

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 an entire pack of cigarettes (20).⁶

Consequently, JUUL and other vaping devices can potentially be more addictive.

TRENDS AMONG GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Nearly 80%

said a friend or family member is the reason why they started to vape⁷



1 in 4

reported that they had ever used e-cigarettes⁸

Frequency at which Georgia high school students consume nicotine:



3.4% were daily e-cigarette smokers⁹



10% say they have smoked e-cigarettes within the past 30 days¹⁰



3% smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days¹¹



5% say they smoked other tobacco products (e.g., cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookah)¹²

High school students' perceptions about e-cigarettes:



One in four believed e-cigarettes were more acceptable in society than cigarettes.¹³



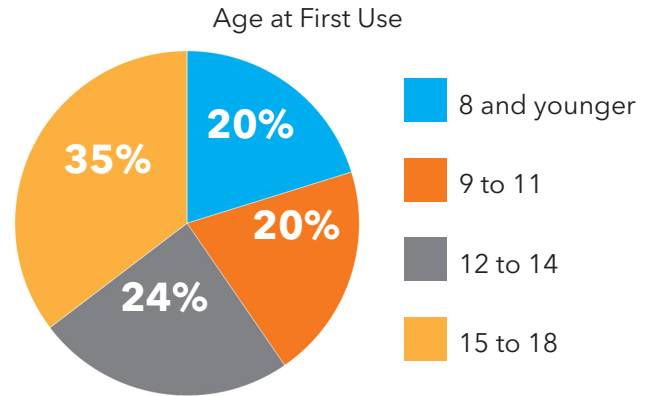
26.6% reported that they believed e-cigarettes are less addictive than cigarettes.¹⁴



44% believed that there is little to no risk in smoking one or more packs of cigarettes a day.¹⁵

AGE AT FIRST USE OF CIGARETTES AMONG GEORGIA STUDENTS (6TH-12TH GRADE)²⁰

23,995 (6%)
reported that they have
smoked a cigarette in the past



HOW YOUTH ARE ACQUIRING AND USING E-CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO



84%

are purchasing e-cigarettes at a gas
station or convenience store²¹



24%

of high school students report using
alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or drugs at home,
school, friend's house, or in a car²²

Recommendations

- **Increase tax on tobacco products.ⁱ**
 - To combat youth access to cigarettes, raise the tobacco tax from 37 cents to the national average of \$1.91.
- **Ban flavored e-cigarette products, including disposable devices and refillable pods.**
- **Include vaping in the Smoke-free Air Act.**
- **Invest in youth-centered smoking cessation programs.**

ⁱ 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 21.²³

Sources for Youth E-cigarette and Tobacco Use in Georgia

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- 22 Georgia Department of Education. (2022). Georgia Student Health Survey. <https://www.gadoe.org/wholechild/GSHS-II/Pages/GSHS-Results.aspx>.
- 23 Georgia General Assembly. "Senate Bill 375," 2020. Accessed December 2, 2022. <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/57292>.