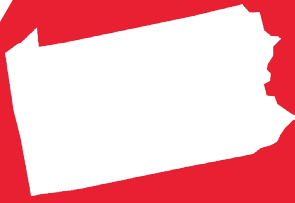


# E-CIGARETTES

## FACT SHEET // PENNSYLVANIA



In 2015, **9.1%** of adults in Pennsylvania reported having tried an e-cigarette at least once.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

### 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.**<sup>3</sup>

### 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.**”<sup>4</sup>

### 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.<sup>5</sup>
- 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.**<sup>6</sup>

### Policies Key to Ending the Tobacco Epidemic:

- > Increased tobacco taxes and parity for all products<sup>7</sup>
- > Comprehensive smokefree air laws including e-cigarettes<sup>8</sup>
- > Raising the minimum age of sale for all tobacco products to 21<sup>9</sup>
- > 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.
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*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.*