

# Kentucky should...



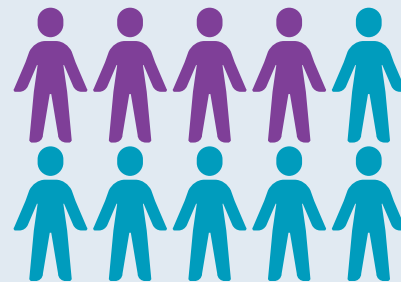
protect kids from the harmful effects of vaping

Using nicotine products not only creates risk for dependence among youth but is also connected with lower grades in school and increased mental health concerns, such as depression and suicide attempts.

Youth vaping can also impact parent work performance, including reduced productivity and missed work time due to their child vaping.

**In addition to the immediate impacts youth experience when using tobacco and nicotine products, they are at higher risk for substance use during their lifetime, including opioids, with risk factors such as:**

- Serious depression or anxiety
- Poor school performance and not valuing education
- Heavy tobacco use



***Nationally, 43% of underage e-cigarette users report getting their e-cigarettes from retail sources.***

Kentucky kids need healthy environments to learn, play, and grow, free from the harmful effects of nicotine products like e-cigarettes and vapes. Unfortunately, Kentucky kids continue to get their hands on addictive nicotine products – with many buying them directly from a gas station, convenience store, or other retailer.

## **Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Policy Solution:**

Ensure compliance with tobacco-21 law by licensing retailers selling tobacco and nicotine products, conducting annual compliance checks, and penalizing those selling to kids.

Tobacco retail license programs are shown to:

- Reduce the sale of tobacco and nicotine products to underage youth
- Reduce the number of youth initiating tobacco use for both cigarettes and e-cigarettes

**Kentucky can follow the lead of 40 other states by implementing a strong retail license program to keep these products out of the hands of kids.**