

TOBACCO 21

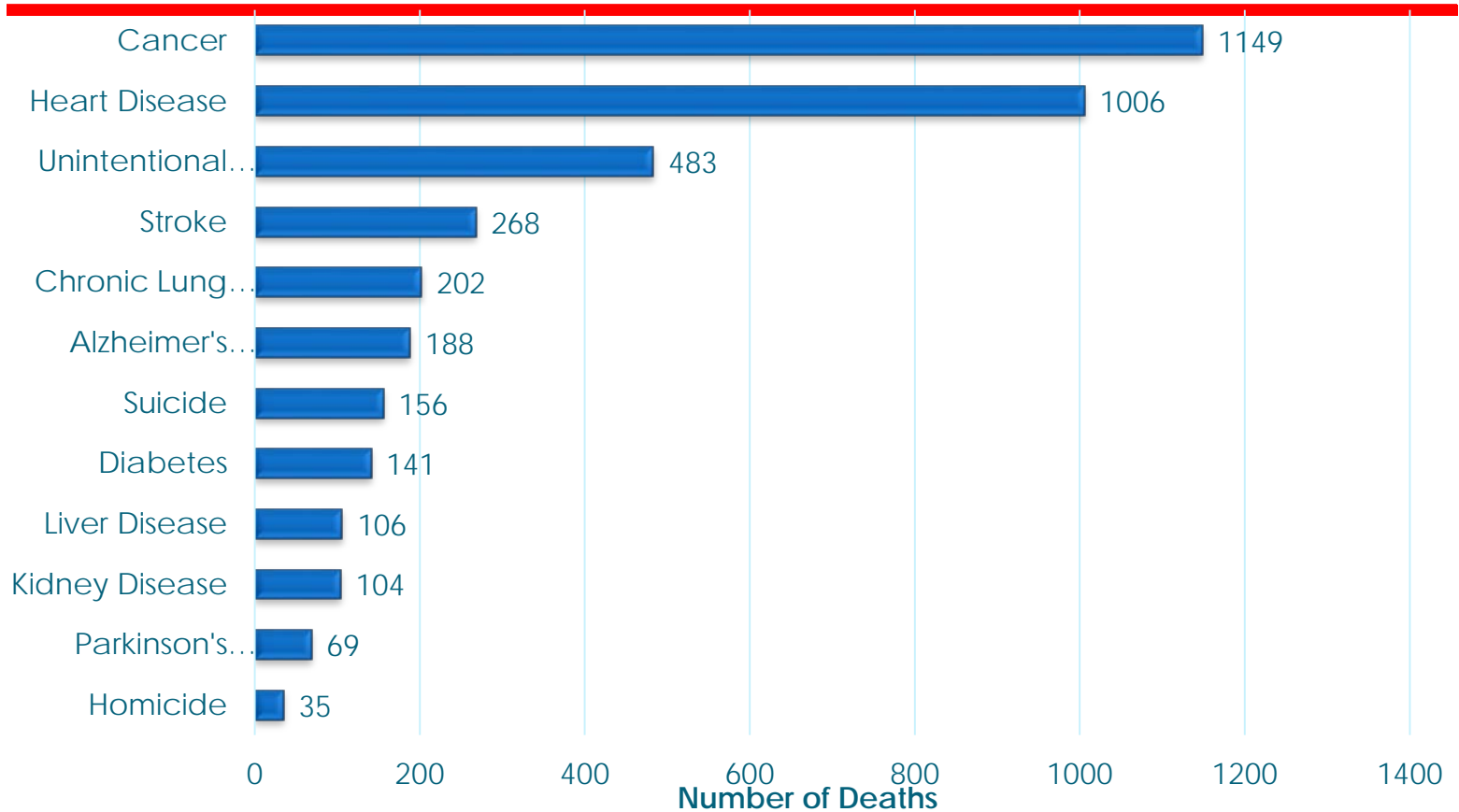
Health and Human Services Committee City Hall

