

A Ranking of State-Level Policies Targeting Youth Behaviors that Increase the Risk of Cancer

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Background

Young people engage in behaviors associated with an increased risk of cancer, such as:

- Tobacco use
- Physical inactivity
- Excessive exposure to artificial ultraviolet (UV) rays
- Risky sexual behavior leading to infection with human papillomavirus (HPV)

States are enacting laws to counter these risk behaviors. Fifty-one states have enacted laws imposing excise taxes on cigarettes, 46 have enacted laws addressing physical activity in and around schools, 33 have enacted laws restricting minors' access to tanning facilities, and 19 have enacted laws addressing HPV vaccination.

Methodology

All 50 states and the District of Columbia were rated on the stringency of their laws in four dimensions of youth risk behavior.

The ratings scale was 0 to 4, with 0 indicating no law and 4 indicating the most comprehensive provisions of law.

Examples of Relevant State Laws

• Access to tanning facilities

- CONN. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 19a-232 prohibits the operator of a tanning facility from allowing a person under 16 years of age to use a tanning device without the written consent of a parent or guardian.

Rating: 1

• HPV vaccination

- LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:170.3 requires public school boards that provide immunization information to provide to parents of students in grades 6 through 12 information about the risks associated with HPV and the availability, effectiveness, and known contraindications of HPV immunization. The information must be updated annually and must describe the link between HPV and cervical cancer, the means by which HPV is spread, and where a person may be immunized against HPV.

Rating: 2

• Physical activity in and around schools

- TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 28.002 requires that, on a weekly basis, at least 50 percent of physical education classes be used for actual student physical activity, and that the activity be at a moderate or vigorous level. In addition, TEX. TRANS. CODE § 201.614 requires the establishment of a Safe Routes to School Program, including consideration of the sidewalk infrastructure, and TEX. LOCAL GOVT. CODE ANN. § 343.014 requires the provision of school crossing guards to facilitate the safe crossing of streets by students.

Rating: 3

• Excise tax increase

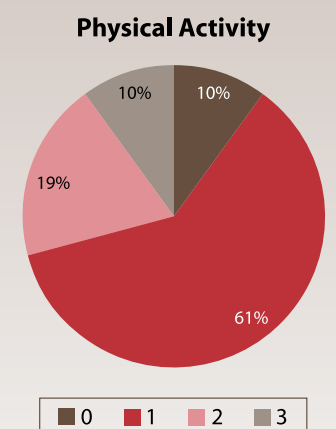
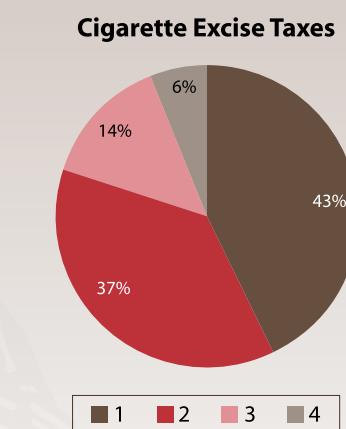
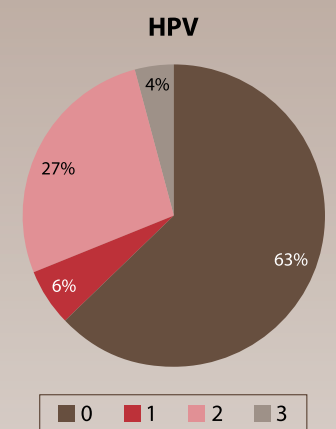
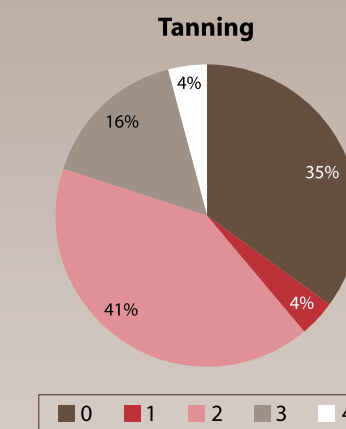
- N.Y. TAX LAW § 471 sets forth an excise tax on cigarettes of \$4.35 per pack. In 2010, the tax was raised from \$2.75 per pack.

Rating: 4

Matrix of Ratings
(using laws enacted as of June 30, 2012)

	Tanning	HPV	Cigarette Excise Taxes	Physical Activity
STATE				
Alabama	0	0	1	1
Alaska	0	0	2	1
Arizona	0	0	2	1
Arkansas	2	0	2	2
California	4	2	1	3
Colorado	2	3	1	2
Connecticut	1	0	4	1
Delaware	3	0	2	1
District of Columbia	0	2	3	3
Florida	2	0	2	3
Georgia	3	0	1	0
Hawaii	0	0	3	1
Idaho	0	0	1	1
Illinois	2	3	1	1
Indiana	2	2	1	1
Iowa	2	2	2	1
Kansas	2	0	1	1
Kentucky	2	0	1	1
Louisiana	2	2	1	1
Maine	0	0	2	0
Maryland	1	2	2	0
Massachusetts	2	0	3	0
Michigan	2	0	2	1
Minnesota	2	0	2	1
Mississippi	2	0	1	1
Missouri	0	2	1	1
Montana	0	0	2	2
Nebraska	0	0	1	2
Nevada	0	2	1	0
New Hampshire	3	0	2	1
New Jersey	3	2	3	1
New Mexico	0	2	2	1
New York	3	0	4	1
North Carolina	2	2	1	1
North Dakota	3	2	1	1
Ohio	2	0	2	1
Oklahoma	0	0	1	1
Oregon	2	2	2	2
Pennsylvania	0	0	2	1
Rhode Island	2	0	4	0
South Carolina	0	0	1	1
South Dakota	0	1	2	1
Tennessee	2	0	1	2
Texas	3	0	2	3
Utah	2	0	2	2
Vermont	4	1	3	1
Virginia	2	1	1	2
Washington	0	2	3	2
West Virginia	0	0	1	3
Wisconsin	3	0	3	2
Wyoming	2	0	1	1

Percentages of States Receiving Ratings Scores of 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4



The Database

Since 1989, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) SCLD Program has monitored laws and resolutions covering numerous cancer-related topics. As of August 31, 2012, the database contained more than 9,000 legislative abstracts.

The Web site is located at www.scl-d-nci.net. The Web site is current through August 31, 2012 and will not be updated after this date.

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