

Tobacco Use in Cottage Grove

Every child deserves to live in a community where they have the best opportunity to make choices that lead to good health. Lane County's Community Health Improvement Plan identifies tobacco as a priority health issue¹. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and imposes a significant economic burden on Lane County communities². Most adults smokers started before age 18³. *Preventing youth access* to tobacco is an important part of a comprehensive approach to reduce youth initiation and use⁴.

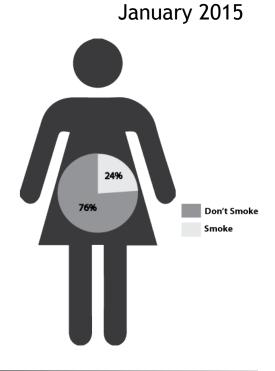
Tobacco Use Among Youth & Adults

In Cottage Grove, 20% of 11th graders and over 10% of 8th graders smoke cigarettes⁵, and most become addicted and continue using into adulthood⁶. The most recent data shows that 17% of adults use tobacco⁷, and about 1 in 4 women smoke during pregnancy⁸. In a year, 19 people die of tobacco-related diseases, and 379 people suffer from a serious illness caused by tobacco, such as heart disease, lung cancer, and COPD⁹.



E-cigarettes

E-cigarettes (e-cigs) allow users to mimic the act of smoking cigarettes while inhaling nicotine aerosol, or "vapor," instead of smoke. There are over 7,700 flavors available¹⁴, such as Gummy Bear, which entice youth to "vape"¹⁵. Currently, minors can legally buy e-cigs. From 2011 to 2013, use of e-cigs nearly tripled among Oregon 11th graders¹⁶. In Cottage Grove, 9 in 10 tobacco retailers sell e-cigarettes¹⁰.



Retail Access to Tobacco

Cottage Grove has the highest density of tobacco retailers in Lane County. There is 1 tobacco retailer for every 500 people¹⁰, which is twice that for Lane County. It is *4 times easier to get tobacco than fresh fruits and vegetables*¹¹. Additionally, 2012-13 Synar inspections showed that *1 in 4 tobacco retailers made a sale to a minor* in Cottage Grove¹². In the 2014 Lane County Health & Human Services survey, *71% of people said they support requiring a license to sell tobacco*¹³.

E-cigarettes:

- Encourage smoking initiation¹⁵
- Contain some of the same carcinogens and toxic chemicals as tobacco smoke¹⁵
- Pose potential health risks¹⁵
- Have not been shown to be effective to help people quit tobacco¹⁵
- Counter effectiveness of smoke-free policies¹⁵
- Pose safety issues from poisonings¹⁷ & fires¹⁸

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