



CAPITAL DISTRICT TOBACCO FREE COMMUNITIES

Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties
Siena College Research Institute Survey (SCRI)



Capital District
**Tobacco-Free
Communities**



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ALBANY COUNTY 2020: SUMMARY

The overall smoking rate in Albany County stands at 13 percent virtually unchanged across the last 11 years. Increasing, and strong support is present in Albany County for policies banning smoking in many public areas, and to ban the sale of tobacco products near schools. Concern is high that tobacco displays, and advertising, induce young people to smoke. Over 80 percent of residents continue to not allow smoking in their homes.

TOBACCO USE

- 41 percent of Albany County residents have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.
 - 13 percent are currently smokers, compared to 11 percent in 2015 and 12 percent in 2017.
 - The percentage of Albany County residents that have ever smoked has fallen from 47 percent in 2009 to 41 percent today.
 - Men have ever-smoked at a greater rate than women (44-38 percent).

Albany County Smoking Rates						
	2020	2017	2015	2013	2011	2009
Ever Smoked	41%	46%	37%	42%	46%	47%
Current Smoker	13%	12%	11%	16%	8%	12%

- Young people (ages 18-34) have ever-smoked at a much lower rate, 26 percent, than older residents that average across age groups ever-smoking at a rate of just under 50 percent.
 - Young people, 18-34 years of age, currently smoke at an overall rate of 18 percent.
 - The smoking rate drops to 14 percent among those 35-49 years of age, and to only nine percent among those 50-64 years of age and age 65 or above.
 - Residents with less than a college education have ever-smoked at a rate of 45 percent and currently smoke at a rate of 14 percent.
 - Those with a college education have ever-smoked at a lower rate, 38 percent, and currently smoke at a rate of 13 percent.
 - Residents with a lower income, under \$50,000 a year, currently smoke at a rate of 16 percent, those earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 smoke at a rate of 14 percent, and those earning over \$100,000 smoke at a lower rate, 12 percent.
- Of those that currently smoke, 57 percent use menthol cigarettes.

- Among current smokers, 13 percent use other tobacco products such as cigars, cigarillos or smokeless tobacco. Of this small group, half, 55 percent, use other tobacco products that are flavored such as with fruit, candy or alcohol flavors.
- 30 percent of Albany County residents have tried using an Electronic Cigarette, or other vaping product, up from 28 percent in 2017 and 20 percent in 2015.

Age Breakdown of E-cigarette Usage <i>"Have you ever tried using an Electronic Cigarette, E-cigarette, or other vaping product, even just one time?"</i>				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	60%	22%	18%	3%
No	37%	78%	82%	97%
Don't Know	3%	0%	0%	0%

- Having tried e-cigs is significantly higher among those 18-34 at 60 percent compared with 22 percent among those 35-49 years of age, 18 percent among those 50-64 and only three percent among those age 65 and above.
- The current E-cig use rate is 11 percent, which is up from three percent in 2017 and five percent in 2015. Among 18-34 year olds, the E-cig use rate is 23 percent.

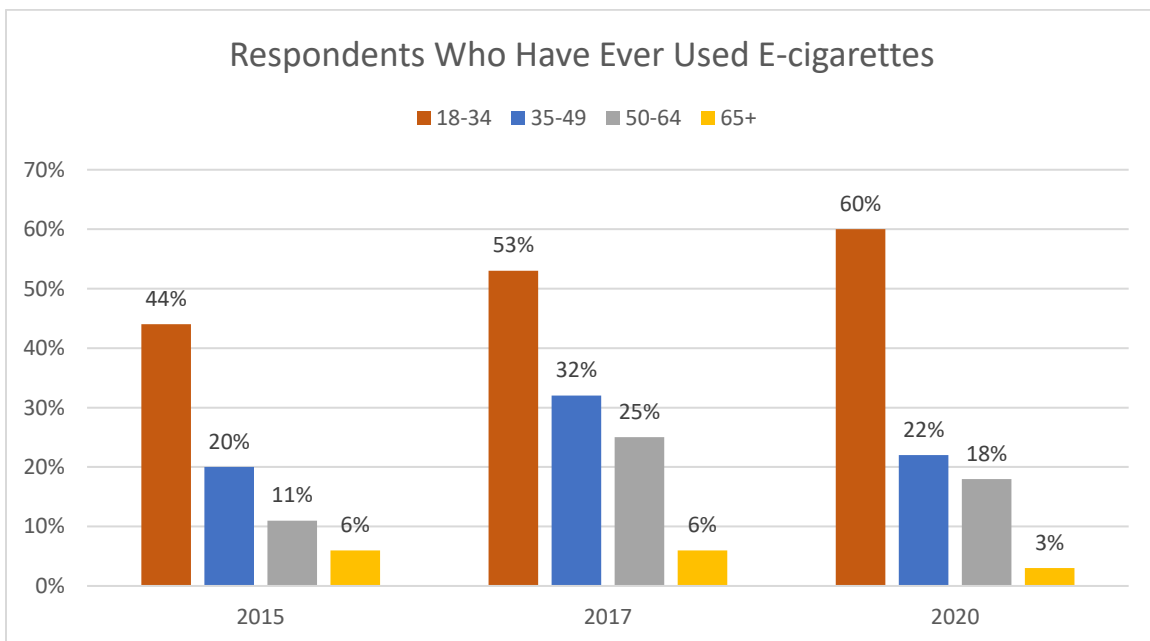


Figure 3: Use of electronic cigarettes continues to grow most significantly among young people (ages 18-29).

*Age categories varied slightly for 2020. Please see Crosstabs for 2020 age breakdown.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS SMOKING POLICIES AND ADVERTISING

- 30 percent of Albany County residents when asked to think about all the health problems in their community, say that addressing the problem of tobacco use including e-cigarettes is among the most important health problems.
 - 56 percent say it is equally as important as other health problems
 - 14 percent say that tobacco use is among the least important health problems.
- 67 percent are either somewhat (20 percent) or strongly (47 percent) in favor of policies that prohibit smoking in outdoor public places such as beaches or parks. This is up from 53 percent in 2017 and from 64 percent in 2015.
 - Women, those with a college degree, those that never smoked and those earning \$100,000 or more are most strongly in favor.
 - The only group in which a plurality, 45-41 percent, is against this prohibition is among those that currently smoke.
- 73 percent either are somewhat (21 percent) or strongly (52 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking on the grounds of workplaces and businesses open to the public. This is up from 59 percent in 2017.
- 50 percent are either somewhat (16 percent) or strongly (34 percent) in favor of policies that limit the number of stores that sell tobacco in their community. Again, this is up from 42 percent in 2017.
 - A majority of women, older residents, those with a college degree, earners of \$100,000 or more and those that never smoked support this limitation. Current smokers oppose the limitation by 59-28 percent.
- 73 percent are either somewhat (21 percent) or strongly (52 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking on the grounds of all municipal properties.
 - Women are more in favor (76 percent) than are men (68 percent).
- 47 percent are either somewhat (14 percent) or strongly (33 percent) in favor of policies that ban the sale of menthol cigarettes while 28 percent are either somewhat (10 percent) or strongly (18 percent) against that ban.
 - A small majority of older residents and those that never smoked are in favor while opposition is greatest among current smokers (65 percent), young people (34 percent) and men (23 percent).
- 43 percent agreed that menthol in cigarettes makes it harder for smokers to quit smoking while 23 percent disagreed.
 - Agreement was highest among those that never smoked (50 percent), those with children in their household (50 percent), and younger respondents (47 percent).
- A more dramatic impact upon the ability of smokers to quit appears to be exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising.
 - 64 percent agree that exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising makes it harder for smokers to quit smoking.
 - Nearly or greater than 60 percent of every demographic group agree that exposure to product displays or advertising makes it harder to quit with only one exception. Current smokers express a plurality of agreement with 46 percent in agreement and 36 percent disagreeing.

- While agreement is strong on the effect that advertising is having on the ability to quit, just over half of residents, 51 percent, agree that reducing the number of stores that sell tobacco in their community would decrease the number of people who smoke. 36 percent disagree that reducing the number of stores that sell tobacco would decrease the number of smokers.

