Youth E-cigarette and Tobacco Use in Georgia

E-cigarettes are electronic devices that heat a liquid and produce an aerosol or mix of small particles in the air for people to inhale. E-cigarette aerosol usually contains nicotine, flavorings and other chemicals.

**FACTS ABOUT TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTE USE**

Using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.\(^1\)

Young people who use e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco (chew or dip) are more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.\(^2\)

E-cigarettes are known by many different names. They are sometimes called “e-cigs,” “e-hookahs,” “mods,” “vape pens,” “vapes,” “carts,” “tank systems,” and “electronic nicotine delivery systems.”\(^3\)\(^4\)

**Using an e-cigarette is sometimes called vaping or JUULing.**\(^5\)

JUUL is a brand of e-cigarette. A single JUUL pod (the liquid nicotine refill) contains as much nicotine as a pack of 20 regular cigarettes.\(^6\)

**TRENDS AMONG GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**Nearly 80%**

said a friend or family member is the reason why they started to vape.\(^7\)

**Frequency at which Georgia high school students consume nicotine:**

- 3.4% were daily e-cigarette smokers.\(^9\)
- 4% smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days.\(^10\)
- 10% say they have smoked e-cigarettes within the past 30 days.\(^15\)

**High school students’ perceptions about e-cigarettes:**

- **One in four** believed e-cigarettes were more acceptable in society than cigarettes.\(^11\)
- **Almost a third** reported that they believed e-cigarettes were less harmful than cigarettes.\(^12\)
- **26.6%** reported that they believed e-cigarettes are less addictive than cigarettes.\(^13\)
- **40%** believed that there is little to no risk in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day.\(^14\)

www.georgiavoices.org
69,189 (10%) reported that they have smoked a cigarette in the past.

84% are purchasing e-cigarettes at a gas station or convenience store.

32% of high school students report using alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or drugs at home, school, friend’s house, or in a car.

### HOW YOUTH ARE ACQUIRING AND USING E-CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tobacco Type</th>
<th>Percent of Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cigar</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Cigarette</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokeless Tobacco</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hookah</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Increase tax on e-cigarette and tobacco products.**

- To combat youth access to cigarettes, raise the tobacco tax from 37 cents to the national average of $1.81.

**Ban flavored e-cigarette products.**

**Include vaping in the Smoke-free Air Act.**

**Invest in youth-centered smoking cessation programs.**

---

1 Georgia’s General Assembly passed legislation in 2020 that applies a 7% excise tax to vape products and raises the legal smoking age from 18 to 21.
Sources for Youth E-cigarette and Tobacco Use in Georgia


2. Ibid

3. Ibid


6. Ibid


12. Ibid

13. Ibid


17. Ibid

18. Ibid


