



Highland County General Health District

1487 North High St. Suite 400, Hillsboro, OH 45133

Telephone: (937) 393-1941 • Fax: (937) 393-4694 • Email: info@highlandcountyhealth.org

Tobacco Use in Teens is Increasing

For Immediate Release

1/26/2023

The Highland County Health Department recently wrapped up our latest Community Health Assessment (CHA) report. This report includes results from our community health survey, as well as information from a variety of other sources about the health of Highland County.

One area that CHA workgroup focused on in particular is the 29% adult tobacco use rate in Highland County, which is significantly higher than the national average of 16%. County specific tobacco use rates for teens are harder to come by, but state trends in teenage tobacco use are concerning.

According to key findings from the Ohio Department of Health's most recent study of 3,000 students (grades 6-12), tobacco use among middle and high school students in Ohio increased 88% from 2016 to 2019. Specifically, the study found that middle school students saw a 125% increase in tobacco usage, while high school students saw a 52% increase.

One of the most concerning trends identified in the study is the widespread use of e-cigarettes (vaping, vape pens, juuls, etc.) among Ohio teens. E-cigarettes were found to be the most commonly used tobacco product among both middle and high school students in Ohio. The study found that 11.9% of middle school students and 29.0% of high school students in Ohio use e-cigarettes (any use within 30 days of taking the survey was counted for this value).

This increase in tobacco and e-cigarette use among Ohio teens is consistent with national trends, which have seen a sharp rise in youth vaping in recent years. This increase is a cause for concern and highlights the need for continued efforts to educate youth on the dangers of tobacco and e-cigarette use.

The Highland County Health Department will be working with local school districts and community partners this year to address this issue. If you have suggestions on how we can work together to address this issue, leave us a comment on social media.

www.facebook.com/highlandcountyhealth

Sources: https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/b17cb12d-8de9-4fc5-96b0-26ced4f5ccb3/YRBS_YTS+Governor+Report_final_02.24.2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_T=O=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_K9I401S01H7F40QBNJU3SO1F56-b17cb12d-8de9-4fc5-96b0-26ced4f5ccb3-n-dwE8o

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/ohio/highland?year=2022>



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Health Factors				
Health Behaviors	Highland (HG) County	Ohio	United States	
Adult Smoking	29%	22%	16%	▼

Robert Wood Johnson Healthy Communities Report 2022

High School: Current Tobacco Use, Ohio and the United States, 2016 and 2019

Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey	2016	2019	Change
Any tobacco product	23.4	35.6	↑
Two or more tobacco products	15.8	21.4	↑
E-cigarette	10.5	29.0	↑
Cigarette	8.4	4.9	↓
National Youth Tobacco Survey	2016	2019	Change
Any tobacco product	20.0	31.2	↑
Two or more tobacco products	9.6	21.8	↑
E-cigarette	11.3	27.5	↑
Cigarette	8.0	5.8	↓

- Current tobacco use among high school students in Ohio increased 52% from 2016 to 2019; this increase is largely driven by the increase in use of e-cigarettes and is consistent with national trends.
- Use of e-cigarettes is nearly three times higher in 2019 compared with 2016 in Ohio.
- Cigarette use decreased from 2016 to 2019 in both Ohio and the United States.

Source - ODH Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program, February 2020