



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

VAPE And Your TEEN

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Norwalk Sheriff's Station

Why do Teens Vape?



Targeted Branding

Vape brand logos are often colorful, cartoonish, and appeal to young teens.



Vape Mafia

YOU MUST BE 18+ YEARS TO VIEW THIS SITE

PLEASE ENTER YOUR DATE OF BIRTH BELOW

Are you over 18 years of age?

YES

NO

MONITOR YOUR TEEN'S ONLINE ACTIVITY

Safeguards against online purchases by underage consumers are minimal to non-existent.

Taste

- Vape liquid can be flavored like fruit, chocolate, children's cereals, bubble gum, and various candies.



Misinformation

- Teens believe "vaping" THC (the mind-altering chemical in marijuana) or nicotine is healthier and safer than other drugs, cigarettes, or alcohol. They also believe there are no health risks, though current research suggest there are.

Peer Pressure

- Teens are at a vulnerable age where they just want to fit in. Sometimes simply talking to your teen about vaping is all it takes to deter them from using it.



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Battery Explosions

Though rare, vape batteries have malfunctioned, causing burns to the hands and face of the users.



Malfunctioned Vape Batteries

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Potential Health Hazards of Vaping

Flavoring

Vape flavorings have the potential to be harmful to the lungs when inhaled. There is currently little regulation surrounding these flavors and what chemicals are used to make them. Some research suggests possible toxic metals from the vape device itself can enter the lungs.



Nicotine

Even when smoked in a vape, which many argue is safer than regular cigarettes, nicotine can be addictive, toxic to developing fetuses, and can harm brain development in children and young adults up to the age of 20.

Some studies suggest high schoolers who vape nicotine regularly will progress to real cigarettes within one year, compared to teens who never vape.

THC

THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) is the mind-altering chemical found in marijuana. The THC sold for vape pens is concentrated and more potent than regular THC.

THC use has been linked to poor coordination, memory problems, increased heart rate, learning and attention issues, anxiety, and paranoia.

Studies have shown a link between the heavy use of THC among younger teens and later addiction, long-term memory and learning issues, a potential drop in IQ of up to 8 points, and mental health issues (schizophrenia, anxiety, depression) in those with a genetic risk for mental health disorders.

Norwalk LASD school resource deputies report the vast majority of vape pens confiscated from students contain THC rather than nicotine.

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/want-to-know-more-some-facts-about-marijuana>

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/teens-using-e-cigarettes-may-be-more-likely-start-smoking-tobacco>

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/some-things-to-think-about>

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/what-are-marijuanas-long-term-effects-brain>

Talk to your Teen:

Many teens are simply unaware of the potential health hazards of vaping. Talking to your teenager about vaping, and why it's a bad idea at their age, may be all it takes to get them to stop. Talk to them calmly. Give them a chance to speak, and be slow to get angry. Try to understand what pressures are causing them to vape.



What to do if you suspect your teen of smoking vape:

Check backpacks, clothes pockets, socks, shoes, their rooms, or anywhere else your teen might hide something.

Your teen has
**NO LEGAL EXPECTATION
OF PRIVACY**
in your home.

Monitor their spending, both online and offline. Your teen does not need \$50 for a school lunch. Don't give them unmonitored access to a credit card or bank card.

https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Marijuana-and-Teens-106.aspx

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Where They Get It

Online vape stores, websites like OfferUp, friends, older siblings, older relatives, strangers outside vape shops, etc. It is far too easy for a teen to get their hands on vape pens or e-cigarettes.

Where They Hide It

Backpacks, pockets, socks, under the bed, in the closet, and **EVERYWHERE ELSE**. Vape pens can be as small and are easily concealable. Canisters can be removed and hidden separately from their batteries.



What It Looks Like

Some vape pens look like USB drives and can be charged on a computer. Others look like pens, cigarettes, etc. They have a canister that can be removed from the primary battery.

If the canister holds a yellow or amber colored, honey-like substance, then it contains THC, the active, mind-altering chemical in Marijuana.



How To Recognize the Signs

Look for secretive behavior, the smell of marijuana on their persons, red and watery eyes, dilated pupils, fluttery eyelids when their eyes are closed, an increased thirst, and pasty tongues. Also look for sudden problems in school, a lack of coordination, or any slower, forgetful, or irritable behavior that is out of character for your teen.



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Possible Legal Consequences of Smoking Vape While Underage

Citations

Both you AND your teenager will be cited. Your teen will be charged with the appropriate legal code dependent upon whether he/she was found in possession of tobacco, THC, or vaping paraphernalia. The parent/legal guardian will be cited for 660.5(e) WIC.

Probation

If found guilty, the student will be placed on probation and be assigned to a probation officer. He or she may also be given mandated drug counseling and/or community service. The student will be subject to searches at any time by law enforcement officers to ensure the terms of the juvenile's probation are being met.



Suspension

Your teenager could be suspended, depending upon his or her disciplinary history.

Expulsion

Many schools will expel a student for a second offense. Because students who have been caught once are usually placed on probation, and because any law enforcement officer can legally conduct searches of your student's backpack and clothing when they are on probation, monitor your teen to ensure they do not bring paraphernalia to school.

Parental Citation

If your teenager is under the age of 18 and is given a citation for possession of a controlled substance (such as nicotine or THC), you will be given a citation for

660.5(e) WIC

(of the Welfare and Institutions Code). This is

NOT a criminal charge

but legally requires you, as the parent/legal guardian of the juvenile, to ensure he/she appears in court on the assigned date and time. Failure to bring the juvenile to court could result in you being charged with contempt of court.



Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Norwalk Sheriff Station at (562) 863-8711. We can put you in touch with a school resource deputy.