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Hot Topics
Teens Use Pod-based E-cigarettes like JUUL More Often than Other Types of E-cigarettes

Pod-based e-cigarettes like JUUL use USB-shaped prefilled pods instead of e-liquid. A study published in JAMA Network Open showed that high school students that used pod-based e-cigarettes like JUUL in the past 30 days used them more often than other types of e-cigarettes. There were also more students using the pod-based products than other types of e-cigarettes. The students also show a higher prevalence of co-use and polyuse of pod-based e-cigarettes with other types of e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes. The researchers derived the data from an ongoing cohort study of adolescents and young adults recruited from ten racially/ethnically and socioeconomically diverse high schools across California. The authors suggest that the risk profile of pod-based users is dissimilar to that for other e-cigarettes. They state that the increasing use of pod-based e-cigarettes among otherwise nicotine-naive adolescents and young adults could be associated with the absence of clear, consistent public health warnings and messaging targeting relevant aspects common to all types of e-cigarettes. The challenge will be for public health prevention efforts to develop multifaceted and adaptive messaging to prevent and reduce youth uptake of pod-based e-cigarettes and other emergent products.

From the AAP Richmond Center
RCE Project Investigator Blogs that There is a Vaccine to Stop Lung Cancer

Robert McMillen, PhD, an American Academy of Pediatrics Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence (RCE) Project Investigator, makes the case that there is a
vaccine to stop lung cancer, and it comes in the form of media campaigns and regulatory policies. His perspective as a tobacco control researcher is given in a blog in TheConversation.com. He points out evidence compiled from over 60 years of science that shows a combination of hard-hitting media prevention campaigns, strict laws, and higher taxes can reduce the number of teens who start smoking and nudge adult smokers toward quitting. He provides recent examples, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s “The Real Cost” tobacco prevention campaign geared toward youth, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s public housing smoking ban, Tobacco 21 purchase laws enacted in Massachusetts and other states, and the $2 a pack tax increase enacted in the District of Columbia.

In the News

Teens Reporting Higher JUUL Use than Young Adults

A new study published in Tobacco Control found that teens are roughly 16 times more likely to use JUUL electronic cigarettes than young adults. In a national probability-based sample of Americans ages 15-34, 6% of teens and young adults had ever used JUUL and 3.3% were current users. Usage rates were significantly higher in younger populations: among youth ages 15-17, 9.5% had ever used JUUL and 6.1% were current users. Among youth ages 18-21, 11.2% had ever used JUUL, and 7.7% were current users. Survey responses suggest that youth are using JUUL devices regularly. Demographic factors associated with JUUL use included younger age, white race and higher family income.

E-Cigarettes May Not Keep Kids from Smoking Traditional Cigarettes

A recent study found that adolescent e-cigarette users follow similar trajectories of cigarette smoking frequency as nonusers, suggesting that e-cigarettes are not likely to keep kids away from traditional cigarettes. The study, published in Pediatrics, collected data from over 6,000 adolescents in California and Connecticut. Exclusive cigarette or dual product users were more likely to continue using cigarettes than to transition to exclusive e-cigarette use or to nonuse. Researchers suggest that tobacco control policy to reduce adolescent use of both e-cigarettes and cigarettes is needed in order to prevent progression to more frequent tobacco use patterns.

Read the full study here.

Cities Step Up Pressure on E-Cigarette Industry Over Teen Vaping Epidemic

Cities and private litigators are stepping up their legal actions against e-cigarette companies that market and sell their products to minors, according to an article in USA Today. This week, the City of Chicago filed a lawsuit against eight online e-cigarette retailers that they claim were caught selling products to minors. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has been too slow to act in stemming teen vaping, so he is moving forward with the litigation despite the FDA’s recent actions against e-cigarette companies. Last month, Mike Feuer, the Los Angeles City Attorney asked a Los Angeles County Superior Court for injunctions against three electronic cigarette companies that he claimed were selling vaping products without verifying a buyer’s age and marketing to young people on the social media. Private attorneys in Philadelphia filed a class-action lawsuit in federal court in Philadelphia against JUUL, the biggest e-cigarette seller, claiming the company markets their products on social media sites frequented by children.

Resources and Events

PATH Releases Wave 3 Public-Use Files & Wave 1 Biomarker Restricted-Use File Update

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) have announced the availability of the questionnaire public-use files (PUF) from Wave 3 of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH)
Study. [Download the PUF data](#) on the National Addiction & HIV Data Archive Program (NAHDAP) of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Web site. It was also announced that data and documentation for five Wave 1 Biomarkers of Potential Harm assay panels were added to the PATH Study Biomarker Restricted-Use Files (BRUF). Qualified researchers may [apply for access to the PATH BRUF](#). Researchers interested in the PATH Study are encouraged to join the [PATH Study Data User Forum](#).

For more general information about the study and available data files, visit the [Path Study Web page](#).

**Call for Abstracts: Pediatric Academic Societies**

Abstracts are due **January 2, 2019** for the 2019 meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) in Baltimore, MD. The conference will be held April 24 – May 1, 2019. The PAS annual meeting brings together thousands of pediatricians and other health care providers united by a common mission: improve the health and well-being of children worldwide. This international gathering includes researchers, academics, as well as clinical care providers and community practitioners. Presentations cover issues of interest to generalists as well as topics critical to a wide array of specialty and sub-specialty areas. View the [PAS Web site](#) for [abstract guidelines and submission information](#).

**Call for Abstracts: NACCHO Annual Conference**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference Workgroup seeks sharing session abstracts for the 2019 NACCHO Annual Conference, July 9–11, 2019 (Orlando, FL). The conference theme is "Improving the Nation's Health through Public and Private Partnerships." Submissions are due by November 30, 2018. [Visit the Conference Web site](#) for information on abstract submission.

**People in the News**

**AAP and Partners Urge FDA to Ban Flavors, Restrict Marketing and Sales of E-cigarettes**

In response to reports that the FDA is planning to announce limitations on the sale of certain flavored e-cigarettes in retail stores; tobacco control groups are urging the FDA to take strong action to protect children. In a statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, American Lung Association and Truth Initiative acknowledged this positive step forward by the FDA, but noted that the details of the proposed regulations will be critical. According to the statement, if the FDA is to be truly effective in reversing the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use, the agency must stop the sales of all flavored tobacco products, restrict marketing that appeals to children, enforce current rules prohibiting the sale of products introduced to the market after August 8, 2016, and end the sale of menthol tobacco products.

**FDA Foreshadows Action on Flavored Tobacco Products and Menthol**

Speaking at a press event on 11/13, FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb [signaled upcoming actions](#) by the agency that are designed to address the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use. Dr. Gottlieb [noted](#) that the agency is planning "a major anti-tobacco initiative involving flavored e-cigarettes, traditional menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars." Dr. Gottlieb noted that the actions taken by the FDA are the result of data showing a 75% increase in vaping among high school students and a 50% increase among middle school students in recent years. More details on the planned regulations are expected later this week.