing scientific evidence that raising the sale age for tobacco...

Saves lives

and...

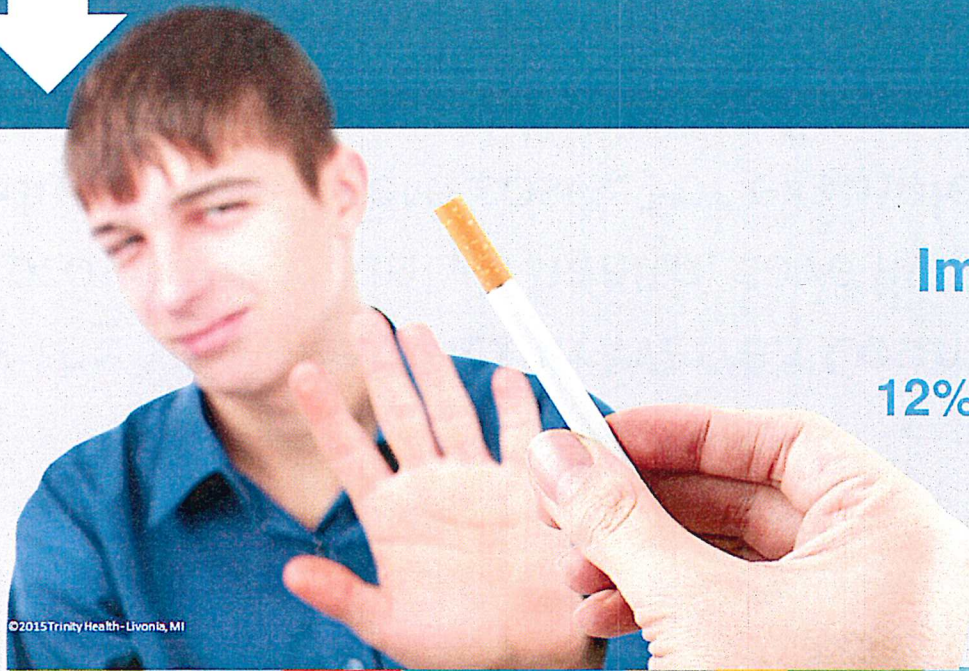
Saves money

(health care savings)





Over Time...



Immediate impacts...

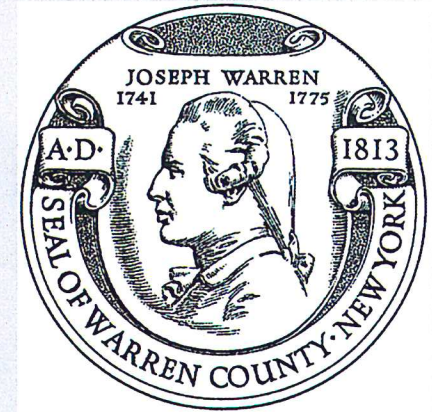
12% Drop in Premature Births
16% Drop in SIDS



Potential Impact for Warren County

Raising the sale age to **21** in Warren County will improve the county's health, save lives and reduce health care costs. For example, raising the sale age would potentially:

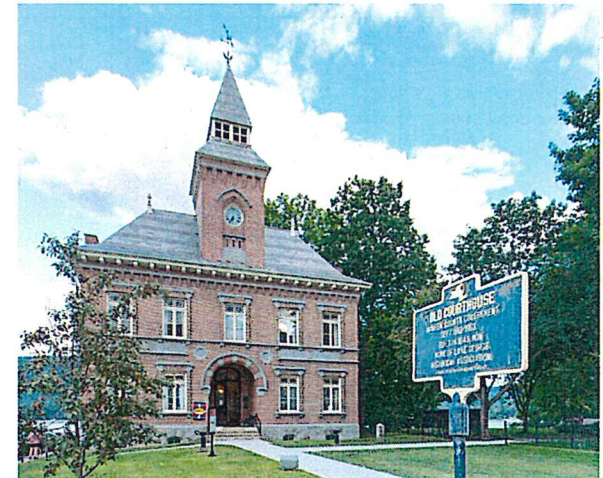
- ✓ Help more than **3,200** young people currently between the ages of **0** to **17** to not start smoking