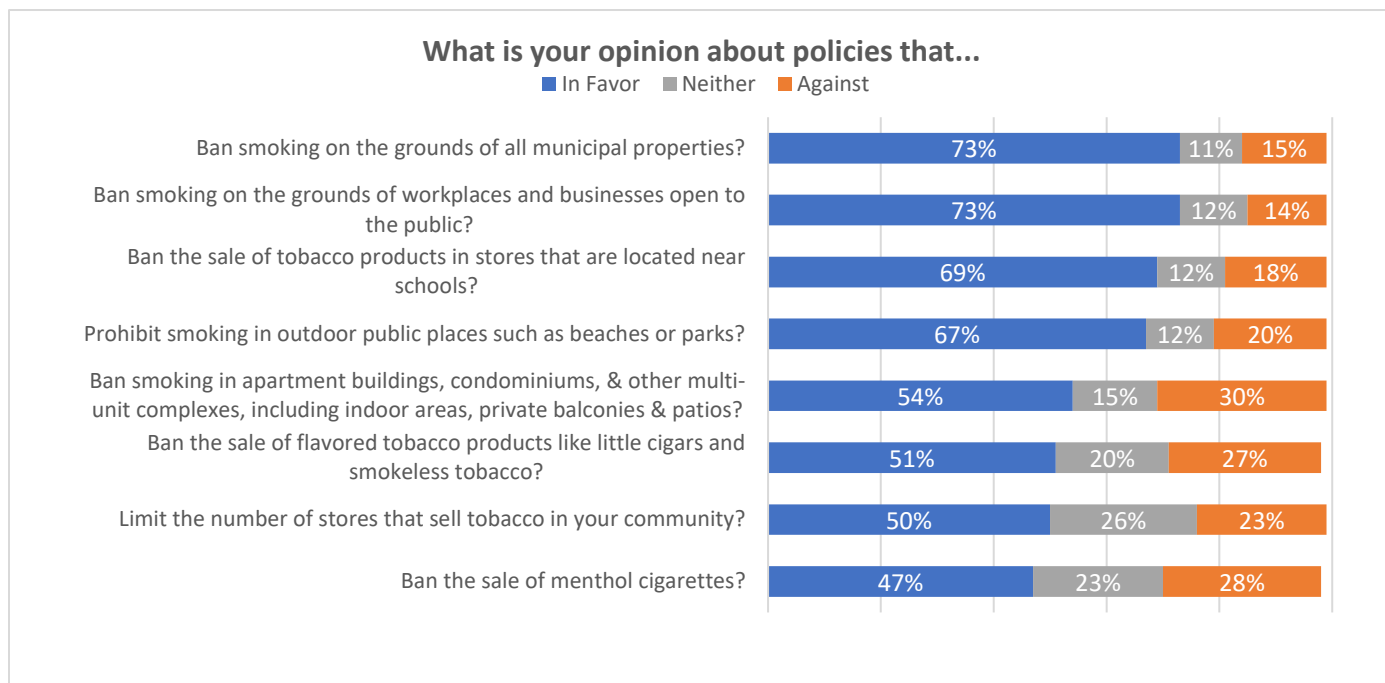


Figure 4: Respondents were most in favor of banning smoking on the grounds of all municipal properties and least in favor of banning the sale of menthol cigarettes.

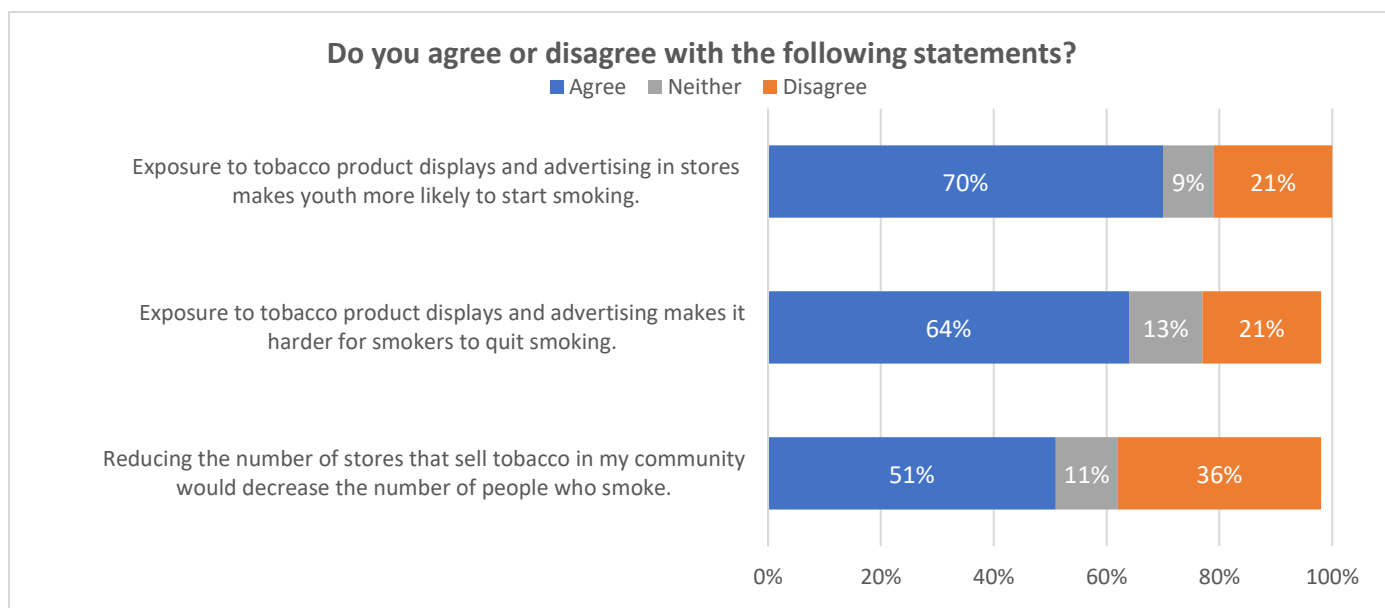


Figure 5: Respondents indicated that exposure to tobacco product displays impact youth

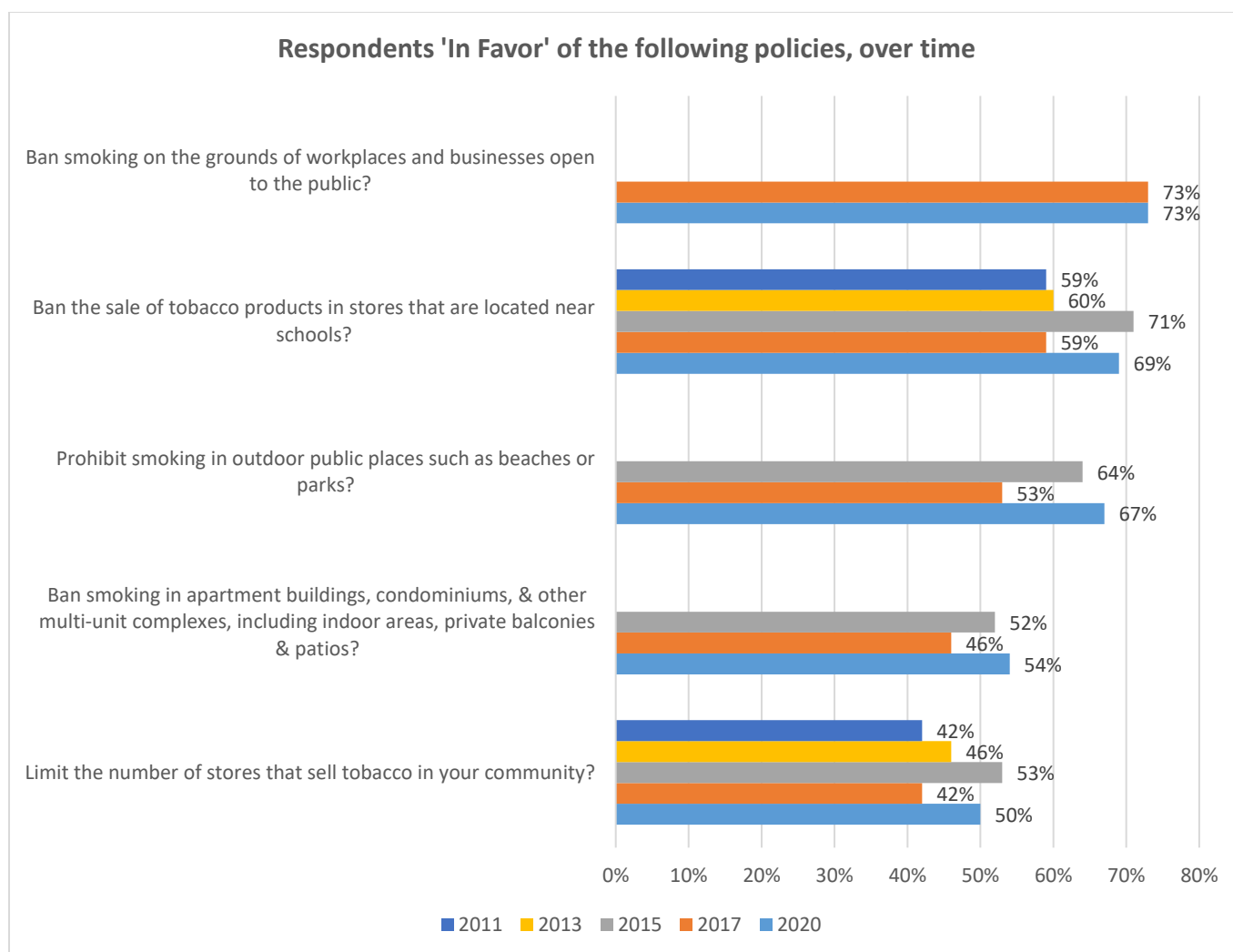


Figure 6: Over time, banning smoking on the grounds of businesses open to the public has the most support while limiting the number of stores that sell tobacco has the least support among respondents.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS SMOKING POLICIES AND ADVERTISING IMPACTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Among Albany County respondents this year, there is growing support to ban the sale of tobacco products in stores that are located near schools and an increase in the view that exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising in stores makes youth more likely to start smoking.

- 69 percent are either somewhat (15 percent) or strongly (54 percent) in favor of policies that ban the sale of tobacco products in stores that are located near schools.
 - In 2017 that figure was 59 percent.

- 70 percent (44 percent strongly, 26 percent somewhat) agree that exposure to tobacco display product displays and advertising in stores makes youth more likely to start smoking while only 21 percent disagree. Current smokers are evenly divided on this issue. The overall sentiment of 70 percent in agreement is up significantly from 53 percent in 2017.
- By 51-23 percent respondents agree that menthol in cigarettes makes it easier for youth to start smoking. This opinion rises to a larger majority among those with children in their household, 59-20 percent.
- 80 percent agree that candy and fruit flavors that are added to tobacco products makes it easier for youth to start using these products.
 - Among those with children in their household that view increases to 85 percent.
- 51 percent favor a ban of the sale of flavored tobacco products like little cigars and smokeless tobacco.

