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# TOBACCO 21

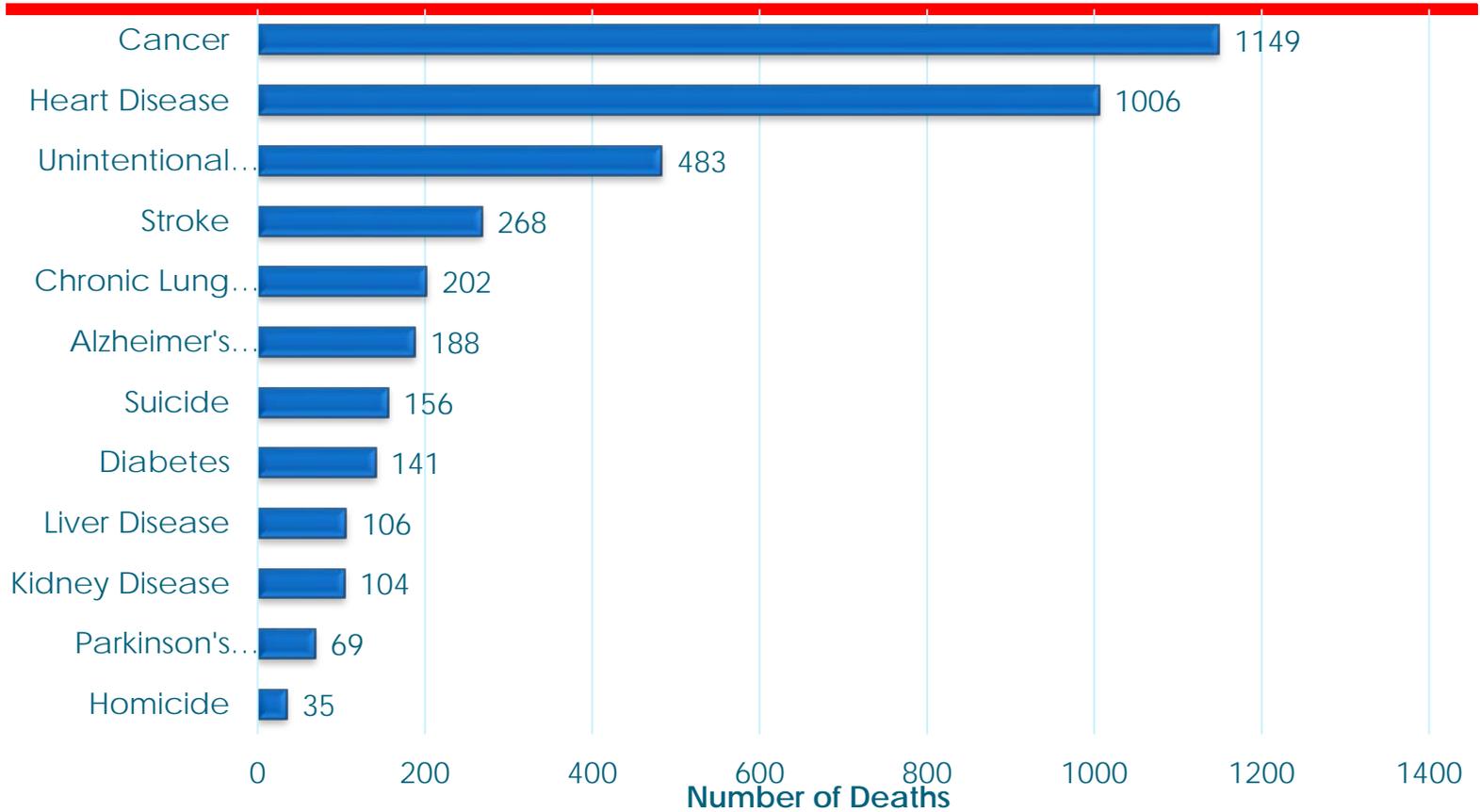
## Health and Human Services Committee City Hall

