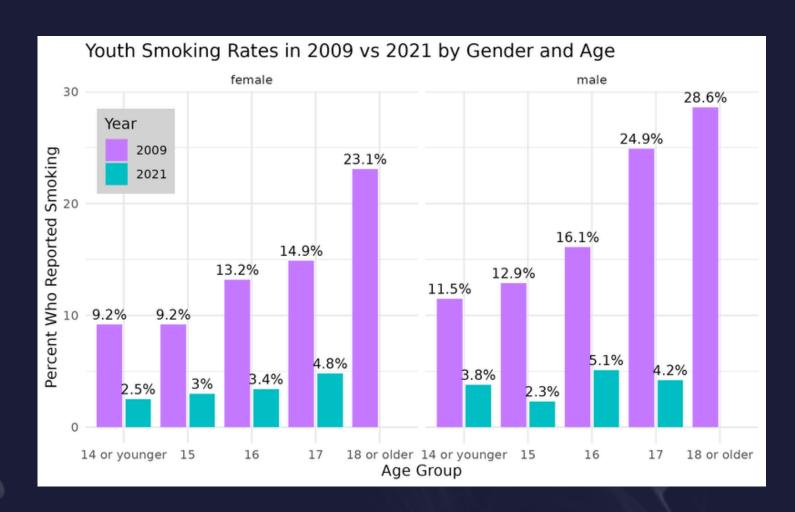
YOUTH SMOKING TRENDS IN ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY

The Healthy Androscoggin Project analyzes Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS) data to track youth health behaviors. We focus on smoking trends across a decade to identify gaps in awareness and inform early intervention strategies.



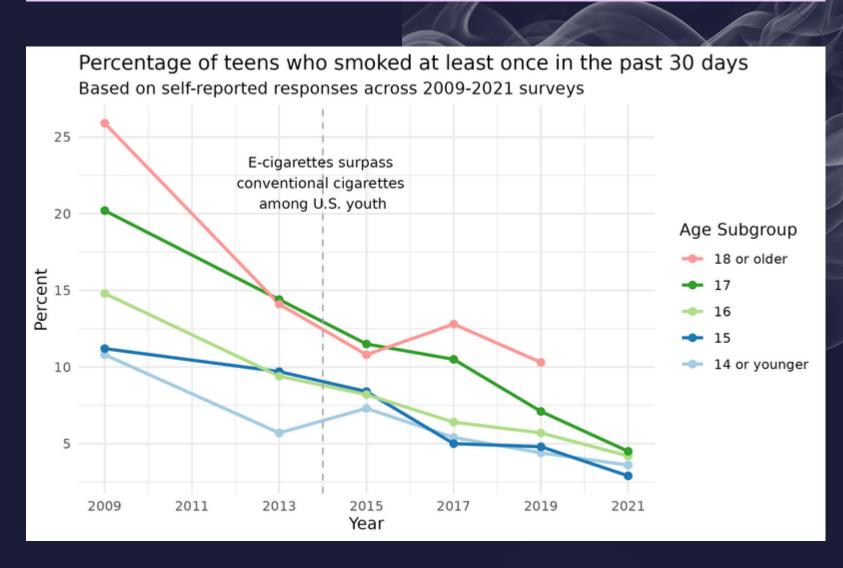
While national smoking rates declined, Androscoggin County saw irregular patterns. Between 2015 and 2017, a local spike occurred despite broader state declines.



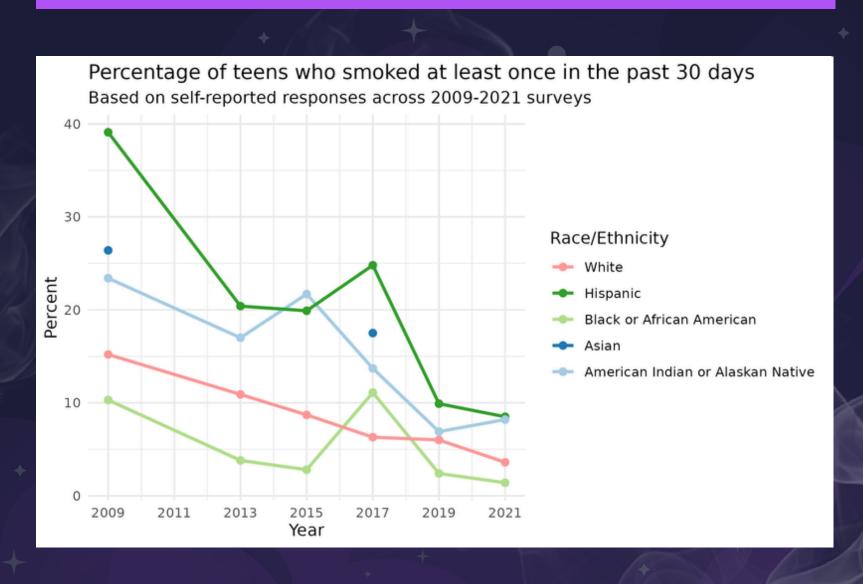
Smoking rates in Androscoggin County remained consistently higher among male students.



In 2009, National youth smoking rates peaked at nearly 20% for high schoolers. In 2014, E-cigarette use surpassed traditional smoking among teens. In 2017, there was a rise in social media-driven vape marketing and flavored products. In 2019, Maine passed the Tobacco 21 law, raising the legal purchase age to 21. In 2021, national cigarette smoking rates among youth reached historic lows — 1.9% for high school students.



Throughout the years, the smoking rates decreased across all races and ages, potentially influenced by public health campaigns and the Tobacco 21 policy.



Youth smoking in Androscoggin County has declined, but not uniformly. Demographic disparities persist, and the short-term rise in 2017 highlights the need for sustained prevention. Future work should include vaping data, mental health variables, and school-based policy implementation to provide a fuller picture.