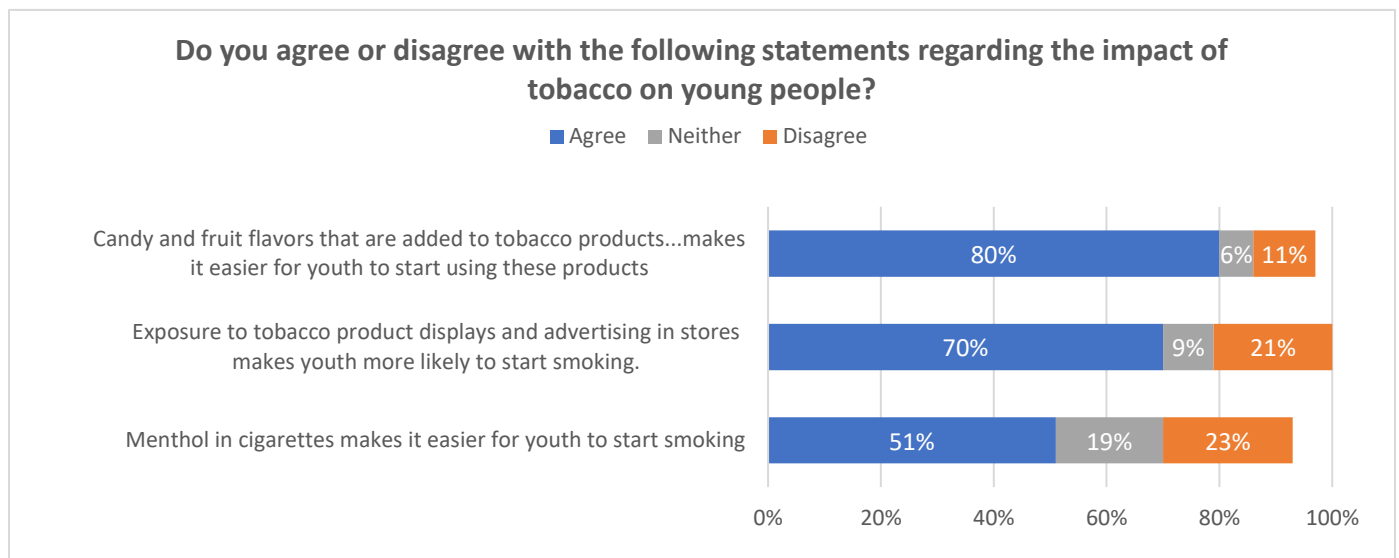


Figure 7: A large majority of respondents agree that candy and fruit flavored tobacco products make it easier for youth to start using tobacco.

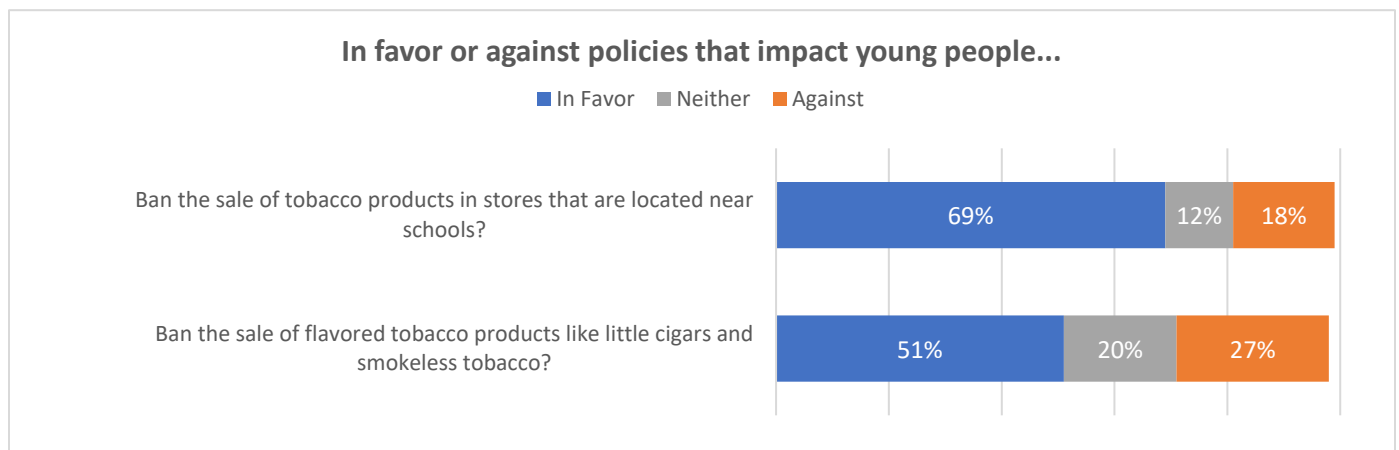


Figure 8: Majorities of respondents are in favor of banning the sale of tobacco near schools and banning the sale of flavored tobacco.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS TOBACCO USE IN RESIDENCES

- 83 percent, unchanged from 2017, say that smoking is not allowed anywhere inside their house.
 - 11 percent say that smoking is allowed in some places or at some times.
 - Not allowing smoking anywhere inside the house is greatest at 90 percent among those who have never smoked and at 89 percent among those earning \$100,000 or more and among those that never smoked.
 - 43 percent of current smokers do not allow smoking inside their home but 37 percent allow it in some places or at some times and 20 percent of smokers allow smoking anywhere inside their home.
- Overall 54 percent are either somewhat (18 percent) or strongly (36 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking in apartment buildings, condominiums, and other multi-unit complexes including indoor areas, private balconies and patios. This is up from 46 percent in 2017 and from 52 percent in 2015.
 - Among renters, support for this ban is at 64 percent, however 45 percent support it strongly
 - Across the 14 counties, support is at 50%, with 35% strongly supporting in favor.
 - Among those that rent in buildings with four or more units support for policies that ban smoking increases to 68 percent with 55 percent supporting it strongly.
 - Across the 14 counties, support among those that rent in building with four or more units is at 57%, with 43% strongly in favor

METHODS AND NATURE OF THE SAMPLE

Using random digit-dialing (RDD) and a known web-sampling provider, telephone and web interviews were conducted with 350 residents of Albany County. Completed interviews from phone and web were merged and weighted by known age and gender characteristics so as to enhance representativeness.

Data is reported with a margin of error of +/- 5.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level having included the design effect of weighting on that margin of error.

RENSSELAER COUNTY 2020: SUMMARY

The overall smoking rate in Rensselaer County stands at 15 percent virtually unchanged across the last 11 years. Increasing, and strong support is present in Rensselaer County for policies banning smoking in many public areas, and to ban the sale of tobacco products near schools. Concern is high that tobacco displays, and advertising, induce young people to smoke. Over 85 percent of residents continue to not allow smoking in their homes.

TOBACCO USE

- 45 percent of Rensselaer County residents have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.
 - 15 percent are currently smokers, compared to 16 percent in 2015 and 15 percent in 2017.
 - The percentage of Rensselaer County residents that have ever smoked has fallen from 49 percent in 2009 to 45 percent today.
 - Men have ever-smoked at a greater rate than women (45-44 percent).

Rensselaer County Smoking Rates						
	2020	2017	2015	2013	2011	2009
Ever Smoked	45%	46%	45%	50%	48%	49%
Current Smoker	15%	15%	16%	18%	15%	15%

- Young people (ages 18-34) have ever-smoked at a much lower rate, 33 percent, than older residents that average across age groups ever-smoking at a rate of 50 percent.
- Young people, 18-34 years of age, currently smoke at an overall rate of 19 percent.
- The smoking rate is 23 percent among those 35-49 years of age and drops to 11 percent among those 50-64 years of age, and to only seven percent among those age 65 or above.
- Residents with less than a college education have ever-smoked at a rate of 53 percent and currently smoke at a rate of 23 percent.
- Those with a college education have ever-smoked at a lower rate, 35 percent, and currently smoke at a rate of seven percent.
- Residents with a lower income, under \$50,000 a year, currently smoke at a rate of 28 percent, those earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 smoke at a rate of 21 percent, and those earning over \$100,000 smoke at a lower rate, six percent.
- Of those that currently smoke, 58 percent use menthol cigarettes.
- Among current smokers, 10 percent use other tobacco products such as cigars, cigarillos or smokeless tobacco. Of this small group, over half, 64 percent, use

other tobacco products that are flavored such as with fruit, candy or alcohol flavors.

- 27 percent of Rensselaer County residents have tried using an Electronic Cigarette, or other vaping product, up from 26 percent in 2017 and 22 percent in 2015.

Age Breakdown of E-cigarette Usage <i>"Have you ever tried using an Electronic Cigarette, E-cigarette, or other vaping product, even just one time?"</i>				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	42%	37%	15%	7%
No	58%	63%	85%	92%
Don't Know	0%	0%	0%	1%

- Having tried e-cigs is significantly higher among those 18-34 at 42 percent compared with 37 percent among those 35-49 years of age, 15 percent among those 50-64 and only seven percent among those age 65 and above.
- The current E-cig use rate is nine percent, which is up from two percent in 2017 and four percent in 2015. Among 18-34 year olds, the E-cig use rate is 19 percent.