May 16, 2018

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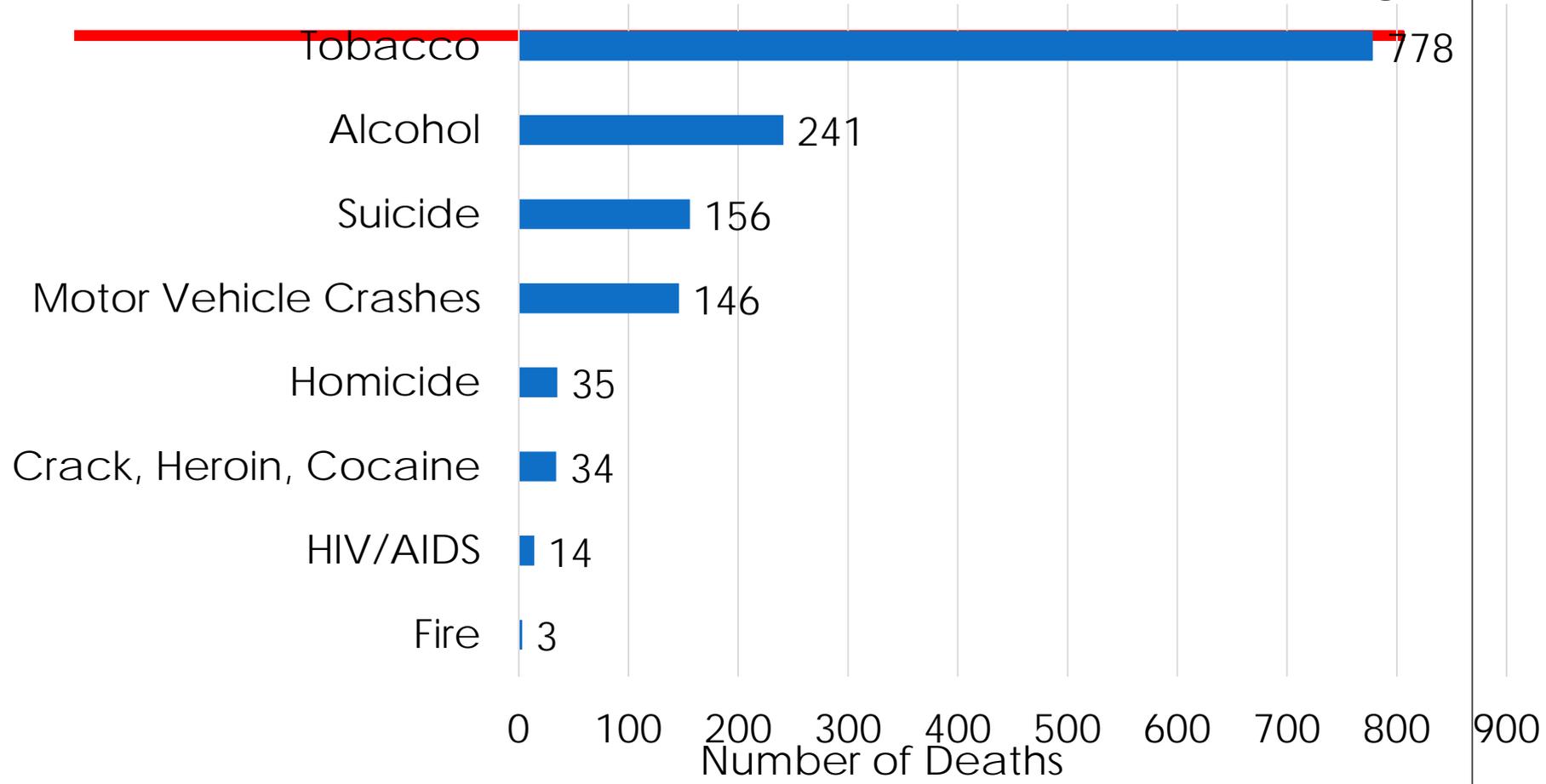


