

# Center For Tobacco Products Overview



The landmark Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act gave the U.S. Food and Drug Administration sweeping new authorities to create a healthier future for America’s families by regulating the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products. The law, passed by Congress and signed by the President in 2009, gave FDA the authority to establish the Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), which drives powerful change to protect children and families from the dangers of tobacco products.

Currently, FDA regulates cigarettes, cigarette tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, and smokeless tobacco. FDA has also published a proposed rule to bring other products that meet the definition of tobacco product under FDA’s regulatory authority, such as cigars, e-cigarettes, and pipe tobacco.

## **The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act**

The Tobacco Control Act takes a comprehensive approach—grounded in rigorous, timely science and the law—to improve public health, especially for the next generation. It gives FDA the authority to:

- Restrict marketing and sales to youth
- Curb inaccurate or misleading claims
- Require disclosure of ingredients in tobacco products
- Advance a product standard strategy that can withstand legal challenges and yield strong standards to improve public health

## **Building a Healthier Future for All Americans**

Each year, tobacco use kills more than 480,000 Americans, making it the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Every day in the United States, more than 2,600 youth under age 18 smoke their first cigarette, and nearly 600 youth under age 18 become daily smokers.<sup>2</sup> Nationwide, 5.5 percent of high school students currently use smokeless tobacco.<sup>3</sup> Nearly 9 out of 10 daily adult smokers smoked their first cigarette before the age of 18.<sup>1</sup>

CTP educates the public about the harms of tobacco products, working to reduce their appeal and keep them out of the hands of America’s youth. CTP is committed to protecting and improving public health by focusing on three top priorities:

- Reduce initiation rates and prevent youth from starting to use tobacco
- Encourage tobacco users to quit
- Decrease the harms of tobacco product use

## CTP Takes Action Every Day

Every day, CTP takes action to protect American families, charting a new course for comprehensive change. These actions include:

- Developing science-based regulations to safeguard the nation's health.
- Publishing guidance to help the industry comply with regulations for tobacco products.
- Conducting retailer inspections to ensure compliance with laws restricting sales of tobacco products to youth, and issuing warning letters and monetary penalties for violations.
- Requiring tobacco manufacturers to report the ingredients in their products so FDA can evaluate the harm caused by the ingredients, take steps to reduce the harm, and educate the public about the toxic substances in tobacco products so public health can be improved.
- Reviewing proposed modified risk tobacco products before they can be sold.
- Restricting the access and attractiveness of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to young people.
- Enforcing the ban on the manufacture and sale of fruit- or candy-flavored cigarettes.
- Prohibiting the use of misleading claims such as "low," "light," and "mild" that falsely imply that some tobacco products are safer.
- Reviewing new tobacco products to determine whether they can be legally marketed.
- Launching public information and education campaigns, particularly targeted to youth, about the dangers of regulated tobacco products.
- Partnering with other public health agencies to conduct cutting-edge research on a range of topics such as smoking initiation and nicotine addiction.

CTP-11-R1 | Last Updated November 2015

## References

1. US Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: US Dept of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; 2014.
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *Results from the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality; 2015.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tobacco Product Use Among Middle and High School Students - United States, 2011-2014. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 2015; 64: 381-385.

### Contact Us

1.877.CTP.1373  
AskCTP@FDA.hhs.gov  
FDA.gov/Tobacco

FDA Center for Tobacco Products  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