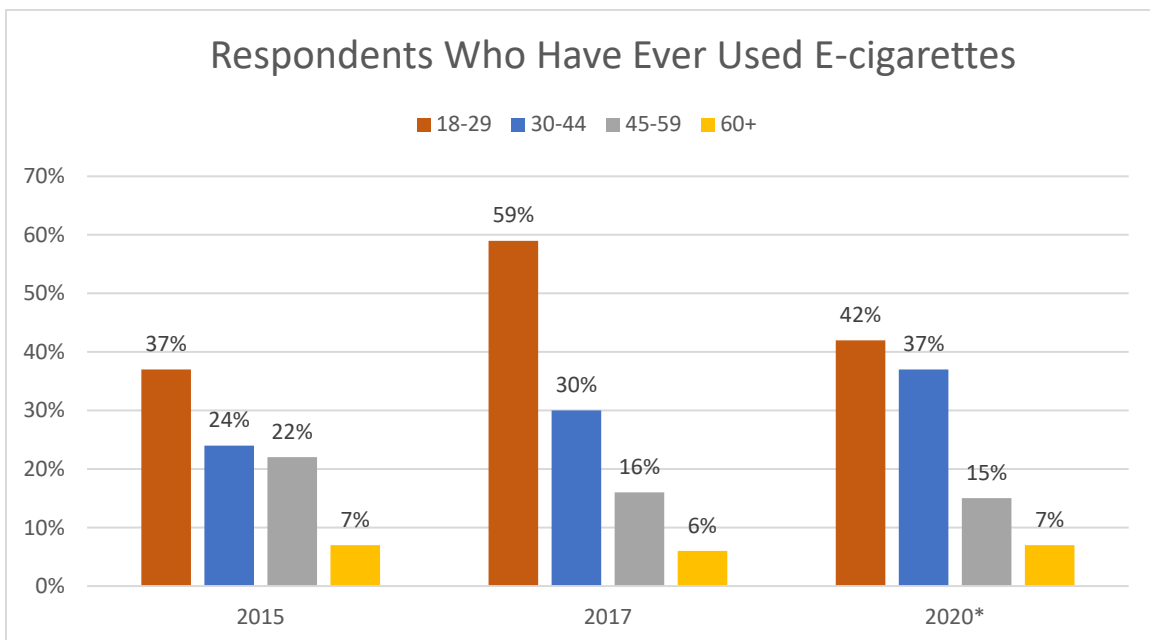


Figure 1: Use of electronic cigarettes continues to grow most significantly among young people (ages 18-29).

*Age categories varied slightly for 2020. Please see Crosstabs for 2020 age breakdown.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS SMOKING POLICIES AND ADVERTISING

- 24 percent of Rensselaer County residents when asked to think about all the health problems in their community, say that addressing the problem of tobacco use including e-cigarettes is among the most important health problems.
 - 59 percent say it is equally as important as other health problems
 - 16 percent say that tobacco use is among the least important health problems.
- 67 percent are either somewhat (18 percent) or strongly (49 percent) in favor of policies that prohibit smoking in outdoor public places such as beaches or parks. This is up from 46 percent in 2017 and from 62 percent in 2015.
 - Women, those with a college degree, those that never smoked and those earning \$50,000-\$100,000 are most strongly in favor.
- 68 percent either are somewhat (16 percent) or strongly (52 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking on the grounds of workplaces and businesses open to the public. This is up from 57 percent in 2017.
 - Current smokers oppose the ban by 51-41 percent.
- 53 percent are either somewhat (19 percent) or strongly (34 percent) in favor of policies that limit the number of stores that sell tobacco in their community. Again, this is up from 42 percent in 2017.
 - A majority of women, younger residents, those with a college degree, earners of \$50,000 or less and those that never smoked support this limitation.
- 75 percent are either somewhat (25 percent) or strongly (50 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking on the grounds of all municipal properties.
 - Women are more strongly in favor (61 percent) than are men (38 percent).
- 43 percent are either somewhat (8 percent) or strongly (35 percent) in favor of policies that ban the sale of menthol cigarettes while 32 percent are either somewhat (8 percent) or strongly (24 percent) against that ban.
 - A small majority of older residents and those that never smoked are in favor while strong opposition is greatest among current smokers (48 percent), people age 35-49 (30 percent) and men (27 percent).
- 34 percent agreed that menthol in cigarettes makes it harder for smokers to quit smoking while 30 percent disagreed.
 - Agreement was highest among those that never smoked (40 percent), those with children in their household (44 percent), and younger respondents (45 percent).
- A more dramatic impact upon the ability of smokers to quit appears to be exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising.
 - 66 percent agree that exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising makes it harder for smokers to quit smoking.
 - Nearly or greater than 60 percent of every demographic group agree that exposure to product displays or advertising makes it harder to quit with only one exception. Current smokers express a plurality of agreement with 47 percent in agreement and 47 percent disagreeing.

- While agreement is strong on the effect that advertising is having on the ability to quit, almost half of residents, 49 percent, agree that reducing the number of stores that sell tobacco in their community would decrease the number of people who smoke. 41 percent disagree that reducing the number of stores that sell tobacco would decrease the number of smokers.

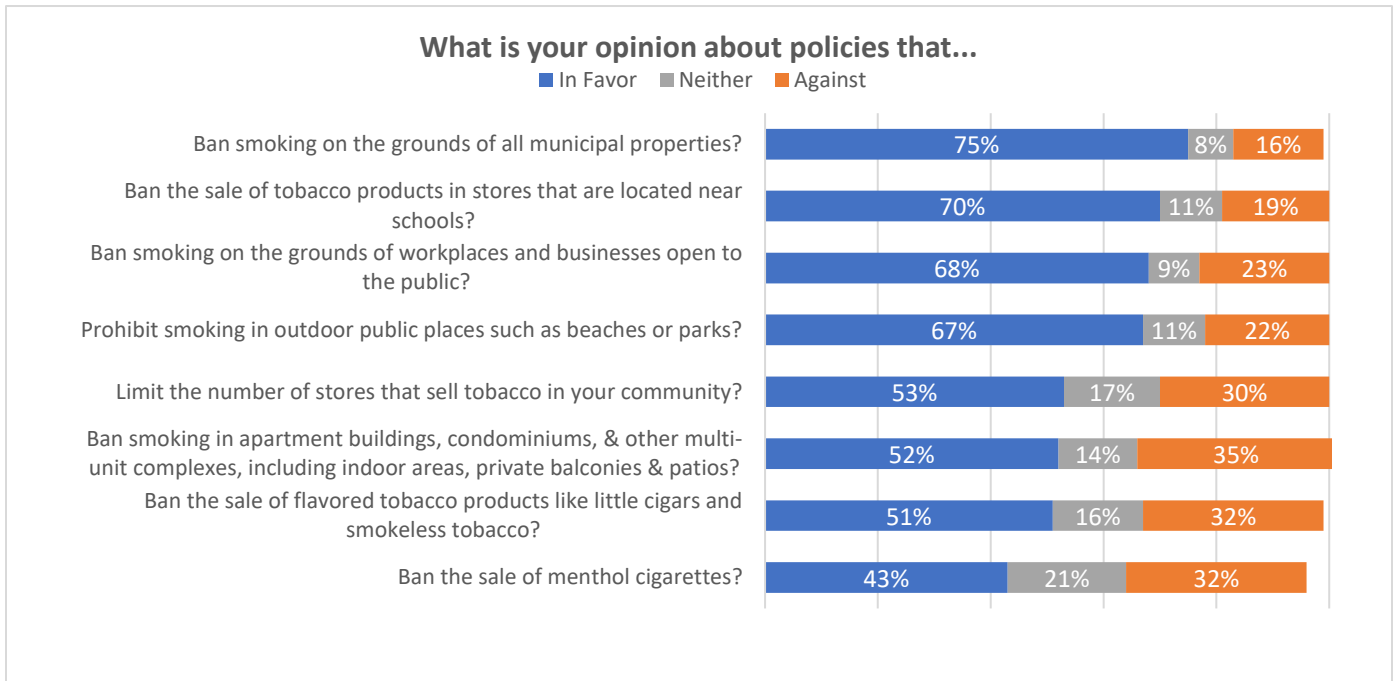


Figure 2: Respondents were most in favor of banning smoking on the grounds of all municipal properties and least in favor of banning the sale of menthol cigarettes.

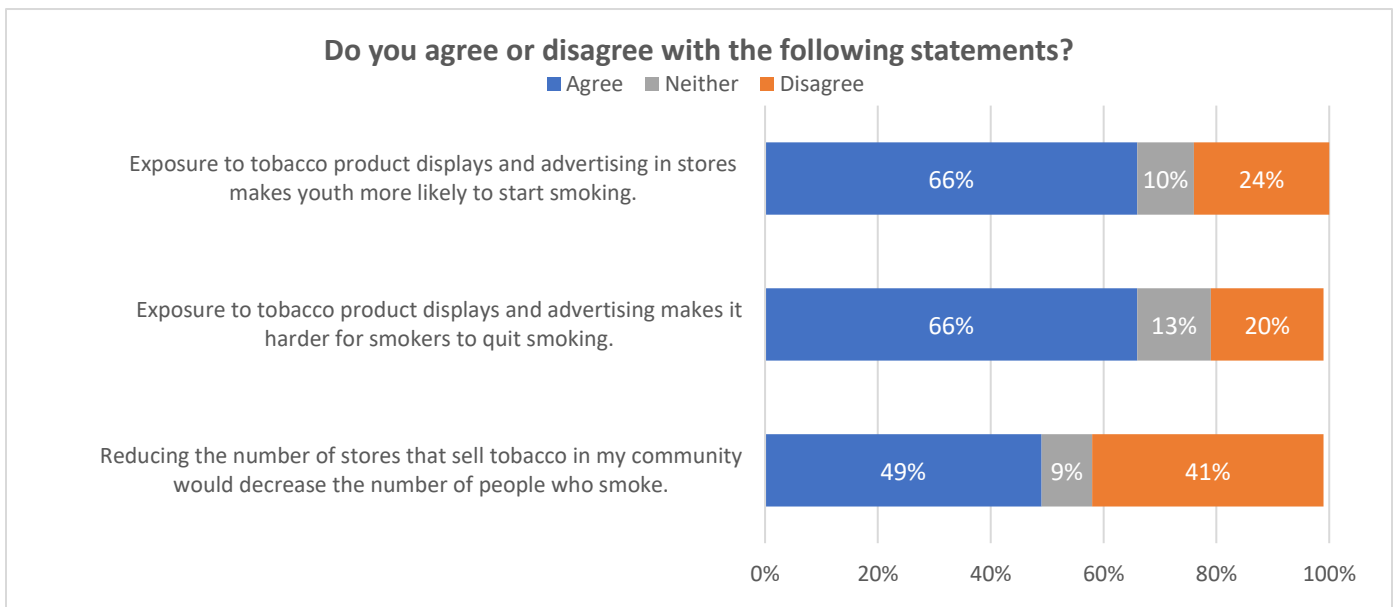


Figure 3: Respondents indicated that exposure to tobacco product displays impact youth

