

Health Indicator Report

Minors' Access to Tobacco

Background

The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information about the general awareness of legal age limits on retailer tobacco sales, and the opinion and behaviours which support reducing minors' access to tobacco among adults aged 19 and over living in Halton Region.

Tobacco use among youth can be very detrimental to their overall health.¹ The short-term negative health effects of smoking include asthma, chest colds and bronchitis.¹ Continued use through adulthood can increase one's risk of lung, respiratory and upper digestive tract cancers, as well as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and cardiovascular disease.² Furthermore, 8 out of 10 teens who try smoking become addicted and 90% of youth still smoking by age 19 will become long term smokers.³ Limiting minors' access to tobacco is an important prevention measure to decrease the number of youth that smoke.

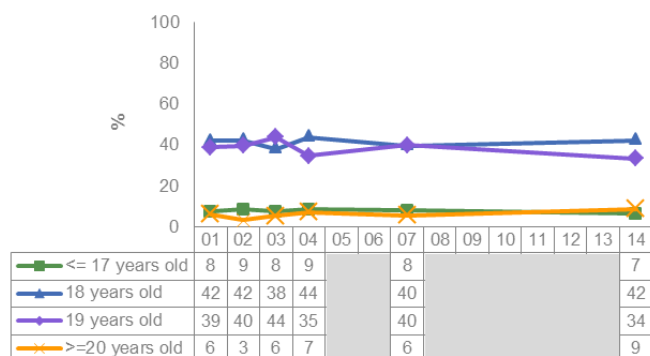
This Health Indicator Report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Awareness of the Legal Age Limit on Retail Tobacco Sales

Trends Over Time

In 2014, 34% of Halton adults knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old. 58% did not know the correct legal limit. More specifically, 7% thought it was 17 years old or younger, 42% thought it was 18 years old, and 9% thought it was 20 years old or older. 8% were not sure what the legal age limit is.

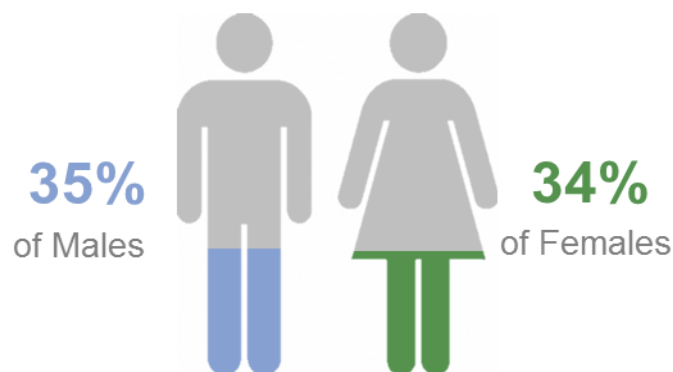
From 2001 to 2014 the percentage of Halton adults who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old decreased from 39% to 34%, and this decrease was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who thought that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales was 17 years or younger, 18 years old, 19 years old, or 20 years old or older, Halton Region, 2001-2014

Sex

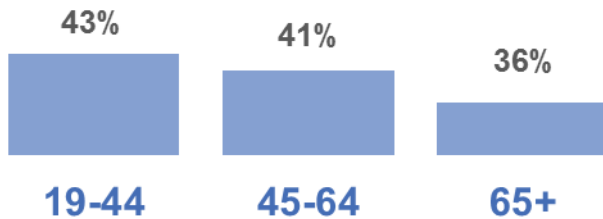
In 2014, there were no statistically significant differences by sex in the percentage of Halton adults who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old, by sex, Halton Region, 2014

Age

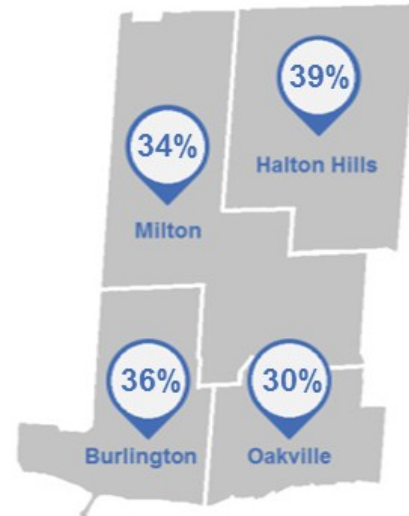
In 2014, the percentage of Halton adults who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old decreased with age. This difference was **statistically significant** when comparing adults aged 19-44 and 45-64 to adults aged 65+.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old, by age, Halton Region, 2014

Municipality

In 2014, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton adults who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old, by municipality, Halton Region, 2014

