

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) are gaining traction in the United States and across the globe. "Vaping," or the use of e-cigs, involves individuals inhaling a vapor that contains nicotine. The market for e-cigs is rapidly developing and evolving, with hundreds of manufacturers. One challenge for both clinicians and the public is the lack of research regarding e-cigs, including information on the ingredients in each brand. Information is still being collected on risks, and potential benefits, of vaping. It is unclear at this point if e-cigs are an effective way to quit smoking.

A Booming Market

In 2014, there were 466 brands of e-cigs. In 2013, consumers spent \$3 billion on e-cigs globally. Sales are forecasted to increase by a factor of 17 by 2030. "Thus it is important to identify public health concerns and to consider these concerns when undertaking regulation and surveillance," stated a 2014 report from the World Health Organization. ⁽¹⁾

Use by Children and Adolescents

The CDC found that a quarter-million youth who have never smoked tried vaping in 2013, and they were twice as likely to intend to smoke combustibles. A Congressional report on e-cigarettes includes e-cigarette manufacturers' survey responses related to sales and marketing to youth.

The percentage of U.S. middle and high school students who use e-cigs more than doubled from 2011 to 2012, according to data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ⁽²⁾ The findings, from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, show that the percentage of high school students who reported ever vaping rose from 4.7 percent in 2011 to 10.0 percent in 2012. In the same time period, high school students using e-cigs within the past 30 days rose from 1.5% to 2.8%. Vaping also doubled among middle school students. Altogether, in 2012, more than 1.78 million middle and high school students nationwide had tried vaping.

UW-CTRI Study

UW-CTRI is conducting a study on the dual use of e-cigs and combustible cigarettes, sponsored by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Citations

- 1) WHO 2014 Report on E-Cigarettes. Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Sixth session, Moscow, Russian Federation, 13–18 October 2014.
- 2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Electronic Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students - United States, 2011-2012. MMWR 2013;62:729.

More Information

Visit www.ctri.wisc.edu/ecigs