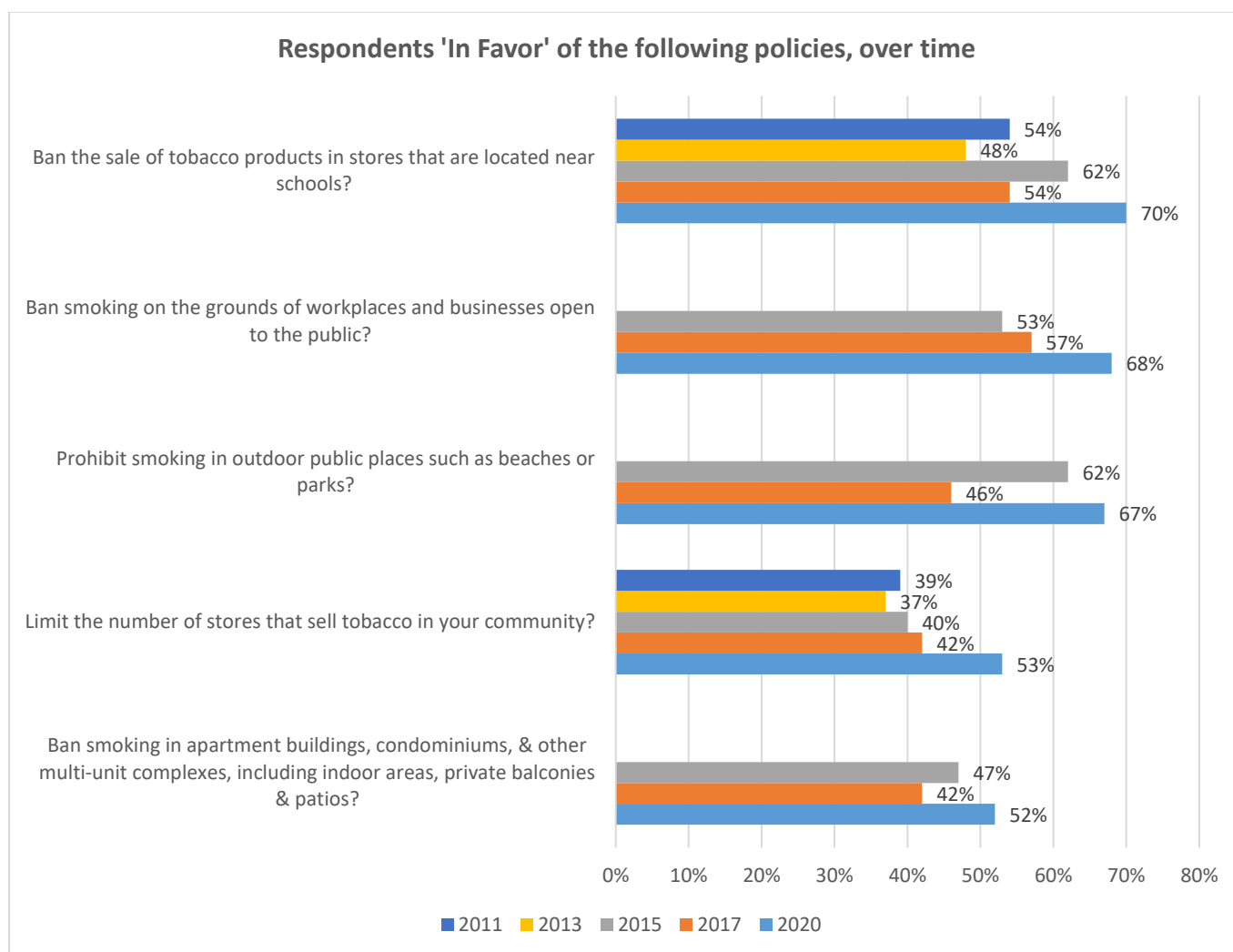


Figure 4: Over time, banning smoking on the grounds of businesses open to the public has the most support while banning smoking in living areas has the least support among respondents.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS SMOKING POLICIES AND ADVERTISING IMPACTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Among Rensselaer County respondents this year, there is growing support to ban the sale of tobacco products in stores that are located near schools and an increase in the view that exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising in stores makes youth more likely to start smoking.

- 70 percent are either somewhat (20 percent) or strongly (50 percent) in favor of policies that ban the sale of tobacco products in stores that are located near schools.
 - In 2017 that figure was 54 percent.
- 66 percent (37 percent strongly, 29 percent somewhat) agree that exposure to tobacco display product displays and advertising in stores makes youth more likely to start smoking while only 24 percent disagree. Current smokers are

evenly divided on this issue. The overall sentiment of 66 percent in agreement is up from 60 percent in 2017.

- By 37-35 percent respondents agree that menthol in cigarettes makes it easier for youth to start smoking. This opinion rises to a larger majority among those with children in their household, 51-29 percent.
- 77 percent agree that candy and fruit flavors that are added to tobacco products makes it easier for youth to start using these products.
 - Among those with children in their household that view increases to 81 percent.
- 51 percent favor a ban of the sale of flavored tobacco products like little cigars and smokeless tobacco.

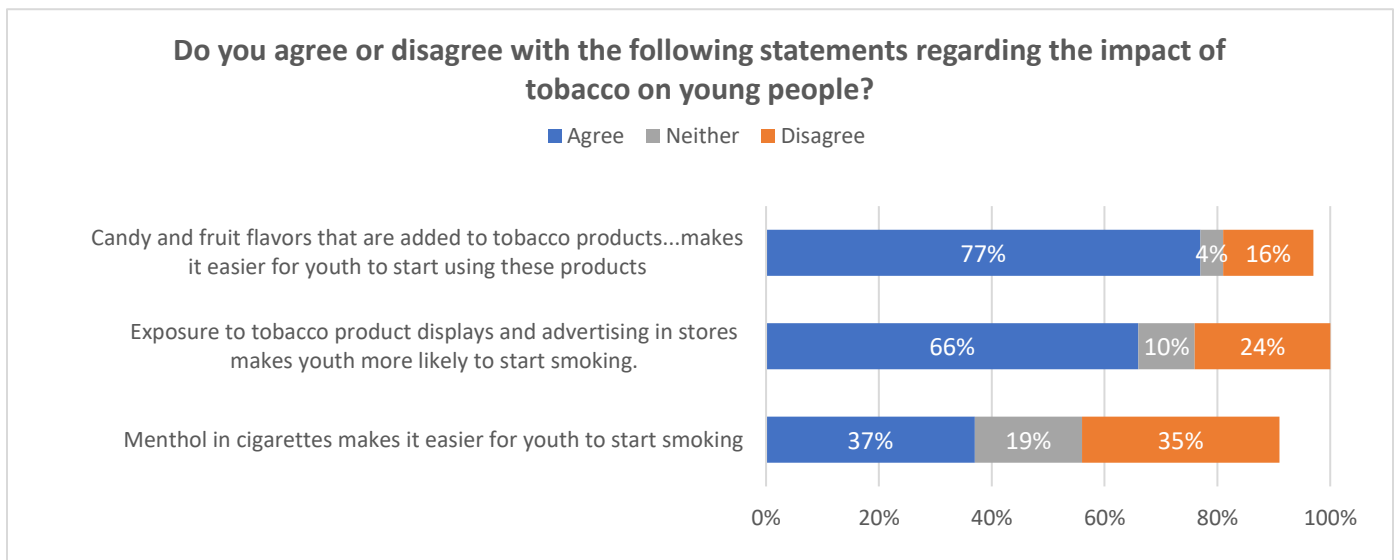


Figure 5: A large majority of respondents agree that candy and fruit flavored tobacco products make it easier for youth to start using tobacco.