Potential Impact for Warren County

- ✓ Reduce the number of premature deaths due to smoking-related conditions; **486** Warren County residents died prematurely due to heart disease, cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease from 2012 to 2014.
- ✓ Reduce the **\$12.6 million** in the annual local share of Medicaid costs for the county





Raising the Sale Age is Popular

The majority of adults in every demographic group (i.e., age, race, gender, education level, U.S. Census region, and income), as well as smoking-status category, support increasing the minimum age to 21.



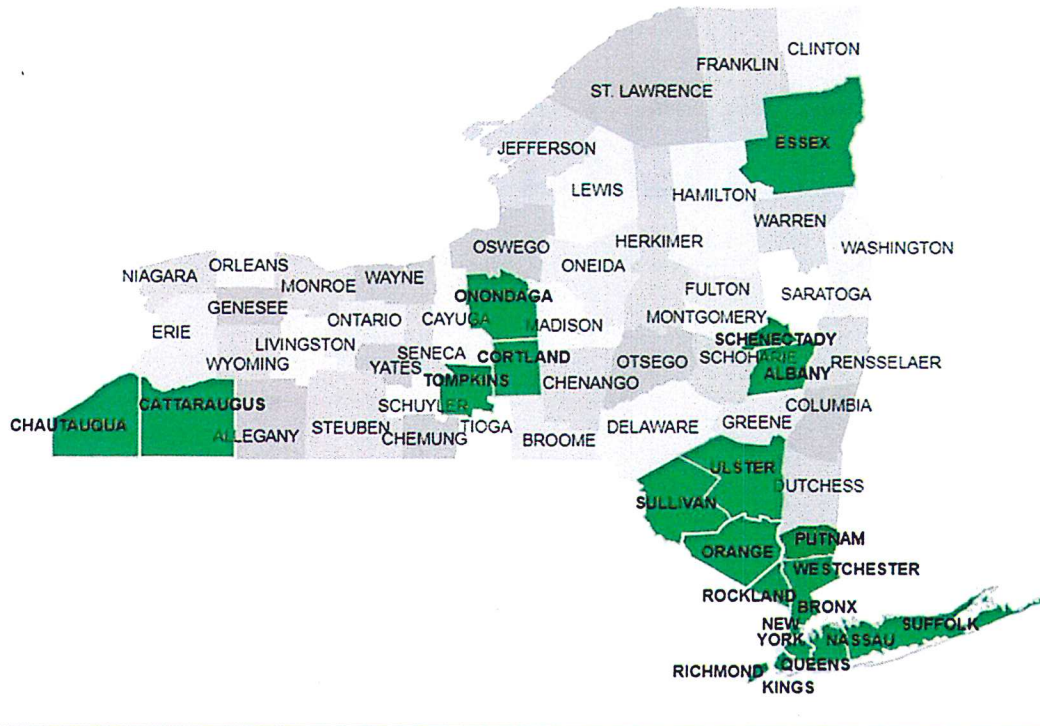
“Never Smoker”
79.5%
Favorable

“Former Smoker”
75.6%
Favorable

“Current Smoker”
69.9%
Favorable



NYS Counties with Sale Age of 21



NYC (all five boroughs) (2014)

Suffolk (2014)

Orange (2016)

Albany (2016)

Schenectady (2016)

Cortland (2016)

Cattaraugus (2016)

Chautauqua (2016)

Sullivan (2017)

Tompkins (2017)

Onondaga (2018)

Putnam (2018)

Rockland (2018)

Essex (2018)

Nassau (2018)

Ulster (2018)

Westchester (2018)



Questions?



Thank you!

Population Health Improvement Program

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For more information about tobacco use and other health measures for North Country communities, visit *HealthyADK* at:

<http://www.healthyadk.org/>

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