

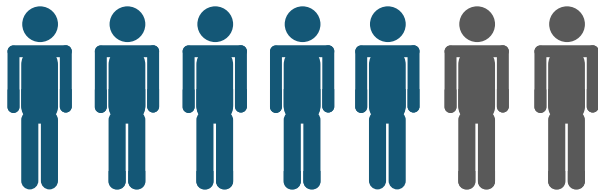
YOUTH TOBACCO USE IN KANSAS

Updated 2023

Nearly nine out of ten current smokers start smoking by age 18, and 98 percent 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, 4.6 percent of Kansas high school students still smoke,⁴ and products targeting youth, including electronic vapor products (EVPs), highlight the continued need for youth tobacco control and prevention programs.

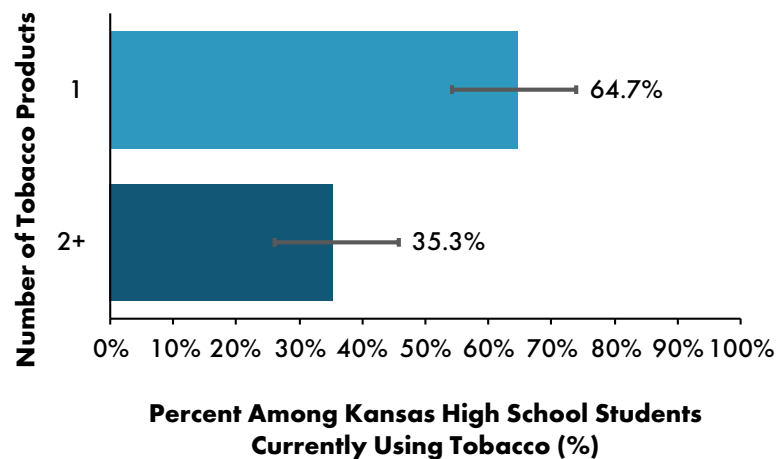
Any Tobacco Use⁴

About **one in seven** (14.9%) Kansas high school students report using at least one of the following tobacco products: **Cigarettes, E-cigarettes, Cigars, Smokeless Tobacco**



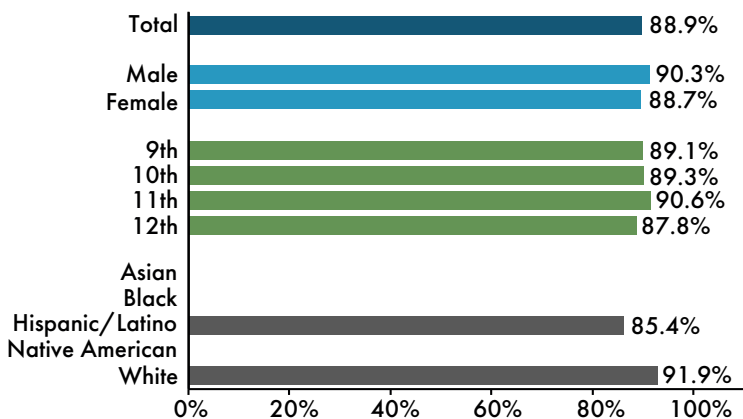
Use of Multiple Tobacco Products⁴

Among Kansas youth who use tobacco, **more than one third** (35.3%) use **two or more*** tobacco products.



Flavored Vape Use

Roughly **9 out of 10** (90%) high school students who vape reported that their first electronic vapor product they used was flavored to taste like an alcoholic drink, chocolate, or other sweets, fruit, menthol, or mint.



Percentage of High School Students Who Reported the First Electronic Vapor Product They Ever Used Was Flavored to Taste like an Alcoholic Drink, Chocolate or Other Sweets, Fruit, Menthol, or Mint, * by Sex, Grade, and Race/Ethnicity, 2021

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

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.

* Among students who ever used electronic vapor products. All Hispanic students are included in the Hispanic category. All other races are non-Hispanic. Missing bar indicates fewer than 30 students in the subgroup. This graph contains weighted results.

Reasons Why Youth Use EVPs⁴

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:

Friend or family member uses (40.2%)

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

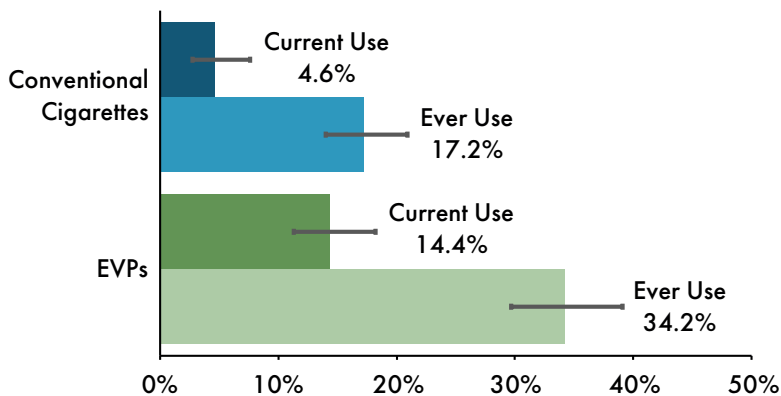
Less harmful than other forms of tobacco (7.7%)

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.

Conventional and EVPs⁴

Fewer than a fifth (17.2%) of Kansas high school students have ever tried conventional cigarettes (even one or two puffs), and **4.6% currently smoke conventional cigarettes**.

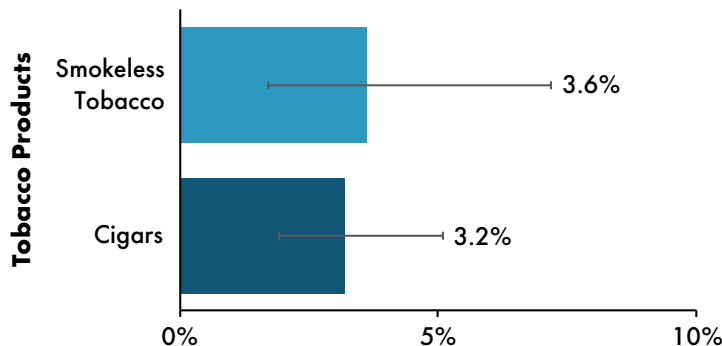
Over **one third (34.2%)** of Kansas high school students have ever tried EVPs, and **14.4% currently use EVPs**.



Percent of Kansas High School Students (%)

Kansas High School Students Who Currently Use Other Tobacco Products⁴

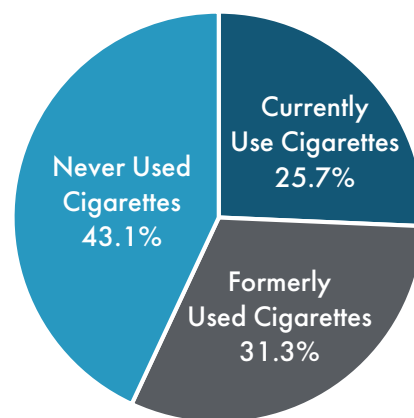
Kansas youth are also currently using other types of tobacco products, including **smokeless tobacco** and **cigars**.



Prevalence of Current Use of Other Tobacco Products (%)

Use of Conventional Cigarettes Among Youth who Currently Use EVPs⁴

About one in four (25.7%) Kansas high school youth who use EVPs 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 EVPs. This shows the need to be vigilant of products targeting youth.



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For more information, visit kdhe.ks.gov/tobacco and resisttobacco.org.