Income

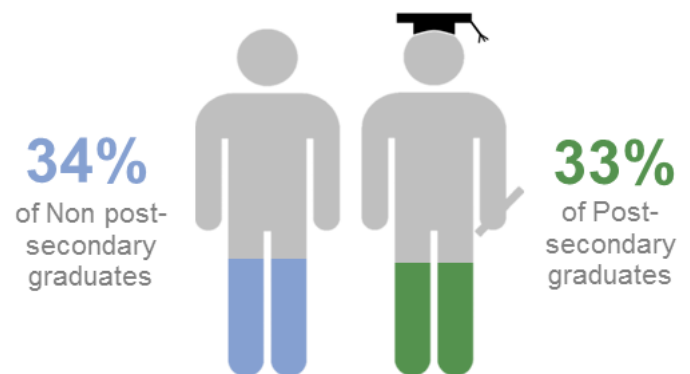
In 2014, there were no statistically significant differences by income in the percentage of Halton adults who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old, by income, Halton Region, 2014

Education

In 2014, there were no statistically significant differences by education in the percentage of Halton adults aged 25 and over who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old.

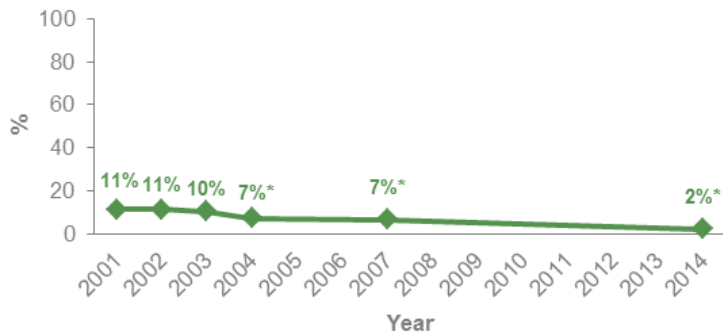


Percentage of adults aged 25 and over who knew that the legal age limit on retail tobacco sales is 19 years old, by education, Halton Region, 2014

Asked by a Minor to Give or Buy them Cigarettes

Trends Over Time - Give Cigarettes

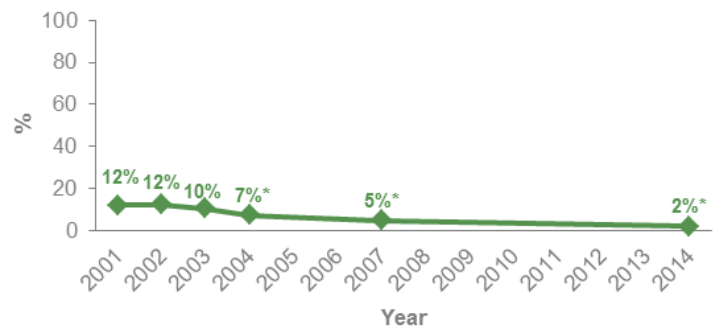
From 2001 to 2014 the percentage of Halton adults who reported being asked by a minor to give them cigarettes decreased from 11% to 2%*, and this decrease was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who reported being asked by a minor to give them cigarettes, Halton Region, 2001-2014

Trends Over Time - Buy Cigarettes

From 2001 to 2014 the percentage of Halton adults who reported being asked by a minor to buy them cigarettes decreased from 12% to 2%*, and this decrease was **statistically significant**.

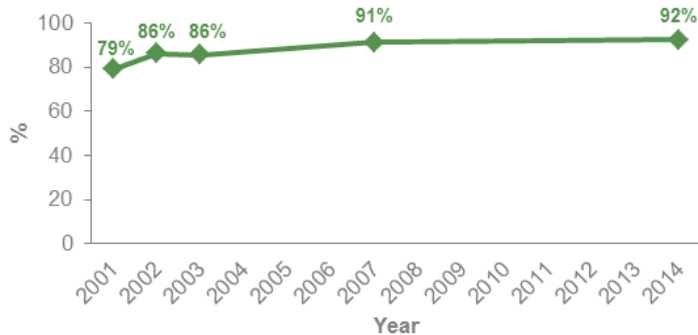


Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who reported being asked by a minor to buy them cigarettes, Halton Region, 2001-2014

Actions Against Stores that Sell Tobacco to Minors

Trends Over Time

From 2001 to 2014 the percentage of Halton adults who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco increased from 79% to 92% and this increase was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco, Halton Region, 2001-2014

