

# Tobacco Control Program Strategic Plan

Substance Misuse Prevention Council | May 2022



# Overview of today's discussion

1. Stakeholder survey results
2. Policy brief highlights
3. Stakeholder engagement meeting



THIS IS WHAT I SEE IN MY SCHOOL

If you want to stay in shape,

QUIT THE VAPE!!!

COUNTER  
BALANCE

COUNTERBALANCEVT.COM

Thomas

THIS IS WHAT I SEE IN MY SCHOOL

Don't Juul ...

Stay Cool!!!

Kam

NASA  
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS  
& SPACE ADMINISTRATION



**Increase efficiency and collaboration on prevention efforts across all state, public, and private entities, through a consolidated and holistic approach that is sustainable, scalable, and equitable.**

SMPC's third goal



# Stakeholder engagement survey

Highlights of the results | March - April 2022

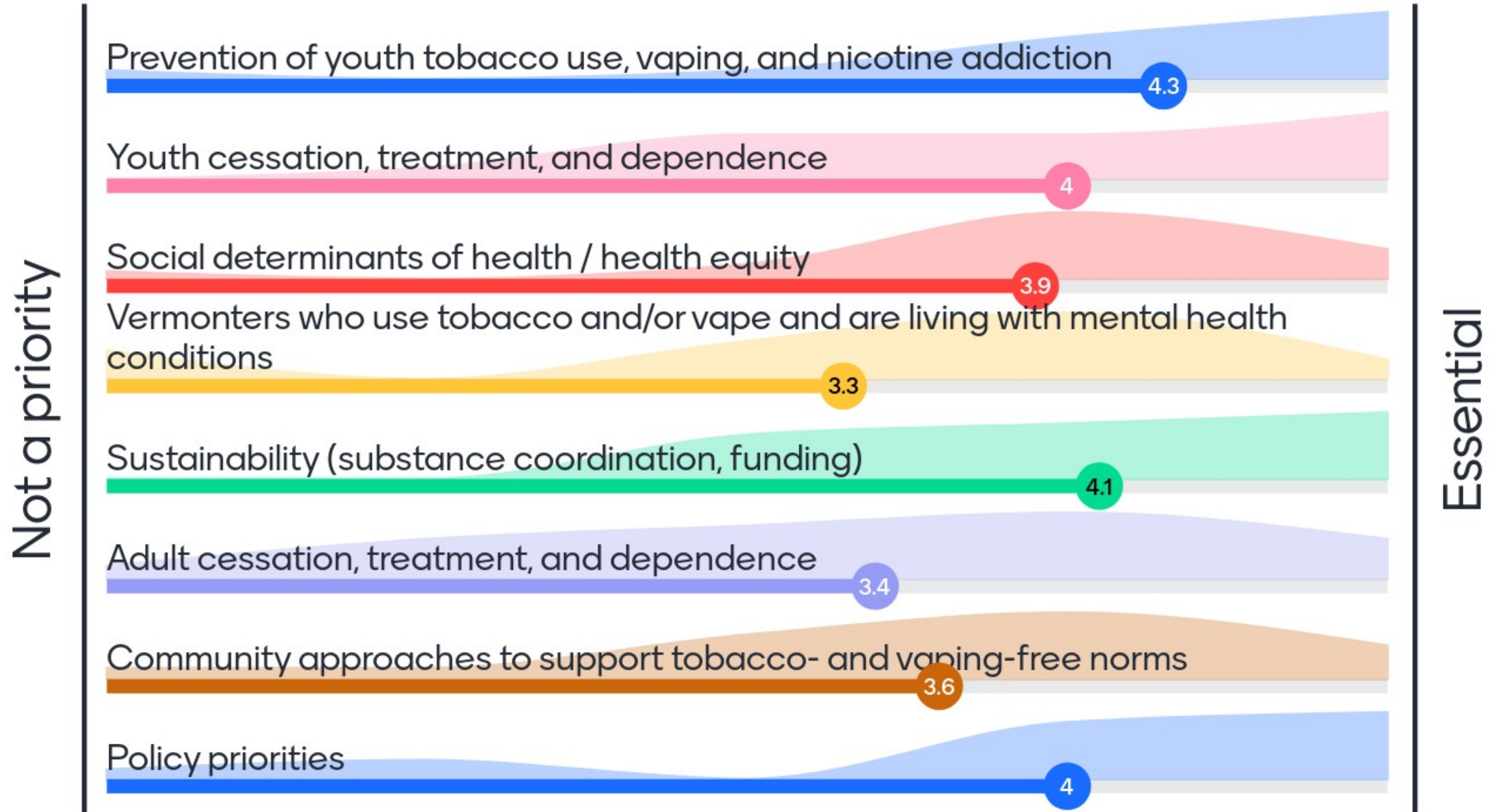


# 42

respondents on the state plan stakeholder survey



# Critical topics and activities for the state plan



# What additional (or more nuanced) topics should be included in the revised tobacco / vaping prevention and control plan?

Correlation with cannabis in terms of the delivery mechanism

Redefine what we mean by "tobacco". The industry is becoming high tech and we might be lagging behind?

Deepen understanding of how use of more than one substance in vaping devices impacts intent to quit and quit attempt in past year

support and tobacco cessation resources tailored to/for older adults. I know adults are mentioned, but wanting to ensure older adults are also included in this plan.

vaping cessation low barrier programs (like My Life, My Quit) when the substance is cannabis

Youth school infractions treated in a restorative manner rather than with a punitive approach.

Tobacco use cessation is critical for older with chronic illnesses.



# From the survey results, the most frequently selected topics were

- Prevention of youth tobacco use, vaping, and nicotine addiction.
- Youth cessation, treatment, and dependence
- Community approaches to support tobacco- and vaping-free norms
- Policy priorities
- Social determinants of health / health equity

Additional topics included: policy-substance strategy integration, vaping device disposal, responsive approaches to working with specific populations (children, rural Vermonters, pregnant and postpartum Vermonters, Vermont Abenaki organizations)



# Assessing Vermont's 2019 Tobacco Control Policies: Compliance & Implications for Youth Vermonters' Access

Highlights of the policy evaluation results | April 2022





## In response to troubling trends, the Vermont Legislature took action

In 2019, to address major increases in young people's use of e-cigarettes, Vermont implemented three policies:

