

Alachua County: Tobacco 21

What You Need to Know

Raising the minimum age of sale for tobacco to 21 is a good thing for Alachua County and its residents. Studies have found that increasing the tobacco age will significantly reduce the number of adolescents and young adults who start smoking; reduce smoking-caused deaths; and immediately improve the health of adolescents, young adults and young mothers who would be deterred from smoking, as well as their children.¹

Alachua County is paving the way for the rest of Florida, being the first county to take this stand against the tobacco industry.

Information for the Community



- Raising the minimum age of sale for tobacco products is consistent with raising the legal drinking age to 21, which led to reduced alcohol use and dependence among youth, and contributed to the decline in drunk driving fatalities.²
- The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the distribution of tobacco products to young people and reduce tobacco use.
- The products include but are not limited to: cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, e-liquids.
- Three-quarters of adults favor raising the minimum legal sales age for tobacco products to 21, including seven in 10 smokers.³

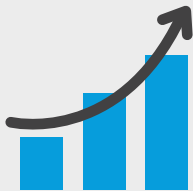
Information for Retailers

- Retailers will need to apply for a license for each of their locations. The license may not be granted if the store location is within 1,000 feet of any public school.
- Retailers who sell or distribute tobacco products without a license will be subject to a Class Violation.
- The license is valid for one year starting from October of each year and needs to be renewed yearly 30 calendar days before the expiration date.
- The license and signage must be displayed in the store and can be downloaded online after the license is issued.

About Youth Tobacco Use



- Adolescent brains are more vulnerable to nicotine's effects, making teens more sensitive to and dependent on nicotine than adults.^{4,5,6}



- Florida's average high school smoking rate is lower than the rest of the country. However, Florida's high school student's e-cigarette usage rate is 24.8%, driving up Florida's overall youth tobacco use rates.⁷

For more information, visit

<https://growth-management.alachuacounty.us/CodeEnforcement>

1 Institute of Medicine. 2015. Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/18997>.

2 William Dejong & Jason Blanchette, Case Closed: Research Evidence on the Positive Public Health Impact of the Age 21 Minimum Legal Drinking Age in the United States, J. Stud. 108.

3 King, Brian A., Jama, AO, Marynak, KL, and Promoff GR, "Attitudes Toward Raising the Minimum Age of Sale for Tobacco Among U.S. Adults," American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2015.

4 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016.

5 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. Printed with corrections, January 2014.

6 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012.

7 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS), Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, 2018.