May 16, 2018

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Austin Public Health

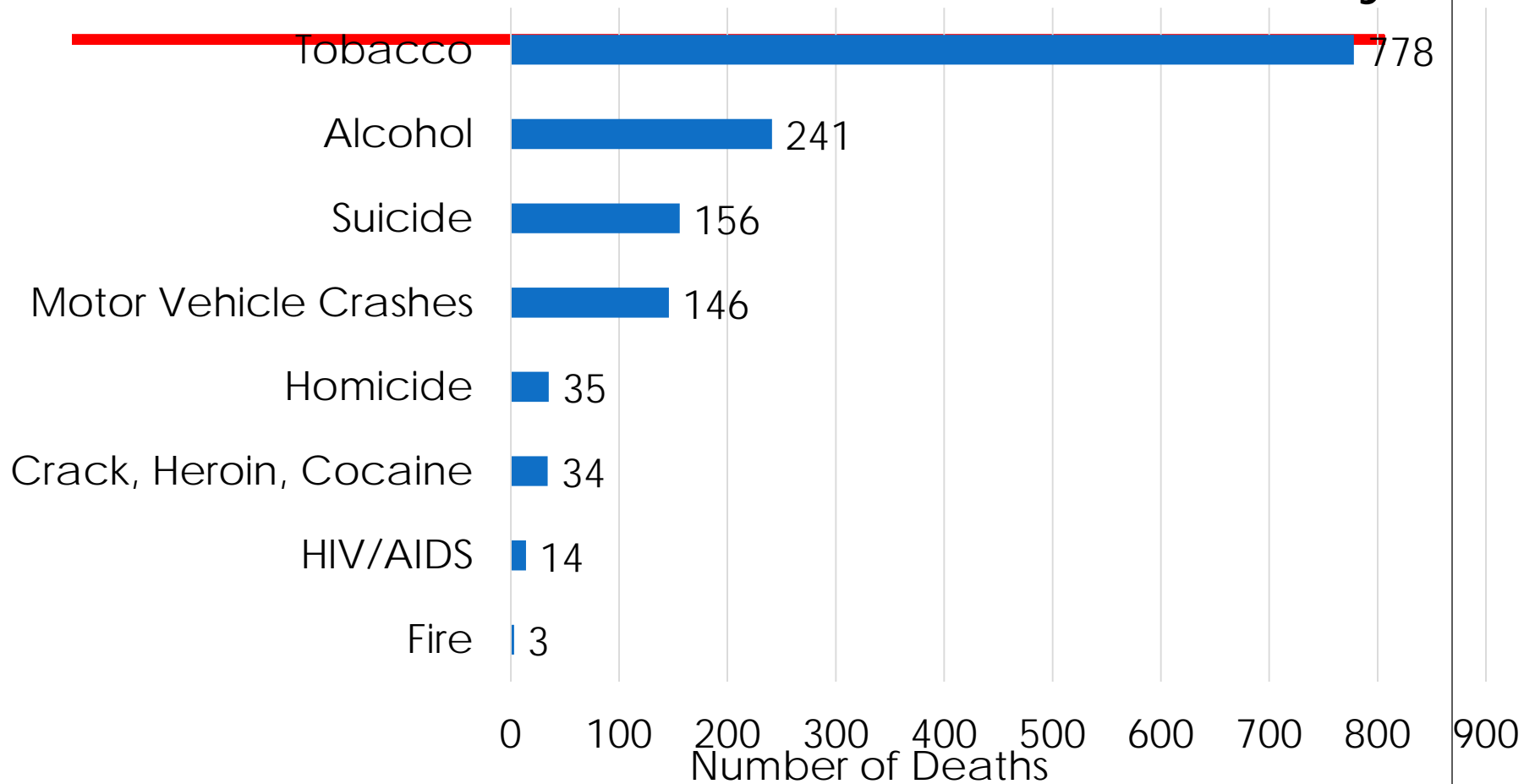


Leading Causes of Death, Travis County, 2015



Data Source: Texas DSHS Vital Statistics