**T21**

increased the legal age of sale of tobacco products to 21

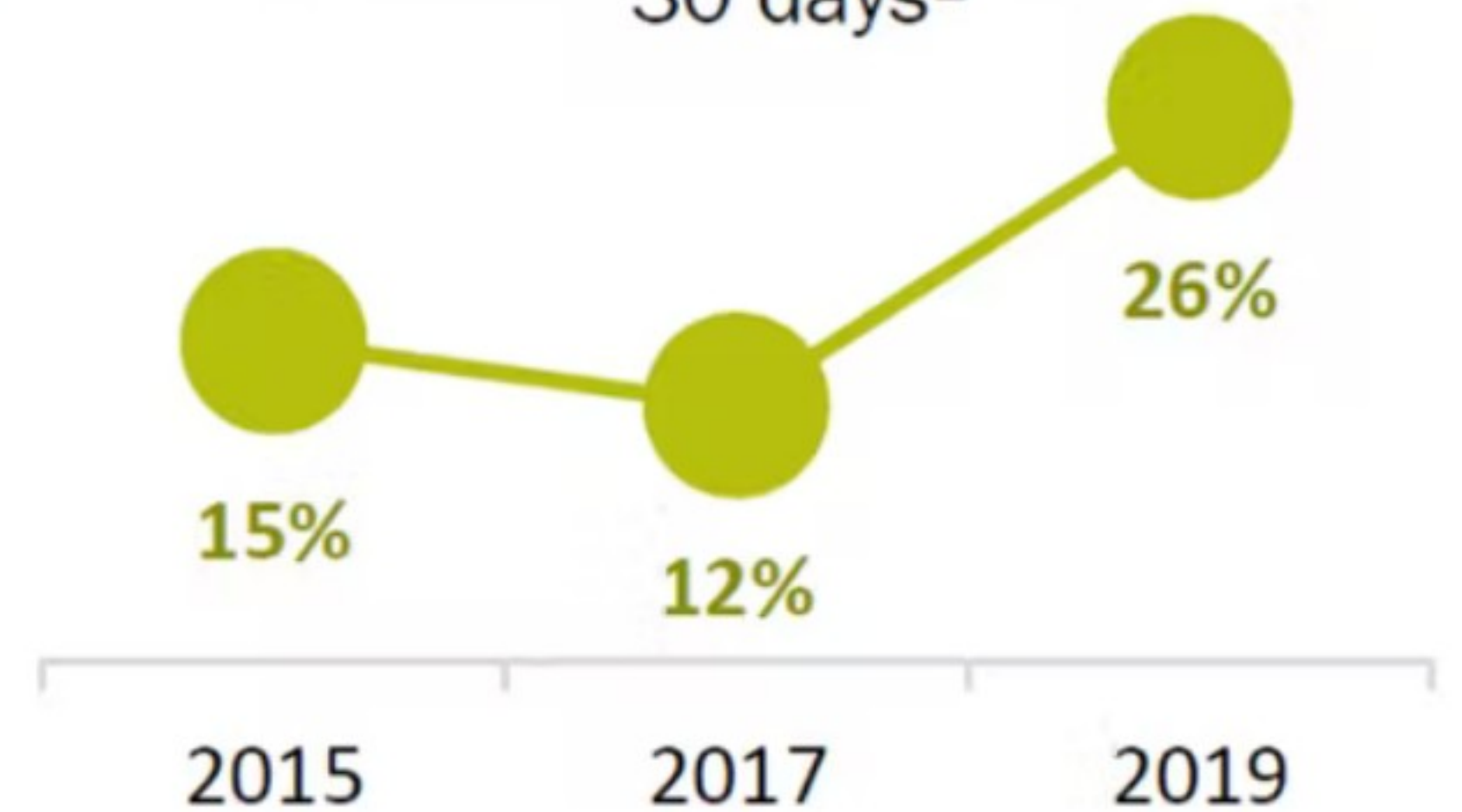
**Delivery sales ban**

prohibited the sale of e-cigarettes by mail

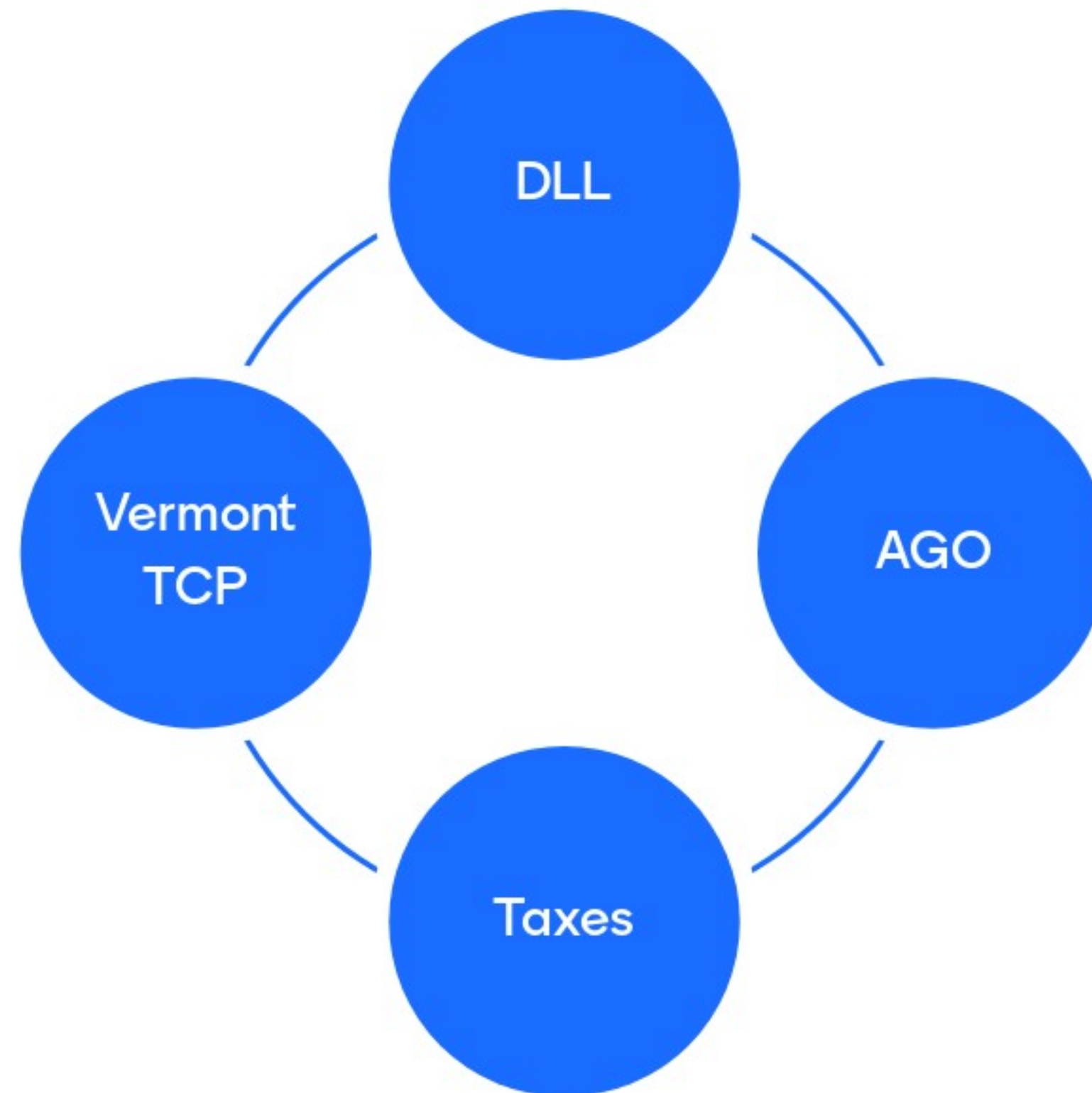
**E-cigarette tax**

taxed e-cigarettes at 92% of wholesale price

Percent of high schoolers who used e-cigarettes in past 30 days<sup>1</sup>



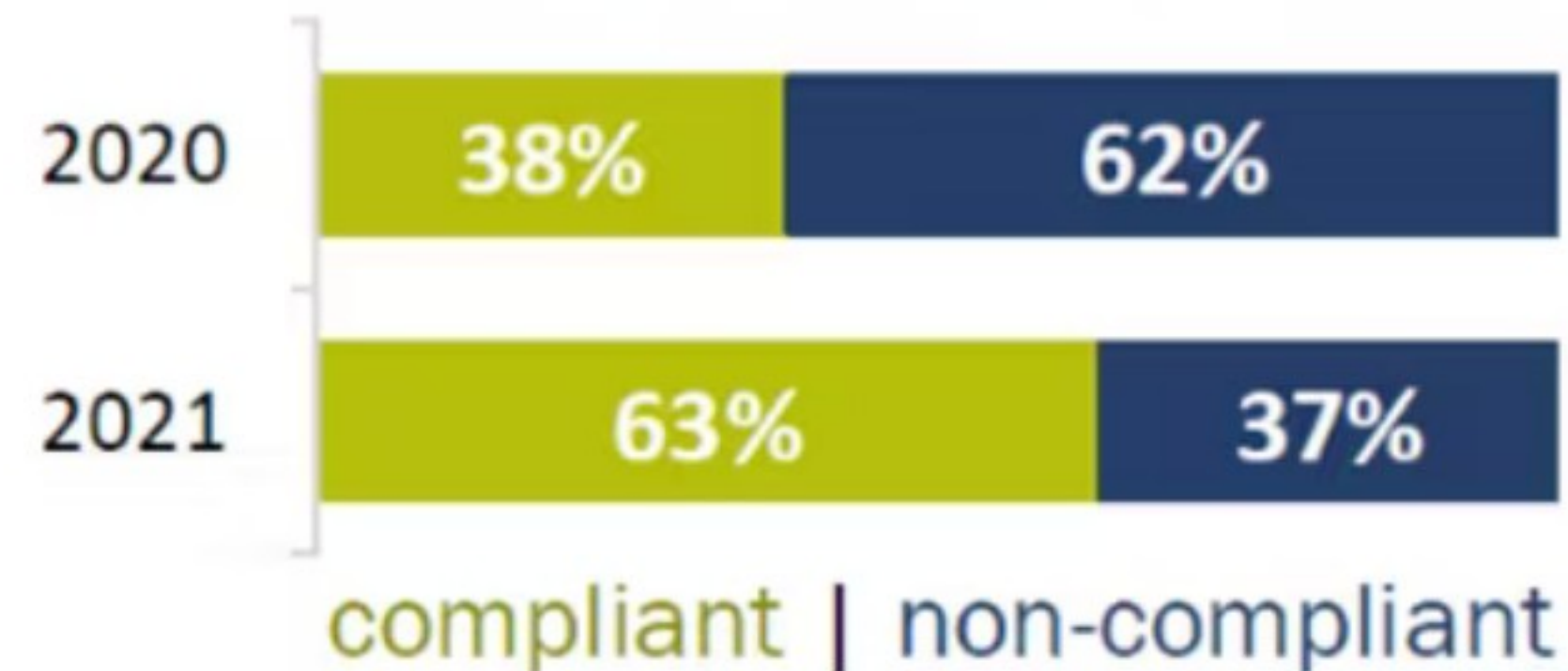
# Partnerships and coordination among state agencies to implement and evaluate these policies



## 📈 Online retailer compliance increased markedly over the previous year

Through funding from the Vermont Tobacco Control Program, DLL maintains a comprehensive list of online tobacco retailers and tests them for compliance with the delivery sales ban. Between 2020 and 2021, DLL tested **273 unique retailers**, some multiple times.

In 2021, 63% of tested online retailers were in compliance, compared to only 38% in 2020.<sup>8</sup>



6180000

dollars from 21 settlements with non-compliant online retailers.





## Vermont has compliance successes to celebrate, yet gaps to address

### T21

- ✔ Strong compliance means limited ability to purchase tobacco in-store for Vermonters under 21.
- ! Young people can access tobacco in other ways, such as through older friends or family.