## Leading Causes of Death, Travis County, 2015



Data Source: Texas DSHS Vital Statistics

# Actual Causes of Death - Travis County 2015



Data Source: Texas DSHS Vital Statistics, CDC, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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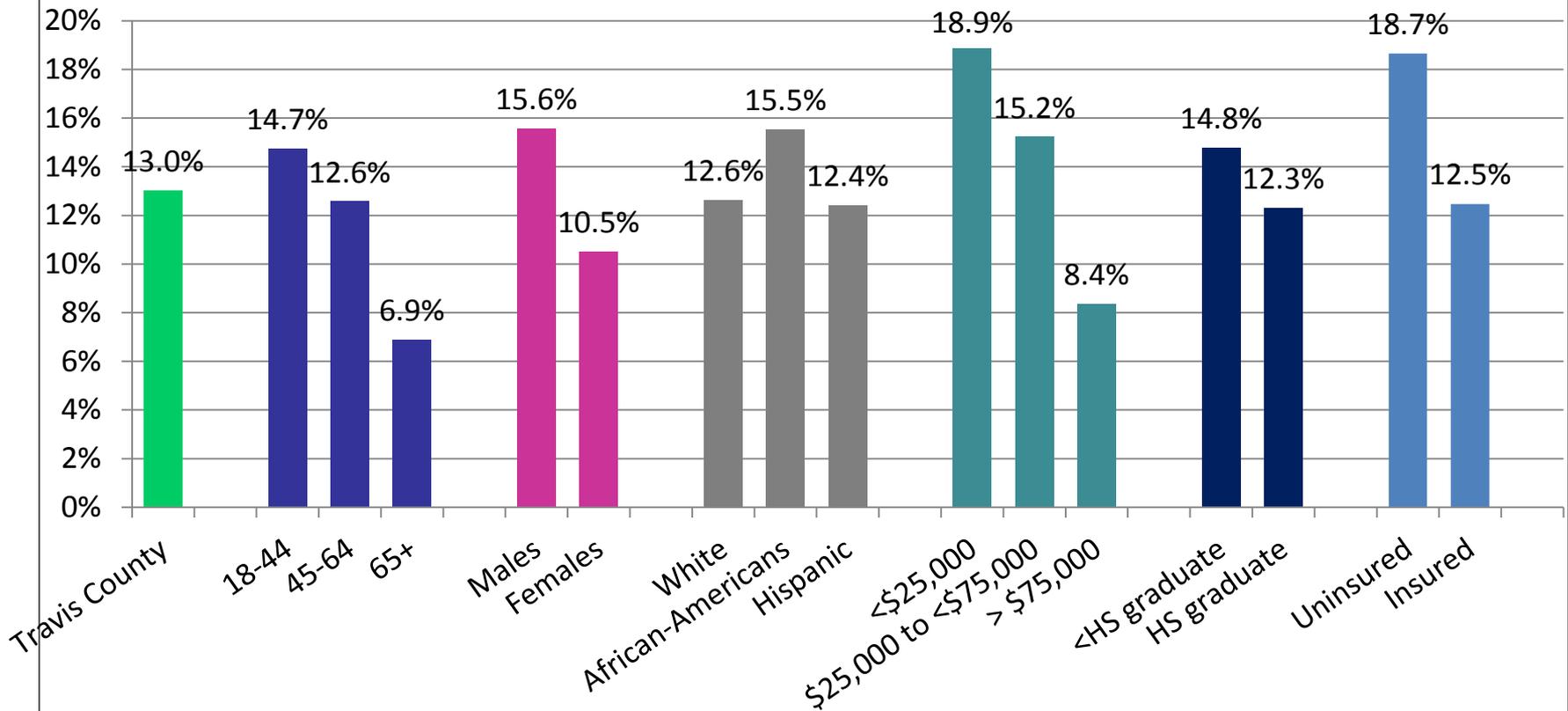
**There are 265,000 youth (aged 0-17)  
in Travis County**

**It is estimated that 18,500 of them  
will die prematurely due to  
smoking-related illness**

**Data Source:** The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014, p.696. Available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/sgr50-chap-12.pdf>. Travis County youth 0-17 account for 3.71% of Texas 0-17 population.

# Adult Smoking Prevalence Travis County, 2012-2016

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Data Source: Texas BRFSS 2012-2016



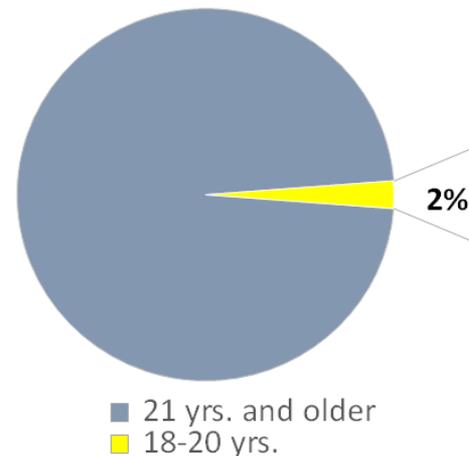
- 4.2 Million Years of Lives Saved in Kids Currently Alive Today
- 25% Drop in Youth Initiation
- 12% Drop in Overall Smoking
- 12% Drop in Premature Births

# Why Raise the Age?

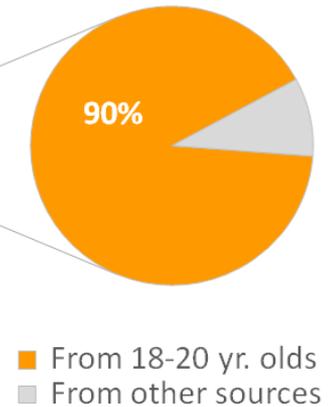
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- 95% of adult smokers began smoking before they turned 21.
- Only 2% of tobacco sold is purchased by 18-20 year olds, but that 2% supplies 90% of the addictive tobacco to younger people.

