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Report: Michigan receives more failing grades for tobacco control

Michigan receives F's on American Lung Association report card

LANSING – Michigan once again [received failing grades](#) for its lack of policies to prevent and reduce tobacco use in the American Lung Association's 22nd annual "State of Tobacco Control" report released last week.

"Tobacco use is the leading cause of death in Michigan and across the country and takes the lives of 16,170 state residents each year. The tobacco industry will do anything to protect their profits at the expense of Michigan lives, so we must push forward in our efforts to prevent and reduce tobacco use," said Ken Fletcher, Advocacy Director at the American Lung Association in Michigan.

Michigan's Grades

The report grades states and the District of Columbia in five areas that have been proven to prevent and reduce tobacco use and save lives. In the 2024 report, Michigan received the following grades:

- Funding for State Tobacco Prevention Programs – Grade F
- Coverage and Access to Services to Quit Tobacco – Grade F
- Ending the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products – Grade F
- Level of State Tobacco Taxes – Grade D
- Strength of Smokefree Workplace Laws – Grade C

The Keep MI Kids Tobacco Free Alliance, which advocates for stronger tobacco prevention laws to keep tobacco products out of the hands of youth and help adults quit, is urging policymakers to strengthen policies to limit tobacco use and reduce the number of deaths due to tobacco each year.

“It should be an eye opener to policymakers how Michigan continuously ends up with failing grades,” said Jodi Radke, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids regional director and Keep MI Kids Tobacco Free Alliance co-chair. “The time is long overdue for lawmakers to protect youth and young adults from lifelong addiction by approving comprehensive tobacco prevention legislation.”

The report shows the need for policymakers to get serious about tobacco prevention by licensing all tobacco retailers, including e-cigarette retailers; eliminating purchase, use and possession laws, and repealing preemption restrictions that prevent stronger local tobacco regulations. Michigan also needs to ban flavored tobacco products, including mint and menthol, increase cigarette taxes and tax other forms of tobacco for the first time.

Dr. Brittany Tayler, internist and pediatrician at Hurley Medical Center, assistant professor at the Pediatric Public Health Initiative at Michigan State University and co-chair of Keep MI Kids Tobacco Free Alliance added: “This report card reinforces yet again the need to make tobacco prevention a priority in Michigan. We urge lawmakers make Senate Bills 647-654, a comprehensive tobacco prevention package, a priority this winter.”

To learn more about this year’s “State of Tobacco Control” grades and take action, visit <https://www.lung.org/research/sotc>

About the Keep MI Kids Tobacco Free Alliance

The Keep MI Kids Tobacco Free Alliance is a coalition of more than 120 school, public health and community-based organizations advocating for stronger tobacco prevention policies in Michigan. Learn more about the Alliance at KeepMIKidsTobaccoFree.com.

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