

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

High School Students Increasingly More Likely to Report Hookah and Electronic Cigarette Use

Nearly one-fourth (23%) of U.S. high school students reported current¹ tobacco use in 2012, according to recently released data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). While cigarettes and cigars continue to be the tobacco products most frequently used by this population, hookah and electronic cigarette use increased significantly from 2011 to 2012 (from 4.1% to 5.4% and from 1.5% to 2.8%, respectively). During the period, significant decreases occurred in the reported use of bidis and kreteks. According to the authors, “[t]he increase in use of electronic cigarettes and hookah tobacco could be attributed to low price, an increase in marketing, availability, and visibility of these products, and the perception that these tobacco products might be ‘safer’ alternatives to cigarettes” (p. 897).

Editor’s Note: The survey question for electronic cigarette use does not specify whether it was used to smoke nicotine (“During the past 30 days, which of the following products (hookah, snus, dissolvable tobacco, and electronic cigarettes) have you used on at least 1 day?”). While marijuana vaporizers have been around longer than electronic cigarettes, online postings to internet drug boards, YouTube videos, and recent media reports² suggest that these newer, more widely marketed electronic cigarettes are also being used to smoke marijuana.

Percentage of U.S. High School Students Reporting Current Use of Tobacco Products, 2011 and 2012

Tobacco Product	2011 (n=18,866)	2012 (n=24,658)
Any Tobacco Product	24.3%	23.3%
Cigarette	15.8%	14.0%
Cigar	11.6%	12.6%
Smokeless Tobacco	7.3%	6.4%
Hookah*	4.1%	5.4%
Pipe	4.0%	4.5%
Electronic Cigarette*	1.5%	2.8%
Snus	2.9%	2.5%
Kretek*	1.7%	1.0%
Bidi*	2.0%	0.9%
Dissolvable Tobacco	0.4%	0.8%

*Difference between 2011 and 2012 was statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

¹Current tobacco use is defined as using cigarettes, cigars (including cigarillos and little cigars), smokeless tobacco, pipes, bidis, kreteks, hookah, snus, dissolvable tobacco, and electronic cigarettes on 1 or more days in the past 30 days.

²e.g., <http://www.drugs-forum.com>; http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=marijuana+e-cigarette&sm=3;
<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/investigations/ECigarettes-Drugs-Marijuana-Vapor-Pens-Smoking-I-Team-227269001.html>

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Tobacco Product Use Among Middle and High School Students – United States, 2011 and 2012,” *MMWR* 62(45):893-897, November 15, 2013. Available online at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6245a2.htm?s_cid=%20mm6245a2.htm_w

No CESAR FAX Published Next Monday

The CESAR FAX will be on hiatus next week, but will return on Monday, December 2nd.

• 301-405-9770 (voice) • 301-403-8342 (fax) • CESAR@umd.edu • www.cesar.umd.edu •

The CESAR FAX is independently funded by CESAR and may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.