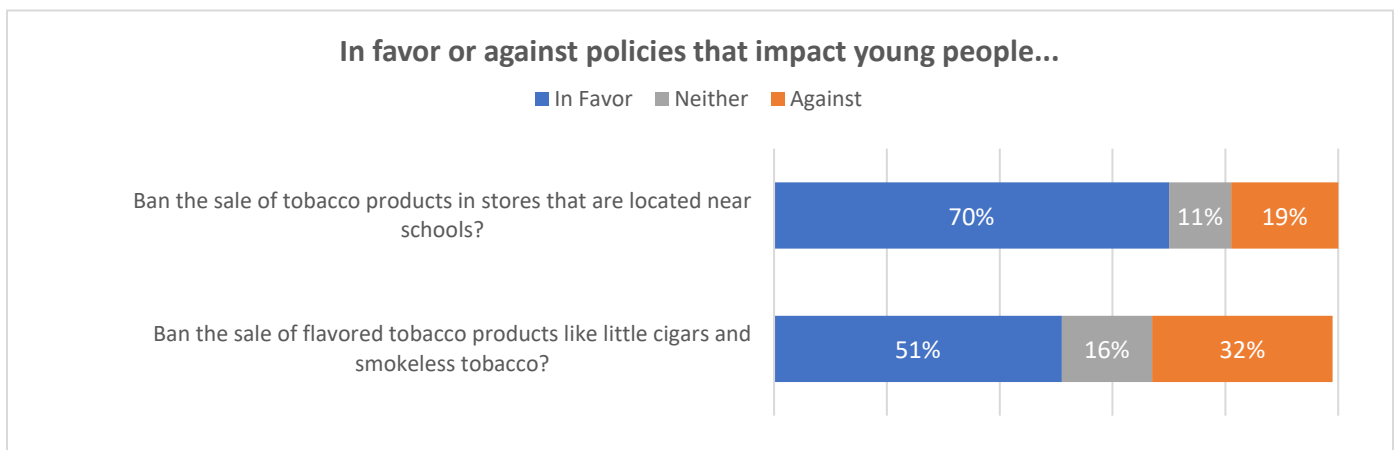


Figure 6: Majorities of respondents are in favor of banning the sale of tobacco near schools and banning the sale of flavored tobacco.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS TOBACCO USE IN RESIDENCES

- 85 percent, say that smoking is not allowed anywhere inside their house.
 - Eight percent say that smoking is allowed in some places or at some times.
 - Not allowing smoking anywhere inside the house is greatest at 92 percent among those over the age of 65 and those who have college degrees and 91 percent amongst those who have smoked in the past but do not currently smoke.
 - 55 percent of current smokers do not allow smoking inside their home but 22 percent allow it in some places or at some times and 16 percent of smokers allow smoking anywhere inside their home.
- Overall 52 percent are either somewhat (16 percent) or strongly (36 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking in apartment buildings, condominiums, and other multi-unit complexes including indoor areas, private balconies and patios. This is up from 42 percent in 2017 and from 47 percent in 2015.
 - Among renters, support for this ban is at 42 percent, however 35 percent support it strongly
 - Across the 14 counties, support is at 50 percent, with 35 percent strongly supporting in favor.
 - Among those that rent in buildings with four or more units support for policies that ban smoking remains at 50 percent with 41 percent supporting it strongly.
 - Across the 14 counties, support among those that rent in building with four or more units is at 57 percent, with 43 percent strongly in favor

METHODS AND NATURE OF THE SAMPLE

Using random digit-dialing (RDD) and a known web-sampling provider, telephone and web interviews were conducted with 350 residents of Rensselaer County. Completed interviews from phone and web were merged and weighted by known age and gender characteristics so as to enhance representativeness.

Data is reported with a margin of error of +/- 6.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level having included the design effect of weighting on that margin of error.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY 2020: SUMMARY

The overall smoking rate in Schenectady County stands at 17 percent, up four percentage points since the lowest point in 2017 (13 percent) and down from the highest point in 2013 (19 percent). Increasing, and strong support is present in Schenectady County for policies banning smoking in many public areas, and to ban the sale of tobacco products near schools. Concern is high that tobacco displays, and advertising, induce young people to smoke. The support for these policies is generally lower in Schenectady County than Albany and Rensselaer. Eighty percent of residents continue to not allow smoking in their homes.

TOBACCO USE

- 46 percent of Schenectady County residents have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.
 - 17 percent are currently smokers, compared to 16 percent in 2015 and 13 percent in 2017.
 - The percentage of Schenectady County residents that have ever-smoked has fallen from 56 percent in 2009 to 46 percent today.
 - Men have ever-smoked at a greater rate than women (53-39 percent).

Schenectady County Smoking Rates						
	2020	2017	2015	2013	2011	2009
Ever Smoked	46%	43%	45%	50%	45%	56%
Current Smoker	17%	13%	16%	19%	14%	18%

- Young people (ages 18-34) have ever-smoked at a much lower rate, 26 percent, than older residents that average across age groups ever-smoking at a rate of over 50 percent.
- Young people, 18-34 years of age, currently smoke at an overall rate of 21 percent.
- The smoking rate drops to 20 percent among those 35-49 years of age, 17 percent among those 50-64 years of age and to only ten percent among those age 65 or above.
- Residents with less than a college education have ever-smoked at a rate of 55 percent and currently smoke at a rate of 25 percent.
- Those with a college education have ever-smoked at a lower rate, 36 percent, and currently smoke at a rate of nine percent.
- Residents with a lower income, under \$50,000 a year, currently smoke at a rate of 29 percent, those earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 smoke at a rate of 16 percent, and those earning over \$100,000 smoke at a lower rate, 12 percent.
- Of those that currently smoke, 58 percent use menthol cigarettes.

- Among current smokers, 13 percent use other tobacco products such as cigars, cigarillos or smokeless tobacco. Of this small group, 32 percent, use other tobacco products that are flavored such as with fruit, candy or alcohol flavors.
- 25 percent of Schenectady County residents have tried using an Electronic Cigarette, or other vaping product, up from 19 percent in 2017 and 17 percent in 2015.

Age Breakdown of E-cigarette Usage				
<i>"Have you ever tried using an Electronic Cigarette, E-cigarette, or other vaping product, even just one time?"</i>				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	48%	25%	19%	3%
No	65%	75%	81%	97%
Don't Know	0%	0%	0%	0%

- Having tried e-cigs is significantly higher among those 18-34 at 48 percent compared with 25 percent among those 35-49 years of age, 19 percent among those 50-64 and only three percent among those age 65 and above.
- The current E-cig use rate is 10 percent, which is up from five percent in 2017 and two percent in 2015. Among 18-34 year olds, the E-cig use rate is 21 percent.

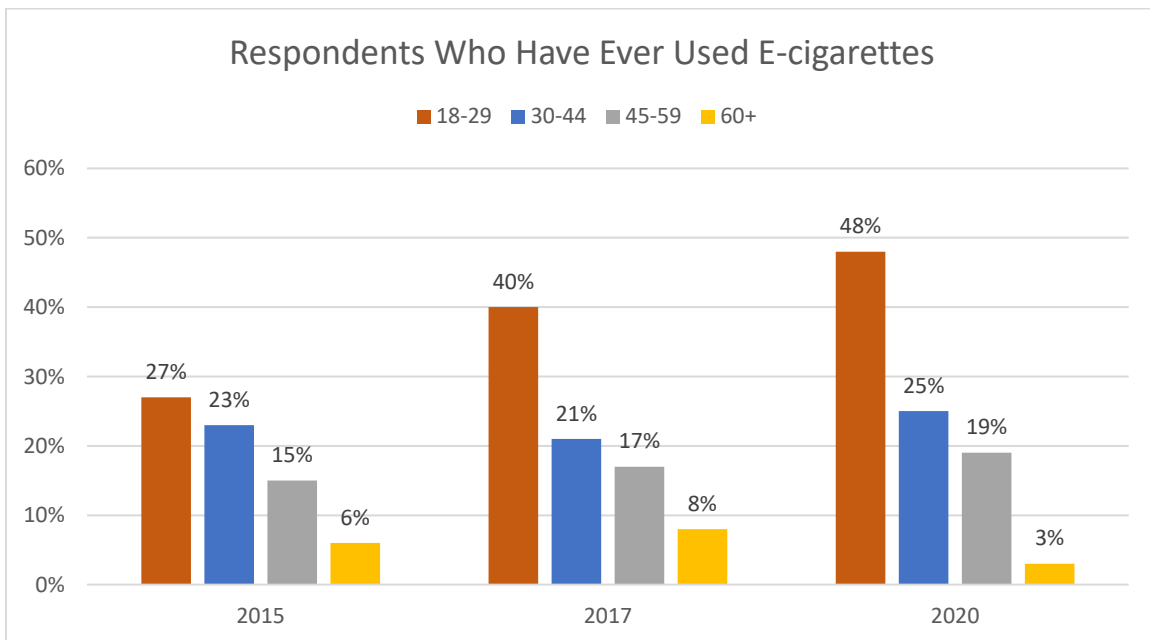


Figure 1: Use of electronic cigarettes continues to grow most significantly among young people (ages 18-29).
 *Age categories varied slightly for 2020. Please see Crosstabs for 2020 age breakdown.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS SMOKING POLICIES AND ADVERTISING

- 32 percent of Schenectady County residents when asked to think about all the health problems in their community, say that addressing the problem of tobacco use including e-cigarettes is among the most important health problems.
 - 55 percent say it is equally as important as other health problems
 - 11 percent say that tobacco use is among the least important health problems.
- 62 percent are either somewhat (15 percent) or strongly (47 percent) in favor of policies that prohibit smoking in outdoor public places such as beaches or parks. This is up from 55 percent in both 2017 and 2015.
 - Women, those with a college degree, those that never smoked and those earning \$50,000 or more are most strongly in favor.
 - The only group in which a plurality, 62-25 percent, is against this prohibition is among those that currently smoke.
- 63 percent either are somewhat (17 percent) or strongly (46 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking on the grounds of workplaces and businesses open to the public. This is a decrease since 65 percent in 2017.
- 43 percent are either somewhat (14 percent) or strongly (29 percent) in favor of policies that limit the number of stores that sell tobacco in their community. This is up from 41 percent in 2017.
 - A majority of women, older residents, earners of \$100,000 or more and those that smoked in the past but do not currently smoke support this limitation. Current smokers oppose the limitation by 64-16 percent.
- 67 percent are either somewhat (17 percent) or strongly (50 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking on the grounds of all municipal properties.
 - Women are more in favor (74 percent) than are men (60 percent).
- 44 percent are either somewhat (18 percent) or strongly (26 percent) in favor of policies that ban the sale of menthol cigarettes while 26 percent are either somewhat (8 percent) or strongly (18 percent) against that ban.
 - A small majority of older residents and those that never smoked are in favor while opposition is greatest among current smokers (55 percent), and men (30 percent).
- 33 percent agreed that menthol in cigarettes makes it harder for smokers to quit smoking while 27 percent disagreed.
 - Agreement was highest among those that never smoked (36 percent), those with children in their household (50 percent), those making \$50,000-\$100,000 (38 percent), and younger respondents (37 percent).
- A more dramatic impact upon the ability of smokers to quit appears to be exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising.
 - 58 percent agree that exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising makes it harder for smokers to quit smoking.
 - Nearly or greater than 60 percent of every demographic group agree that exposure to product displays or advertising makes it harder to quit with only one exception. Current smokers express a plurality of agreement with 34 percent in agreement and 56 percent disagreeing.

