



# Community Health Profile

# TOBACCO USE

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States, with tobacco ranking as the leading risk factor driving death and disability in Minnesota. Cigarette smoking is associated with cancer, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, heart disease, and stroke. In addition, there are health effects for non-smokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke, including an increased risk of dying from lung cancer or heart disease, and children are at increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), ear infections and asthma. Mothers who smoke cigarettes during pregnancy are at risk for poor birth outcomes, such as preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth.

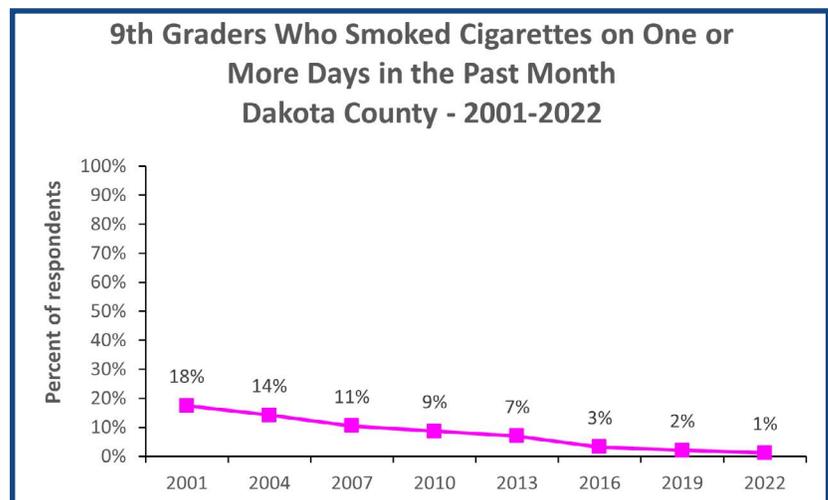
## KEY FACTS

Since 2001, the percent of Dakota County students who reported smoking cigarettes on one or more days in the previous month decreased significantly. However, rates of e-cigarette use have increased in adolescents.

The number of adults who smoke cigarettes also decreased in recent years. State law that prohibits smoking in workplaces and public places has decreased secondhand smoke exposure in Minnesota, but exposure in homes and cars is still a concern.

## Cigarette smoking by Dakota County youth

- The percent of Dakota County students who reported smoking cigarettes on one or more days in the previous month steadily decreased in 9th graders from 2001 to 2022. The 2022 percentages were similar to or below the state for all grades.
- The percent of students who reported smoking every day during the previous 30 days also steadily decreased in Dakota County 9th graders from 2001 to 2022 (2022 percent: less than one percent of 9th graders).



Source: Minnesota Student Survey Interagency Team, *Minnesota Student Survey*



Dakota County  
Public Health Department  
[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us)



## Use of other tobacco products and e-cigarettes by Dakota County youth

- In 2022, one percent of Dakota County 8th graders and 9th graders, and two percent of Dakota County 11th graders reported smoking cigars or cigarillos during the previous 30 days. The percent is nearly the same as the state for all grades.
- In 2022, one percent of 8th, 9th and 11th graders reported using smokeless tobacco during the previous 30 days, nearly the same as the state for 8th and 9th graders and slightly below the state for 11th graders.
- In 2022, five percent of 8th graders, six percent of 9th graders and 12 percent of 11th graders used an electronic cigarette during the past 30 days, slightly below the state for all grades.

## Exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke

- More than 7,300 adult non-smokers die of lung cancer and nearly 34,000 die of coronary heart disease each year due to secondhand smoke exposure.
- The Freedom to Breathe Act (2007) requires all indoor Minnesota workplaces and public places to be smoke-free.
- Thirteen percent of Dakota County 5th graders reported being in a room with someone who was smoking one or more days in the past seven days (2022).
- Eight percent of Dakota County 5th graders reported riding in a car with someone who was smoking one or more days in the past seven days (2022).
- Three percent of Dakota County adults reported that someone regularly smokes inside their home (2023).

## Youth access to tobacco in Dakota County

- Ten percent of compliance checks conducted in licensed retail outlets in Dakota County from 2018–2022 resulted in an illegal tobacco sale to an underage person.

## Tobacco use by adults

- In 2023, six percent of Dakota County adults (25 or older) currently smoked cigarettes every day or some days, a decrease from 12 percent in 2010.
- Five percent of Dakota County 18–44 year olds currently smoke cigarettes (2023).
- In 2020, three percent of Dakota County mothers reported smoking during pregnancy, slightly below 2019 (four percent).
- In 2023, seven percent of Dakota County adults reported currently using e-cigarettes.



## Adult tobacco cessation

- Twenty-four percent of current Dakota County adult smokers stopped smoking for one day or longer in the past 12 months because they were trying to quit (2023).

.....

For more information:

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)
- National Cancer Institute [www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/tobacco](http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/tobacco)
- Surgeon General's Reports on Smoking and Tobacco Use [www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/sgr/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/index.htm)

The Dakota County Public Health Department is accredited by the national Public Health Accreditation Board.

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, email [public.health@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:public.health@co.dakota.mn.us) or call 651.554.6100.

