

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS



The availability and use of tobacco products are constantly changing. Tobacco products, regardless of whether they contain tobacco leaf, can contain nicotine and other harmful substances. While these products differ in content and use, it is **important to note that no tobacco product, including e-cigarettes and oral nicotine products, is safe.**



15TH CENTURY

Prior to the 15th century, the **tobacco plant was grown and used** for various purposes in the Americas including traditional, sacred ceremonial, religious, and medicinal purposes.

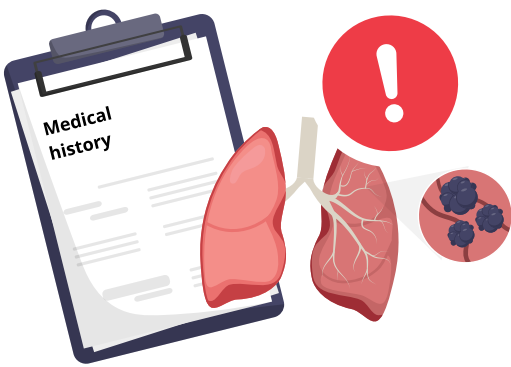
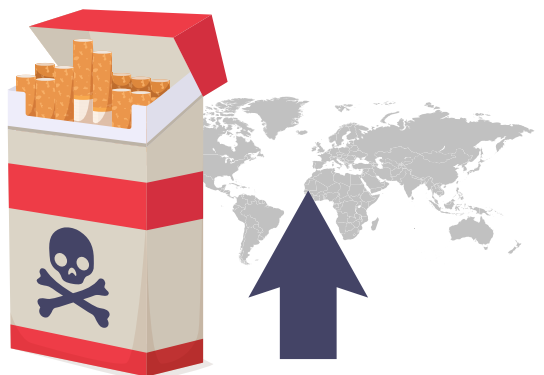
After the European colonization of the American continent, **tobacco was introduced in Europe.**



16-18TH CENTURIES

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, tobacco was cultivated by settlers in the Americas and **introduced to nearly all countries in Europe and in other locations globally.**

With increased demand, enslaved people were forced to grow and harvest tobacco that would later be sold. Tobacco was primarily smoked in pipes and cigars, chewed, or snuffed.



20TH CENTURY

Cigarette smoking rates peaked after World War II and began to decline in some regions after smoking is conclusively linked to cancer.

The tobacco industry **introduces a diversifying range of combustible and noncombustible products**, targets and markets these products to population groups based on sociodemographic characteristics, and expands global sales.

19TH CENTURY

Cigarettes were introduced and became the most commonly used tobacco product globally.



21ST CENTURY

Combustible tobacco products remain responsible for the majority of tobacco-related disease and death. Commercial tobacco disparities exist and are rooted in inequitable policies, practices, and conditions.

The tobacco product landscape continues to expand to include flavored little cigars and cigarillos, electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and synthetic nicotine products marketed for non-therapeutic purposes.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This timeline presents a sample of key developments and does not aim to be fully comprehensive.