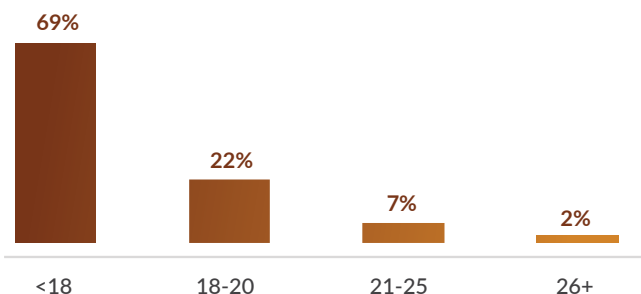


Age Is a Key Factor in Starting Commercial Tobacco & Nicotine Use

Smokers Start Young

When people start smoking during youth, they are more likely to keep the habit. According to the 2021 Wyoming Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS), almost all (91%) of the Wyoming adults who had ever smoked an entire cigarette (experimental smokers, current smokers, and former smokers) smoked their first one before the age of 21. Moreover, the vast majority of them smoked their first cigarette before they were 18, with an average age of 16.

Almost All Smoking Begins Before the Age of 21



WYOMING SURVEY & ANALYSIS CENTER

Definitions of Smoking Status

Responses to ATS lead to four key categories of smoking status

	REGULAR SMOKER			
	CURRENT SMOKER	FORMER SMOKER	EXPERIMENTAL SMOKER	NEVER SMOKER
Now smoke daily or some days				
Smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime				
Ever tried smoking				

Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) Use a Gateway to Smoking

A growing public health concern is the connection between using electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and starting to smoke cigarettes. Emerging research shows that vaping may lead people to smoke.

Conclusions

Most smokers started smoking young. Few adults begin to smoke after age 21.

Few adults begin to smoke after age 21.

Additional Information:

The 2021 Wyoming Adult Tobacco Survey was a phone survey of Wyoming adults. More information is available here:

- health.wyo.gov/publichealth/prevention/substanceabuseandsuicide/tobacco-prevention
- wysac.uwyo.edu/wyomingtobacco



COMMUNITY PREVENTION UNIT