Actual Causes of Death - Travis County 2015



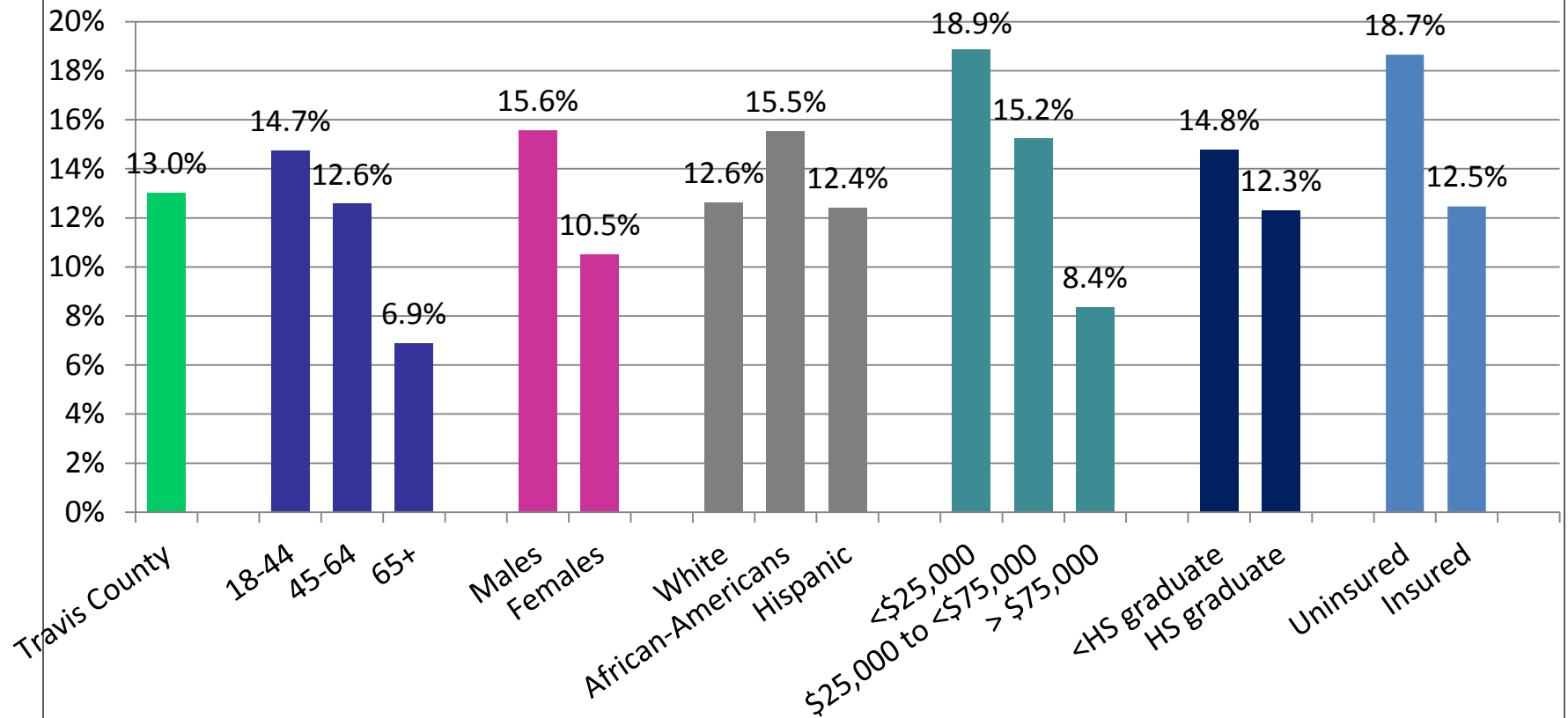
Data Source: Texas DSHS Vital Statistics, CDC, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

