



White Paper Summary on

TOBACCO PREEMPTION & ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Among youth aged 12-17 years, 13% smoke cigarettes in Tennessee, ranking our state as 47th in the country; one of the worst. The average annual smoking-attributable mortality rate in Tennessee for 2000-2004 was 325/100,000, ranking our state as 46th in the country.⁹

- Tennessee’s Non-Smoker Protection Act provides partial protection against exposure to second-hand smoke in public places; *however, the law preempts local communities from enacting local smoke-free restrictions*
- Tennessee maintains a \$0.62 per pack tax, ranking 40th in the country, where the national average is \$1.60⁸
- Electronic cigarette use has increased significantly; some users modify the device to vaporize marijuana

Local government should decide the policies that protect citizens from secondhand smoke, especially on public playgrounds, picnic areas, and in places offering health services. Furthermore, electronic cigarettes have not been fully studied by the FDA; its ingredients include toxic chemicals, including formaldehyde, propylene glycol, acetaldehyde, acrolein, and tobacco-specific nitrosamines. Secondhand emissions contain formaldehyde, benzene, and nitrosamines and should be included with cigarettes in Tennessee’s Non-Smoker Protection Act.

