

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not define “youth” raising questions if the target population should be early school programs, teenagers, young adults or a combination of these groups.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH reports teen smoking is on the rise in New Mexico, with 36.2% of high school students smoking. The national rate is 34.8%.

Currently, there are 16 school districts in New Mexico with contracts from DOH to conduct smoking prevention, education and cessation activities. DOH is developing a contract with a media literacy organization to provide media literacy services statewide.

A major prevention function within DOH is the responsibility for enforcing federal and state tobacco laws to prevent merchants from selling tobacco products to youth under the age of 18.

RAE/njw:ar