There are 265,000 youth (aged 0-17)
in Travis County

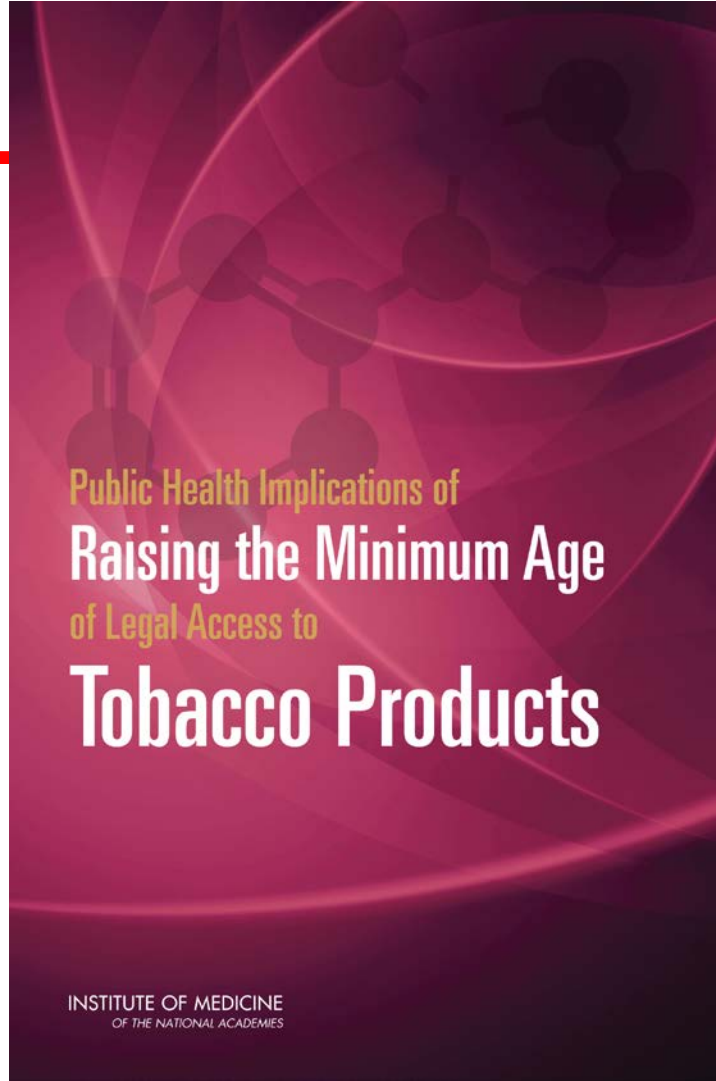
It is estimated that 18,500 of them
will die prematurely due to
smoking-related illness

Data Source: The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014, p.696. Available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/sgr50-chap-12.pdf>. Travis County youth 0-17 account for 3.71% of Texas 0-17 population.

Adult Smoking Prevalence Travis County, 2012-2016



Data Source: Texas BRFSS 2012-2016

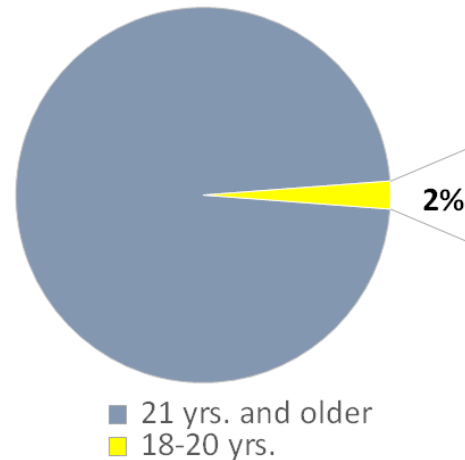


- 4.2 Million Years of Lives Saved in Kids Currently Alive Today
- 25% Drop in Youth Initiation
- 12% Drop in Overall Smoking
- 12% Drop in Premature Births

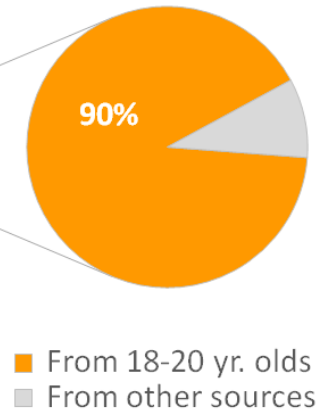
Why Raise the Age?

- 95% of adult smokers began smoking before they turned 21.
- Only 2% of tobacco sold is purchased by 18-20 year olds, but that 2% supplies 90% of the addictive tobacco to younger people.

Sale of Tobacco Products by Age



Supply of Tobacco to People 17 years and younger



Increasing the Sale Age to 21

A Public Health Solution

- Delay age of first tobacco use and reduce risk of becoming regular smoker.
- Helps keep tobacco out of schools.
- Younger teens have harder time passing themselves off as 21.



Potential Results in Texas and Travis County

- Raising the tobacco purchase age to 21 could result in
 - 12% decrease in tobacco use among adults (National Academies of Medicine, 2015)
 - 33% reduction in the use of all tobacco products by 18- to 20-year-old Texans (Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2013)



Texas Status for Tobacco 21

- During the last Texas Legislative Session in 2017, there was bipartisan support for a state-wide Tobacco 21 bill. Rep. John Zerwas, a Richmond Republican and physician championed the effort in the House, and he was joined by Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, and had the support of a bipartisan group of 16 House members, and Sens. Joan Huffman, R-Houston and Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio.
- The bill passed the House Committee and died to procedural rule on the House calendar.

Questions

- For Follow-up & Engagement

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