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.”³⁴

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 vape.⁷

**1 in 4** reported that they had ever used e-cigarettes.⁸

**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

Frequency at which Georgia high school students consume nicotine:

- 3.4% were daily e-cigarette smokers.²
- 10% say they have smoked e-cigarettes within the past 30 days.¹⁰
- 3% smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days.¹¹
- 5% say they smoked other tobacco products (e.g., cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookah).¹²

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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 store.
- **24%** of high school students report using alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or drugs at home, school, friend’s house, or in a car.

**Recommendations**

- **Increase tax on tobacco products.**
  - 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.**

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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.

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Sources for Youth E-cigarette and Tobacco Use in Georgia


2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.


6. Ibid.


9. Ibid.


11. Ibid.

12. Ibid.


14. Ibid.


17. Ibid.

18. Ibid.