- While agreement is strong on the effect that advertising is having on the ability to quit, 44 percent, agree that reducing the number of stores that sell tobacco in their community would decrease the number of people who smoke. 43 percent disagree that reducing the number of stores that sell tobacco would decrease the number of smokers.

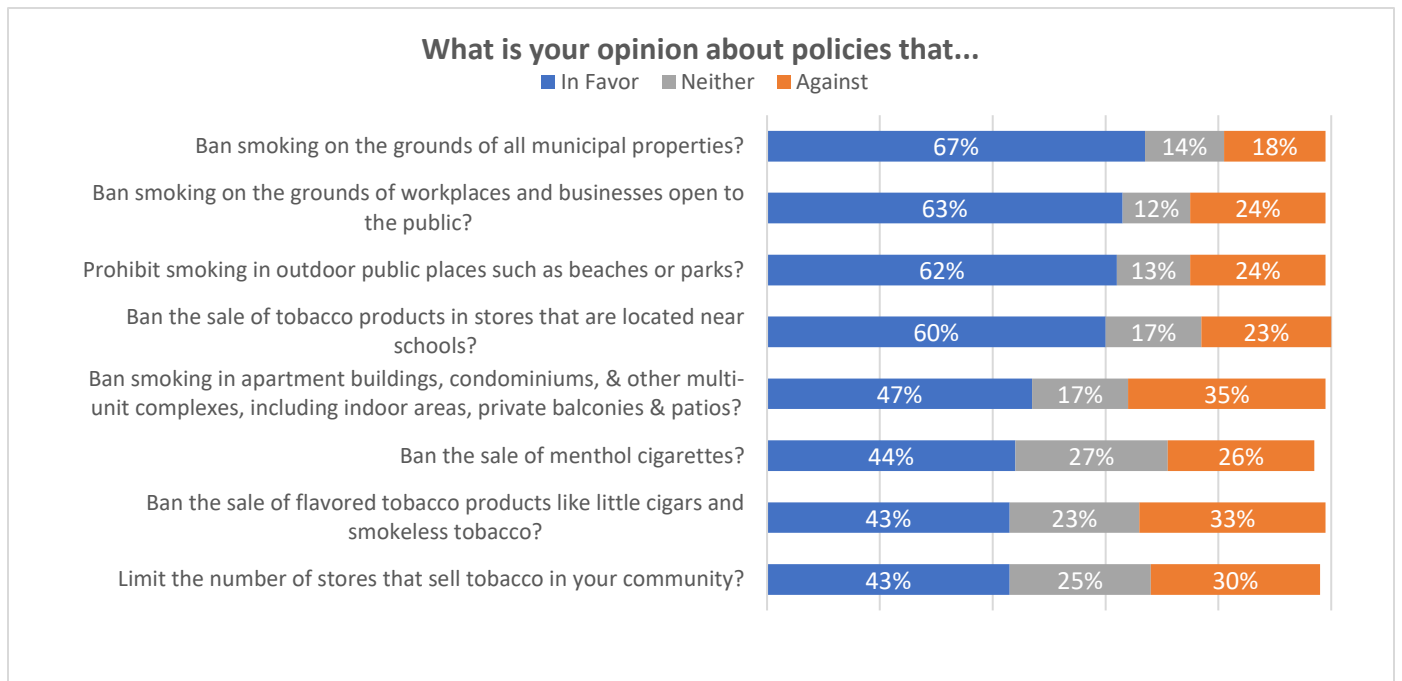


Figure 2: Respondents were most in favor of banning smoking on the grounds of all municipal properties and least in favor of banning the sale of menthol cigarettes.

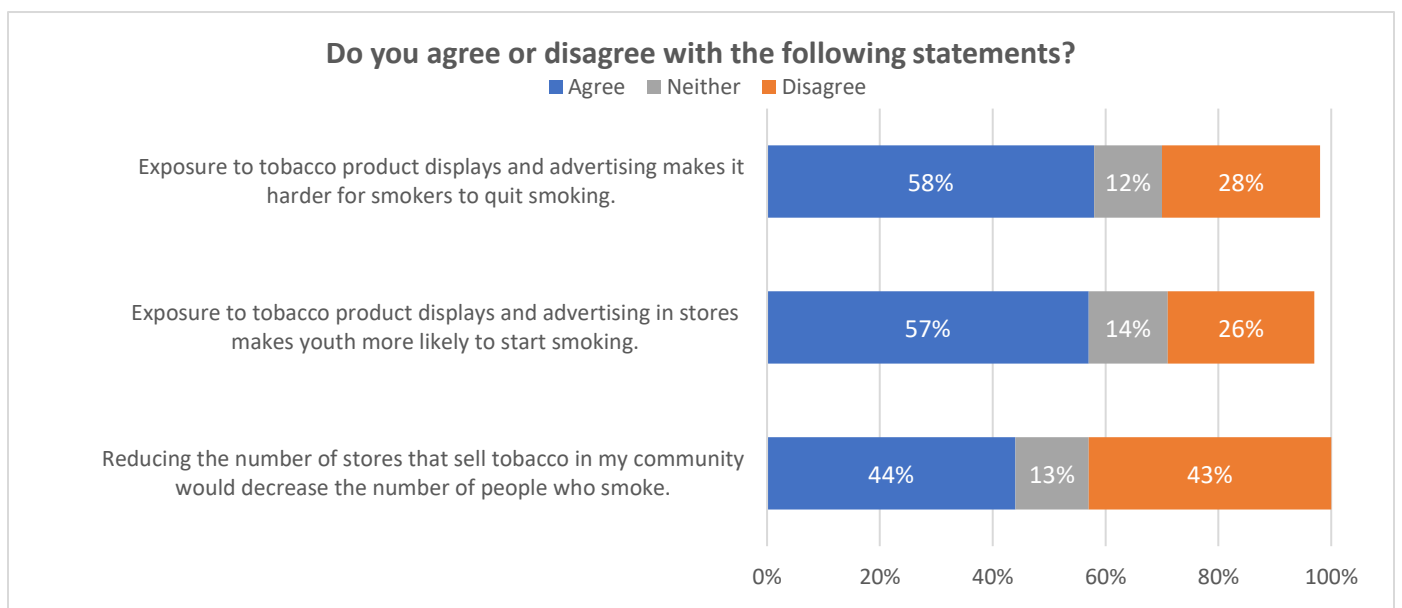


Figure 3: Respondents indicated that exposure to tobacco product displays impact youth

