

TIPS for TEENS

E-CIGARETTES

THE TRUTH ABOUT E-CIGARETTES



**SLANG: E-CIGS/E-HOOKAHS/
VAPE PENS/VAPES/
TANK SYSTEMS/MODS**

GET THE FACTS

E-CIGARETTES ARE A WAY TO INHALE NICOTINE AND MARIJUANA.

The aerosol emitted can also contain other harmful substances, including heavy metals such as lead, volatile organic compounds, and cancer-causing agents.¹

E-CIGARETTES COME IN MANY SHAPES AND SIZES. Some resemble pens, USB sticks, and other everyday items. Larger devices such as tank systems, or “mods,” do not resemble other tobacco products.

E-CIGARETTE USE HARMS THE DEVELOPING BRAIN. E-cigarettes typically deliver nicotine, a harmful drug to the youth brain and body. Teens are particularly vulnerable to the effects of nicotine since the brain is still developing during these years and through young adulthood.² People who use marijuana in an e-cigarette may experience the same side effects as they would if they smoked marijuana—all of which can be heightened if the person uses marijuana with another substance, such as alcohol.³

? Q&A

Q. AREN'T E-CIGARETTES SAFER THAN SMOKING CIGARETTES OR USING SMOKELESS TOBACCO?

A. Regular cigarettes are extraordinarily dangerous, killing half of all people who smoke long-term. However, youth use of tobacco products in any form is unsafe, including e-cigarettes. More research is needed to fully understand their impact on health.

Q. CAN'T E-CIGARETTES HELP ME QUIT SMOKING REGULAR CIGARETTES?

A. E-cigarettes may help non-pregnant adult smokers if used as a complete substitute for all cigarettes. However, there is no conclusive evidence that using e-cigarettes helps someone quit smoking for good.⁴ The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved seven “quit aids” for quitting smoking, but e-cigarettes are not currently one of them.

Q. AREN'T E-CIGARETTES USED MORE OFTEN BY ADULTS, NOT YOUTH?

A. Youth are more likely than adults to use e-cigarettes. In 2018, more than 3.6 million U.S. middle and high school students used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days, including 4.9 percent of middle school students and 20.8 percent of high school students.⁵

THE BOTTOM LINE:

E-cigarettes are unsafe for young people. Whether a young person uses nicotine or marijuana in an e-cigarette, there can be dangerous health consequences.

LEARN MORE:

Get the latest information on how drugs affect the brain and body at teens.drugabuse.gov.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT E-CIGARETTES, CONTACT:

SAMHSA

1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)

(English and Español)

TTY 1-800-487-4889

www.samhsa.gov

store.samhsa.gov



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Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration



BEFORE YOU RISK IT!

1

KNOW THE LAW. People ages 18 and older are allowed to buy e-cigarettes in most states—other states have an age requirement of 19 or 21. However, just because e-cigarettes are legal for adults to purchase doesn't mean they are safe, especially for young people.⁶

2

KNOW THE RISKS. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm the developing adolescent brain. The nicotine in e-cigarettes and other tobacco products can also prime young brains for addiction to other drugs, such as cocaine and methamphetamine.⁷

3

LOOK AROUND YOU. E-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco product among youth. However, four out of five U.S. students overestimate peer e-cigarette use. If you've never smoked or used other tobacco products or e-cigarettes, don't start.⁸



MORE INFORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOR RESOURCES USED IN THIS

"TIPS for TEENS,"

visit store.samhsa.gov or call
1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)
(English and Español).

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WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP SOMEONE WHO IS USING E-CIGARETTES?

BE A FRIEND.

Encourage your friend to stop using or seek help from a parent, teacher, or other caring adult.

For 24/7 free and confidential information and referrals in English and Spanish, call SAMHSA's National Helpline at:

1-800-662-HELP (1-800-662-4357)

or visit the SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator at:
findtreatment.samhsa.gov

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2018). Electronic cigarettes. *Smoking & Tobacco Use*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). (2016). *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 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. Retrieved from https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Full_Report_508.pdf

³ NIDA. (2017). *Marijuana: Facts for Teens*. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-teens/want-to-know-more-some-faqs-about-marijuana>

⁴ NIDA. (2018). Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/electronic-cigarettes-e-cigarettes>

⁵ Cullen, K. A., Ambrose, B. K., Gentzke, A. S., Apelberg, B. J., Jamal, A., & King, B. A. (2018). Notes from the field: Use of electronic cigarettes and any tobacco product among middle and high school students — United States, 2011–2018. *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report*, 67(45):1276–77.

⁶ CDC (2018). STATE System Tobacco 21 fact sheet. Retrieved from <https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/download/873a-iff4/application%2Fpdf>

⁷ HHS. (2016). Fact sheet. *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Retrieved from https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Fact_Sheet_508.pdf

⁸ Agaku, I. T., Odani, S., Homa, D., Armour, B., & Glover-Kudon, R. (2018). Discordance between perceived and actual tobacco product use prevalence among US youth: A comparative analysis of electronic and regular cigarettes. *Tobacco Control*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29674512>