



THE CLOUD OVER INDIANA

MORE THAN

60%

OF HOOSIERS SUPPORT RAISING SMOKING AGE AND CIGARETTE TAX

Cigarettes

Indiana's adult smoking rate of 22% ranks among the very worst in the country (at 44th, with 50th being the highest rate), says the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That translates to not only significant health concerns but deep business impacts on employers and the state.

Smoking costs **\$6.2 billion** annually in health care costs (through employer-sponsored health care and Medicaid), absenteeism and lost productivity on the job. Research has shown that significantly increasing what a pack of cigarettes costs and upping the legal age to smoke will yield positive results and reduce the number of smokers.

Indiana is **one of only 13 states** to have a cigarette tax under a \$1 – the national average is \$1.73. In our immediate vicinity, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky all have a higher tax.

As of June 2019, 16 states have raised the smoking age to 21 – that's an addition of four states just this year. Military leaders want the age increased. Studies show the harmful trends of starting smoking as a teenager. And now we have a vaping crisis in schools.

E-Cigarettes

All data cited below is from CDC research.

Indiana's 6% e-cigarette usage (vaping every day or some days) ranks in the Top 3 highest in the nation.

Unfortunately, youth are more likely than adults to use e-cigarettes, says the CDC. It's not primarily adult smokers looking to step down from cigarettes as the TV ads and vaping industry want you to believe. Just look at the marketing tools and flavors available; it's geared toward youth and is getting teenagers hooked on a drug that could have devastating effects on them throughout their life.

How prevalent is vaping in Indiana schools? Nationally, a staggering **21%** of high school students – or one in five – are using e-cigarettes. The surge among that group is also very concerning, with usage increasing nearly **80%** in 2018.

3.6

MILLION U.S. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS USED E-CIGARETTES IN 2018

THE STATE OF INDIANA

PAYS MORE

IN HEALTH CARE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SMOKING THAN WITH THE OPIOID CRISIS



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WE URGE YOU TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR INDIANA AND GET BEHIND COMPREHENSIVE SMOKING REFORM!