

New CDC data highlight E-cigarette epidemic's threat to nation's youth

February 13 2019



A photo of 117mm e-cigarette. Image: Wikipedia.

Results of the [2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey \(NYTS\)](#) released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlight the rapidly growing popularity of electronic cigarettes among youth. The results show that 4.9 million middle- and high-school students were current users of some type of tobacco product in 2018, an increase from 3.6 million in 2017, and that there were in excess of 3.5 million youth e-cigarette users in 2018, 1.5 million more than in 2017. The data show that not only are more kids using e-cigarettes, but they are also using them more frequently.

The American Heart Association released the following statement in response to the survey:

"These jarring numbers are further proof that the [e-cigarette](#) epidemic in our nation continues to escalate. Thanks to the tobacco industry's relentless targeting of youth, e-cigarette use is increasing exponentially and creating new avenues for nicotine addiction in kids. Data showing that e-cigarette use jumped by 78 percent among [high school students](#) and 48 percent among [middle school students](#) is cause for grave concern, especially with data showing that kids are often transitioning to conventional cigarettes and pairing e-cigarettes with other tobacco products or recreational drugs.

"E-cigarettes are reversing decades of progress in reducing tobacco use among youth, and government action is necessary to counter this mounting threat. We welcome FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb's recent moves to restrict the sale of many flavored e-cigarettes in places such as [convenience stores](#) and gas stations, and we urge the FDA to take immediate additional steps to strengthen its crackdown on companies' aggressive targeting of children, including:

- Removing flavored e-cigarettes from the market;
- Prohibiting all marketing practices, including those on [social media](#), that are shown to appeal to children;
- Suspending online sales of e-cigarettes until effective age verification mechanisms are established; and
- Enforcing rules that prevent the sale of products that were not commercially marketed as of August 8, 2016, or were modified after that date, without premarket review.

"Absent immediate and urgent action, the epidemic of e-cigarettes will further spiral into an even greater public health crisis."

Provided by American Heart Association

Citation: New CDC data highlight E-cigarette epidemic's threat to nation's youth (2019, February 13) retrieved 31 December 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-02-cdc-highlight-e-cigarette-epidemic-threat.html>

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