### Delivery sales ban

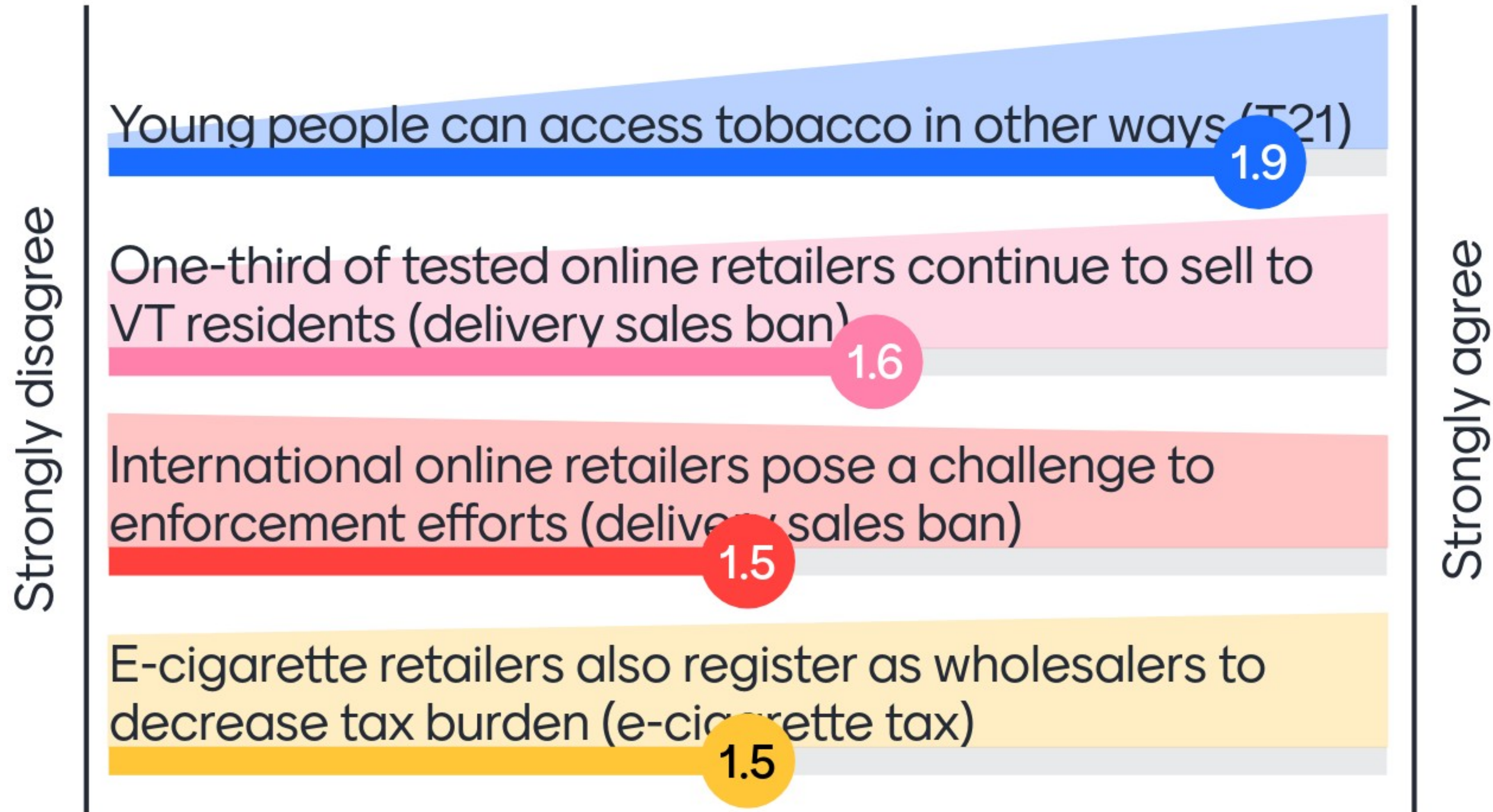
- ✔ Compliance improved, indicating decreased online access.
- ! 1/3 of tested online retailers continue to sell to Vermont residents.
- ! International online retailers pose a challenge to enforcement efforts.

### E-cigarette tax

- ✔ Compliance with the law as it is currently written is satisfactory.
- ! E-cigarette retailers also register as wholesalers to decrease tax burden.
- ! The tax's effects on price and access are uncertain.



