

E-CIGARETTES

FACT SHEET // PENNSYLVANIA



In 2015, **9.1%** of adults in Pennsylvania reported having tried an e-cigarette at least once.¹ According to the 2015 Pennsylvania Youth Risk Behavior Survey, **40.8%** of high school students have used an electronic vapor product at least once, and **24.1%** of high school students currently use electronic vapor products.²

E-CIGARETTES ARE NOT QUIT SMOKING PRODUCTS

- E-cigarettes are **unregulated tobacco products**. Almost all e-cigarettes include nicotine, as well as other chemicals and toxins which are unsafe to inhale.
- FDA delayed a critical review of ingredients and potential harms until 2022, leaving **unregulated products with unknown chemicals that are being inhaled into the lungs on the market**.
- In January 2018, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine released a consensus study report that reviewed over 800 studies. The report found that **e-cigarette use causes health risks, increases the chance that youth will start to use combustible tobacco products, and exposes others to dangerous secondhand e-cigarette emissions**.³

SECONDHAND E-CIGARETTE EMISSIONS ARE NOT SAFE

- In 2016, the Surgeon General concluded that secondhand emissions contain, “**nicotine**; ultrafine particles; flavorings such as **diacetyl**, a chemical linked to serious lung disease; **volatile organic compounds** such as **benzene**, which is found in car exhaust; and **heavy metals, such as nickel, tin, and lead**.”⁴

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY MARKETS E-CIGARETTES TO CHILDREN

- E-cigarettes are the **most commonly used tobacco products among youth**. According to a 2018 CDC study, the primary reasons teens use e-cigarettes are because the candy and fruit flavors are appealing to them, their friends and family are using them, and they think e-cigarettes are less harmful.⁵
- Advertising by e-cigarette companies increased from \$6.4 million in 2011 to \$115 million in 2014. **More than one in two middle and high school students have seen e-cigarette ads in retail stores, and two in five have seen online ads for e-cigarettes**.⁶

Policies Key to Ending the Tobacco Epidemic:

- > Increased tobacco taxes and parity for all products⁷
- > Comprehensive smokefree air laws including e-cigarettes⁸
- > Raising the minimum age of sale for all tobacco products to 21⁹
- > Comprehensive coverage for tobacco cessation treatments and counseling
- > Fully funding state tobacco prevention and education programs at levels recommended by CDC
- > Fully funding mass-media campaigns to prevent youth use and to prompt current tobacco users to quit
- > Implementation of FDA’s oversight over all tobacco products

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2. Pennsylvania High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results. (2015). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
3. Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes (2018). The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department 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, 2016.
5. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report article “Reasons for Electronic Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students—National Youth Tobacco Survey, United States, 2016” February 15, 2018.
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. E-Cigarette Ads and Youth. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/vital-signs/ecigarette-ads/index.html> on February 21, 2018.
7. Bader, Pearl, David Boisclair, and Roberta Ferrence. “Effects of Tobacco Taxation and Pricing on Smoking Behavior in High Risk Populations: A Knowledge Synthesis.” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 8.11 (2011): 4118–4139. PMC. Web. 6 Mar. 2018.
8. Fong GT, Hyland A, Borland R, et al Reductions in tobacco smoke pollution and increases in support for smoke-free public places following the implementation of comprehensive smoke-free workplace legislation in the Republic of Ireland: findings from the ITC Ireland/UK Survey Tobacco Control 2006;15:iii51-iii58.
9. Committee on the Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age for Purchasing Tobacco Products; Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice; Institute of Medicine; Bonnie RJ, Stratton K, Kwan LY, editors. Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2015 Jul 23. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK310412/> doi: 10.17226/18997

*The Food and Drug Administration has not found any e-cigarette to be safe and effective in helping smokers quit. If smokers are ready to quit smoking for good, they should call **1-800-QUIT NOW** or talk with their doctors about finding the best way to quit using FDA-approved treatments and counseling.*