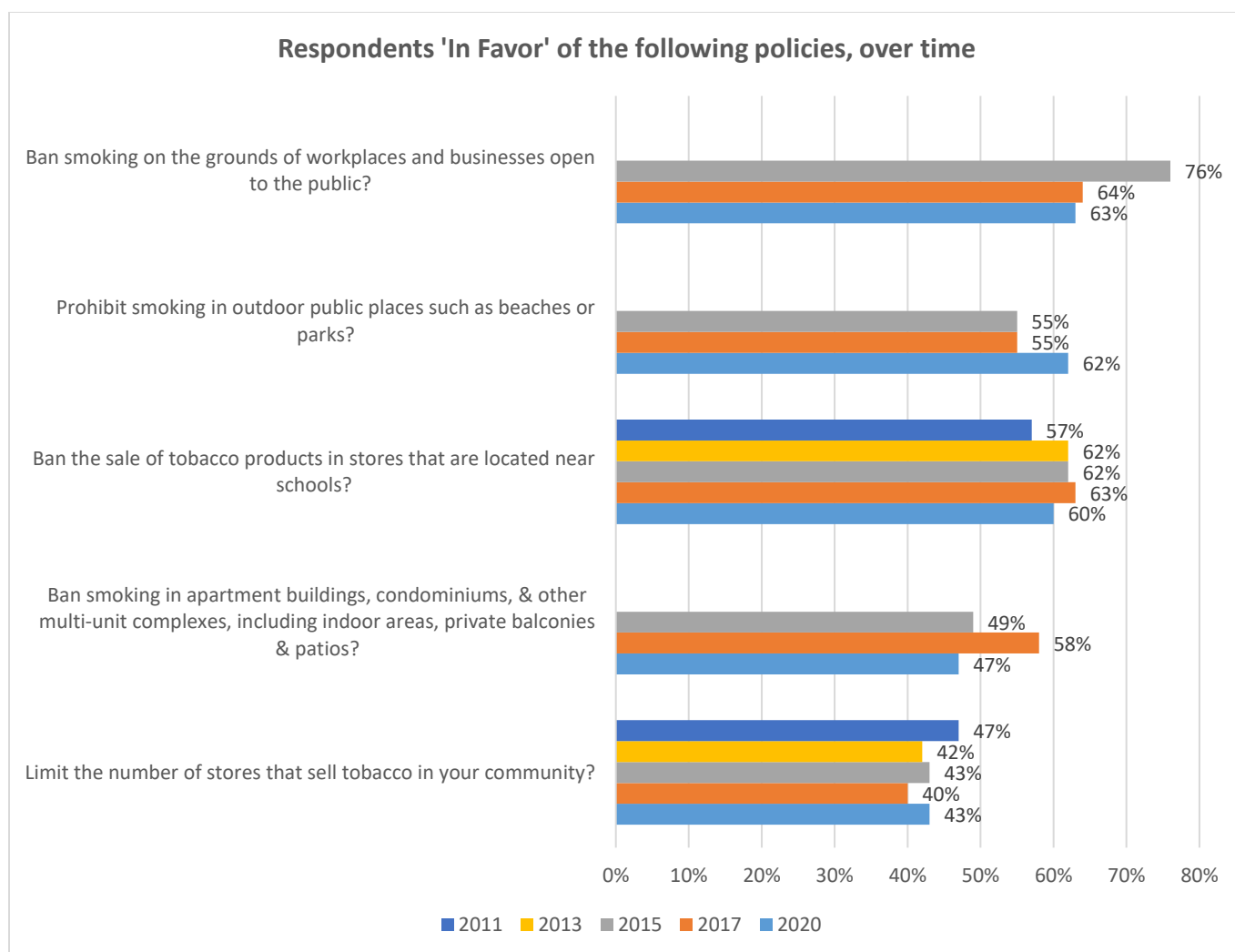


Figure 4: Over time, banning smoking on the grounds of businesses open to the public has the most support while limiting the number of stores that sell tobacco has the least support among respondents.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS SMOKING POLICIES AND ADVERTISING IMPACTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Among Schenectady County respondents this year, there continues to be strong support to ban the sale of tobacco products in stores that are located near schools and an increase in the view that exposure to tobacco product displays and advertising in stores makes youth more likely to start smoking.

- 60 percent are either somewhat (13 percent) or strongly (47 percent) in favor of policies that ban the sale of tobacco products in stores that are located near schools.
 - In 2017 that figure was 63 percent.

- 60 percent (32 percent strongly, 28 percent somewhat) agree that exposure to tobacco display product displays and advertising in stores makes youth more likely to start smoking while only 31 percent disagree. Current smokers disagree the most at 53 percent.
- The overall sentiment of 60 percent in agreement is up from 57 percent in 2017.
- By 42-33 percent respondents agree that menthol in cigarettes makes it easier for youth to start smoking.
- 78 percent agree that candy and fruit flavors that are added to tobacco products makes it easier for youth to start using these products.
 - Among those with children in their household that view increases to 89 percent.
- 43 percent favor a ban of the sale of flavored tobacco products like little cigars and smokeless tobacco.



Figure 5: A large majority of respondents agree that candy and fruit flavored tobacco products make it easier for youth to start using tobacco.

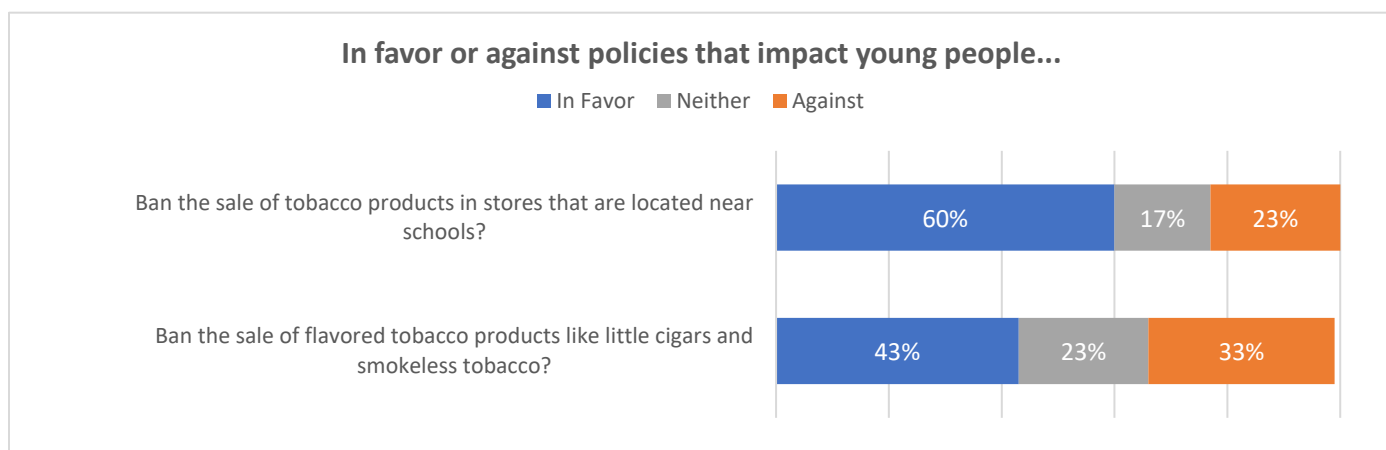


Figure 6: Majorities of respondents are in favor of banning the sale of tobacco near schools.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS TOBACCO USE IN RESIDENCES

- 80 percent, a decrease from 87 percent in 2017, say that smoking is not allowed anywhere inside their house.
 - Nine percent say that smoking is allowed in some places or at some times.
 - Not allowing smoking anywhere inside the house is greatest at 91 percent among those earning \$100,000 or more and at 90 percent among those that never smoked.
 - 40 percent of current smokers do not allow smoking inside their home but 30 percent allow it in some places or at some times and 30 percent of smokers allow smoking anywhere inside their home.
- Overall 47 percent are either somewhat (16 percent) or strongly (31 percent) in favor of policies that ban smoking in apartment buildings, condominiums, and other multi-unit complexes including indoor areas, private balconies and patios. This is down from 58 percent in 2017 and from 49 percent in 2015.
 - Among renters, support for this ban is at 26 percent, however 20 percent support it strongly
 - Across the 14 counties, support is at 50 percent, with 35 percent strongly supporting in favor.
 - Among those that rent in buildings with four or more units support for policies that ban smoking increases to 40 percent with 31 percent supporting it strongly.
 - Across the 14 counties, support among those that rent in building with four or more units is at 57 percent, with 43 percent strongly in favor

METHODS AND NATURE OF THE SAMPLE

Using random digit-dialing (RDD) and a known web-sampling provider, telephone and web interviews were conducted with 352 residents of Schenectady County. Completed interviews from phone and web were merged and weighted by known age and gender characteristics so as to enhance representativeness.

Data is reported with a margin of error of +/- 6.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level having included the design effect of weighting on that margin of error.

14 COUNTY COMPARISON POINTS

SCRI conducted the identical survey in each of 14 counties – Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington – this spring/summer. The following table shows the results across each of those counties for five important questions:

- The current smoking rate computed as the percent of residents that smoke now either every day or some days from among those that indicate having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their life.
- Support for a regulation (either strongly or somewhat in favor) that would limit the number of stores that could sell tobacco in their community.
- Support for a regulation that would ban the sale of tobacco products in stores that are located near schools.
- Support for a regulation that would ban the sale of menthol cigarettes.
- Support for a regulation that would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Albany Points:

- In Albany, the smoking rate at 13 percent is slightly below the 14 County average of 14 percent.
- Albany residents support limiting the number of stores that sell tobacco, banning sales near schools, banning the sale of menthol cigarettes and flavors tobacco products at rates greater than the 14 County average.
- Included in the table as well are the responses from the entire sample of 4,651 respondents weighted by county population size so as to generate a sample representative of the 14 county region. Compared to this 14 County universe sample, the smoking rate of Albany is two points lower.

Rensselaer Points:

- In Rensselaer, the smoking rate at 15 percent is slightly above the 14 County average of 14 percent.
- Rensselaer residents support limiting the number of stores that sell tobacco, banning sales near schools, banning the sale of menthol cigarettes and flavors tobacco products at rates greater than the 14 County average.
- Included in the table as well are the responses from the entire sample of 4,651 respondents weighted by county population size so as to generate a sample representative of the 14 county region. Compared to this 14 County universe sample, the smoking rate of Rensselaer is equal to the sample at 15 percent.

Schenectady Points:

- In Schenectady, the smoking rate at 17 percent is above the 14 County average of 14 percent.
- Schenectady residents support limiting the number of stores that sell tobacco, banning sales near schools, banning the sale of menthol cigarettes and flavors tobacco products at rates lower than the 14 County average.
- Included in the table as well are the responses from the entire sample of 4,651 respondents weighted by county population size so as to generate a sample representative of the 14 county region. Compared to this 14 County universe sample, the smoking rate of Schenectady is two points higher.

Smoking Rate and Key Question Comparison Across 14 Counties					
County	Smoking rate	Limit # of stores that sell tobacco	Ban sale near schools	Ban sale of menthol cigarettes	Ban sale of flavored tobacco products
Albany	13%	50%	69%	47%	51%
Rensselaer	15%	53%	70%	43%	51%
Schenectady	17%	43%	60%	44%	43%
Saratoga	12%	41%	66%	42%	48%
Warren	9%	44%	69%	43%	52%
Washington	16%	44%	62%	39%	47%
Fulton	16%	45%	77%	38%	45%
Hamilton	14%	35%	60%	35%	48%
Montgomery	16%	45%	67%	38%	45%
Columbia	8%	50%	68%	44%	45%
Green	16%	45%	64%	38%	47%
Delaware	14%	41%	61%	38%	44%
Otsego	19%	46%	69%	42%	50%
Schoharie	15%	41%	66%	39%	50%
14 County Average	14%	45%	66%	41%	48%
14 County Universe	15%	48%	66%	44%	49%