# Which "gap" area is most urgent?





# Upcoming opportunity to engage!

Stakeholder engagement meeting | June 24, 2022



# Strategy session

June 24, 2022

1:15 - 3:15 pm



# Legislative Bill Related to Substances

# Bills That Did Not Go Into Law

**H. 505-** *An act relating to the creation of the Drug Use Standards Advisory Board within the Vermont Sentencing Commission*

- Passed by Legislature
- Vetoed by the Governor (5/19/22)
- Would have created a Drug Use Standards Advisory Board to set, for each regulated and unregulated drug, the benchmark personal use dosage and personal use supply
- Goal was to prevent and reduce criminalization of personal drug use

# Bills That **Did Not** Go Into Law

**H. 548** – *An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis establishment procedures*

- Did not move forward within the Legislature
- Would have eliminated the cap on THC level, set in original cannabis legislation at 60%
- Because the bill did not progress, the cap remains in place

# Bills That **Did** Go Into Law

- **H. 46 – Act 115** *An act relating to miscellaneous Department of Health programs*
- Changes the ADAP name to Division of Substance Use Programs
- Changes the Deputy for ADAP to a Deputy for VDH
- Codifies Drug Disposal Kiosks in pharmacies with 10 or more businesses in the entire United States (or a mail in option)
- Enables VDH to share de-identified data with other child fatality review teams
- Allows the CME to report to federal prosecutors or prosecutors in other states
- Establishes a working group on Services for Individuals with Eating Disorders in DMH

# Bills That **Did** Go Into Law

**H. 711 – Act 118** *An act relating to the creation of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and the Opioid Abatement Special Fund*

- Signed by the Governor on 5/16/22
- Creates the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee
- Supported and Chaired by VDH
- First meeting to be called before June 30, 2022

# Bills that Passed in the Legislature; Not Yet to Governor for Action

## **H. 728** - *An act relating to opioid overdose response services*

- Stipulates various studies and reports on MAT and Needle Exchange Programs
- Creates an Overdose Prevention Site Working Group to identify the feasibility and liability of implementing overdose prevention sites in VT
- Asks the Working Group to develop an action plan for design, fit up and implementation of Overdose Prevention Sites in VT



# Bills that Passed in the Legislature; Not Yet to Governor for Action

*S. 188 - An act relating to regulating licensed small cannabis cultivation as farming*

- Cannabis not regulated as farming
- However, some exemptions will apply in relation to retail tax for inputs (eg equipment)
- Cultivation authority given to the CCB with an option for study should federal laws change

# Update on Education Recovery and Revitalization

May 23, 2022

# Funding Context

- Education recovery largely funded through Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding
- Three tranches of ESSER funding, total about \$433M, 90% to districts, 10% at AOE
- Largest tranche, ARP ESSER, about \$283M, comes with state and local planning requirements, mandatory set asides, and is primary source of funding for recovery efforts.
- ARP ESSER recovery work will conclude by September 30, 2024.



# Education Recovery Goals

- Address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students:
  - Academics
  - Social and Emotional Needs
- Strengthen the organizational structure of the education and related social service delivery systems to better address student needs on a regional basis.

# Metrics for Academics and SEL

- Academic Metrics
  - Three grade spans, Primary, Middle, and High School with a focus on English/Language Arts and Math
  - Using established benchmarks
- Social and Emotional
  - Initial use of AHS metrics and then district referral data
  - Staff wellness initiative with VEHI PATH
  - Establishment of school climate survey by 2024.

# Metrics for Organizational Change

- AOE  District  School
  - All districts will have established systems currently in regulation (4), with initial focus on EST and Local Assessment
- AOE school improvement teams shift focus to district improvement teams.
- Coordinate state response with partner agencies and district recovery teams.

# Planning Structure

- Internal – AOE Recovery Leads Team: coordinates recovery efforts across agency divisions and to bring strategic alignment to the work.
- External – Education Recovery Steering Committee: coordinates recovery efforts among education stakeholder groups and helps align state (10%) and local (90%) efforts.

# Communications Plan

- Developed logic model to describe work as a series of projects.
- Formally launched state education recovery effort on 5/20 with letter to field and related press release.
- Launched initial website structure "[Education Recovery and Revitalization](#)" on 5/20:
  - Will become home page container for education pandemic response
  - Will include all related content – e.g., transparency dashboards, local recovery plans, reports, etc., and
  - Stories of recovery



# Discussion and Questions