Sex

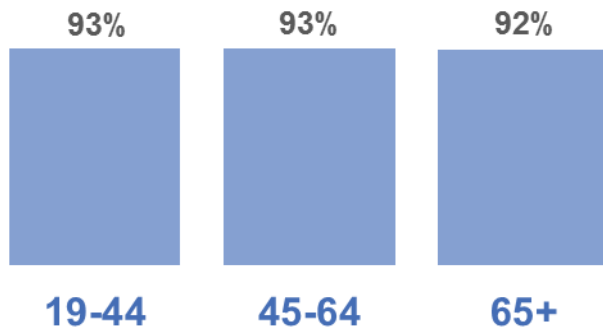
In 2014, there were no statistically significant differences by sex in the percentage of Halton adults who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco, by sex, Halton Region, 2014

Age

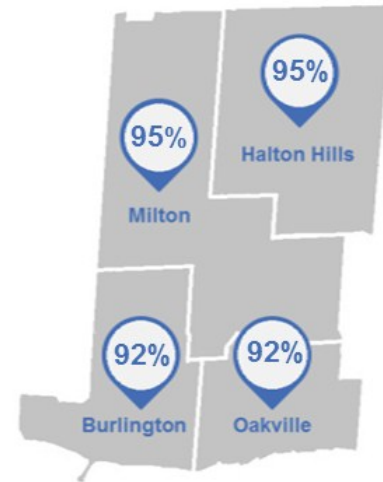
In 2014, there were no statistically significant differences by age in the percentage of Halton adults who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco, by age, Halton Region, 2014

Municipality

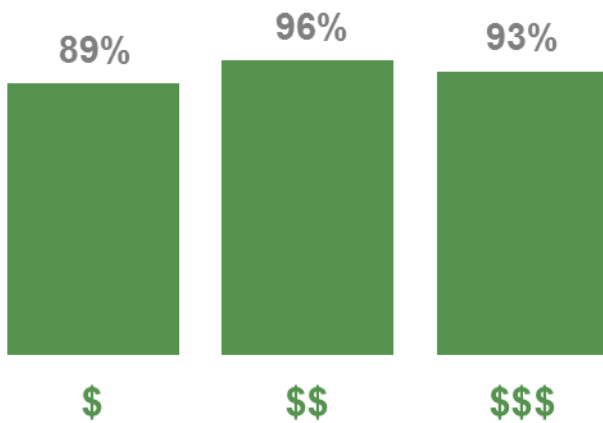
In 2014, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton adults who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco, by municipality, Halton Region, 2014

Income

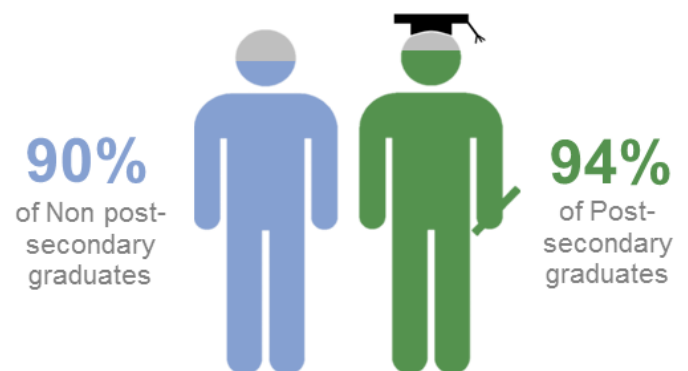
In 2014, the percentage of Halton adults who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco was highest in the middle income group. This difference was **statistically significant** when comparing the middle income group to the low income group.



Percentage of adults aged 19 and over who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco, by income, Halton Region, 2014

Education

In 2014, there were no statistically significant differences by education in the percentage of Halton adults who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco.



Percentage of adults aged 25 and over who reported thinking that stores that sell tobacco to minors should no longer be allowed to sell tobacco, by education, Halton Region, 2014

Data Notes

For more information on RRFSS, methods, statistical significance and limitations associated with health indicator reports, please see the Data Notes and Guide available at halton.ca

Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [Jun - Dec 2001, Jan - May 2002, Jan - May 2003, Jan - Apr 2004, Jan - Apr 2007, May - Dec 2014], Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

Estimates marked with an asterisk (*) should be interpreted with caution due to high variability. Estimates marked with a double asterisk (**) were not reportable.

References

1. Health Canada. 2008. Tobacco Youth Health Concerns. Accessed July 2015 from <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/youth-jeunes/scoop-primeur/index-eng.php#know>
2. Health Canada. 2011. Smoking and Your Body. Accessed July 2015, from <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/tobac-tabac/body-corps/index-eng.php>
3. Halton Region. n.d. Tobacco Facts for School. Accessed July 2015 from halton.ca

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics website at halton.ca

Last Revised: August 18th, 2015