Sale of Tobacco Products by Age



Supply of Tobacco to People 17 years and younger



# Increasing the Sale Age to 21

## A Public Health Solution

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- Delay age of first tobacco use and reduce risk of becoming regular smoker.
- Helps keep tobacco out of schools.
- Younger teens have harder time passing themselves off as 21.

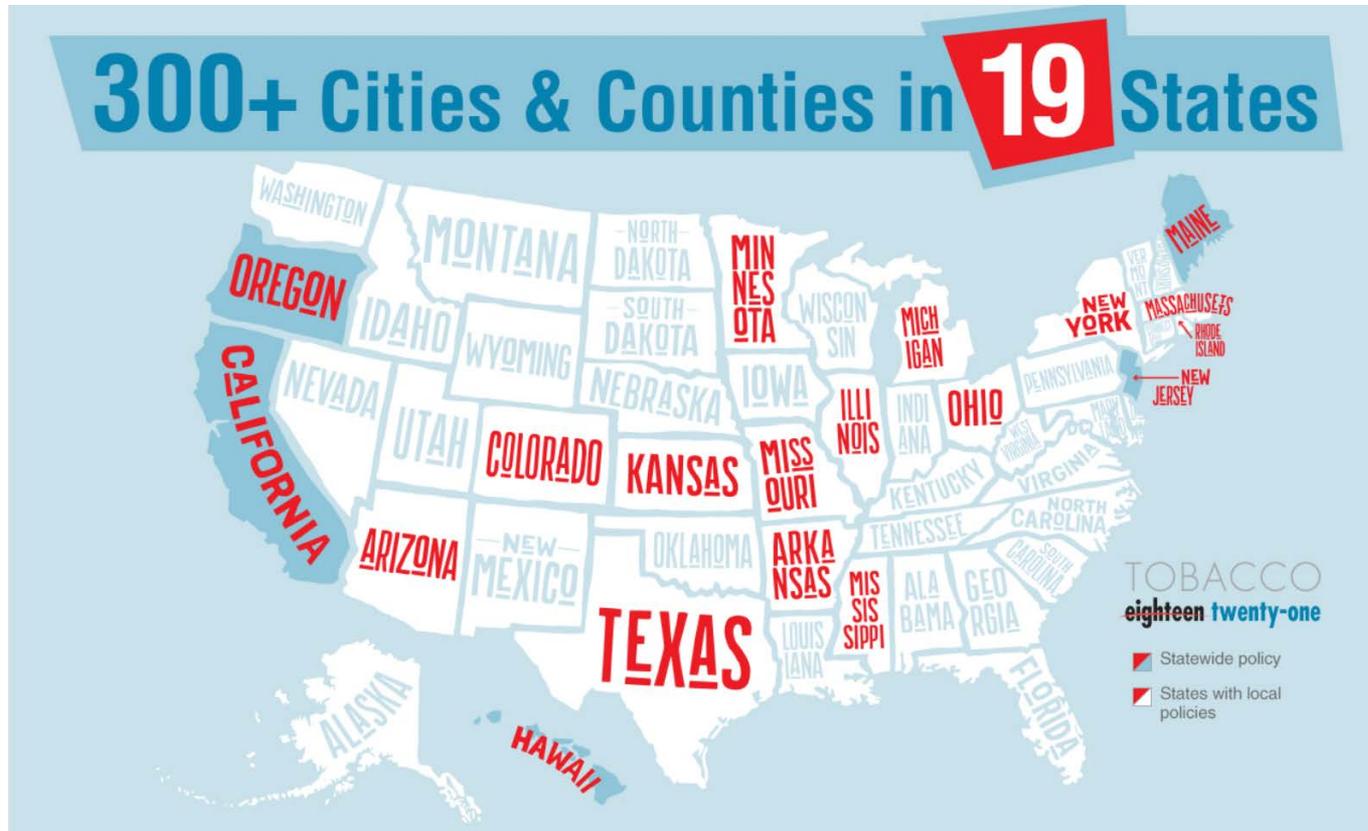


# Potential Results in Texas and Travis County

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- Raising the tobacco purchase age to 21 could result in
  - 12% decrease in tobacco use among adults (National Academies of Medicine, 2015)
  - 33% reduction in the use of all tobacco products by 18- to 20-year-old Texans (Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2013)

# Where is T21 already in place?



# Texas Status for Tobacco 21

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- During the last Texas Legislative Session in 2017, there was bipartisan support for a state-wide Tobacco 21 bill. Rep. John Zerwas, a Richmond Republican and physician championed the effort in the House, and he was joined by Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, and had the support of a bipartisan group of 16 House members, and Sens. Joan Huffman, R-Houston and Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio.
- The bill passed the House Committee and died to procedural rule on the House calendar.

# Questions

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- For Follow-up & Engagement

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