Tobacco Use in Pennington County

**Youth Tobacco Use*[[1]](#footnote-1)***

##  Youth tobacco use in Pennington County is higher than the state average (27.8% vs. 18.8%)[[2]](#footnote-2).

* + Use of any tobacco product has decreased from 44% in 2007 to 32.7% in 2013.

##  Youth use chewing tobacco in Pennington County at three times the state average (21.4% vs.7.6%).2

##  88% of youth grades 7-12 in Pennington County youth responding to a survey would like more tobacco-free outdoor spaces such as parks, rinks, ball fields, pools and hockey arenas.[[3]](#footnote-3)

* + 602 youth total.

**Adult Tobacco Use*[[4]](#footnote-4)***

 **14% of Pennington County adult’s age 18 and older smokes tobacco regularly (1,506 individuals).**

* + 15% of adults in the Quin Public Health service region are smokers.

**Adult Smoking Status 2014**

**59% of smokers in Pennington County stopped for one day or more over the past year because they were trying to quit.**

**Healthcare costs associated with smoking are estimated to average $1,046 per year more than non-smokers**.[[5]](#footnote-5)

* + That equates to $1,575,400 in extra costs for Pennington County healthcare.
	+ Decreased lifespan on average ranges 6-9 years.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Outdoor Spaces**

* 1 of the 3 cities in Pennington County has adopted a no smoking policy within city parks (including electronic cigarette use). Clear signage that reads “100% Tobacco-Free Property” has also been posted at each park. Goodridge status is pending.

**Foster Care**

* Recent legislation passed in Minnesota requires that Foster Care providers be smoke free.

**Child Care**

* There are approximately 56 home day cares in Pennington County. Six of them are known to smoke in the home or around it.
	+ Federal law prohibits smoking in day care facilities, but this does not apply to child care services provided in private homes[[7]](#footnote-7)

**Point of Sale Compliance Checks & Tobacco Ordinance Work**

* Tobacco retail checks were conducted by law enforcement during the fall of 2013. Of 18 establishments checked, 15 passed (83%) and 3 failed (17%).
* A Tobacco Ordinance was updated and passed by Pennington County Commissioners in 2014. Information has been shared with the Thief River Falls City Council about updating their tobacco ordinance, but no action has been taken.
1. Minnesota Student Survey 2007, 2010, 2013. The percent of youth who use any tobacco product [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Past 30 day use prior to survey administration [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Tobacco Free Communities Student Survey 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 2014 Northwest Minnesota Region Adult Behavioral Health Survey [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Healthcare expenses in relation to obesity and smoking among U.S. adults by gender, race/ethnicity and age group: 1998-2011. Accessed at: http://www.publichealthjrnl.com/article/S0033-3506%2814%2900292-3/abstract?cc=y [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Mortality and life expectancy in relation to long-term cigarette, cigar and pipe smoking. Accessed at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2598467/ [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/phlc-fs-smokefreechildcare-2011.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)