

Cattaraugus County

Youth Vaping Report

September – December 2019

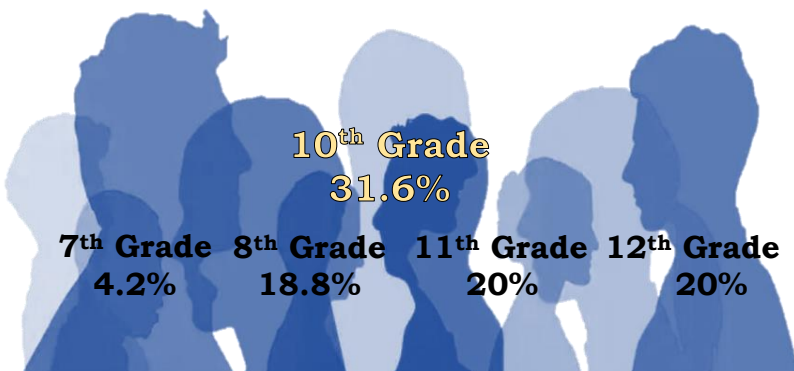
VAPING: A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

Utilization of nicotine by adolescents is on the rise. Battery operated devices known as vapes, are becoming popular amongst youth everywhere. Vape devices heat liquid to produce an aerosol containing toxic chemicals, metal particles, and nicotine. Other substances such as marijuana, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), and wax concentrates can be vaped as well. These devices are popular amongst youth because of the 15,000 different flavors such as bubble gum, soda, and candy. The vape companies market to teens to get them to utilize their products, but what they are not telling the community is teens are becoming addicted to nicotine. The health risks and consequences of vaping are still being researched.

SUMMARY OF DATA COLLECTION

A survey was conducted by the Cattaraugus County Health Department as part of the evidence based program CATCH My Breath to determine which age groups are vaping, what students know about vaping and e-liquids, and determine why students started vaping. To collect the following data, paper based surveys and an online link were provided to teachers to have their students complete. One hundred fifty-five students completed the survey within three different schools (Figure 1). Students from grades seventh, eighth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth participated in the survey. The survey consisted of sixteen questions ranging from types of devices used to vape, nicotine content awareness, and questions to determine their curiosity about vaping.

Figure 2



Students

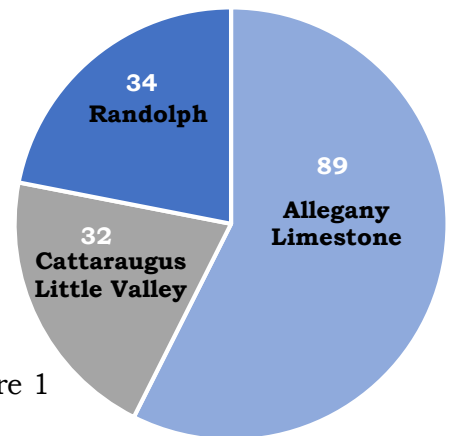


Figure 1

RESULTS OF SURVEY

As of 2018, 27.4% of high school students in New York State are vaping. The results of the survey concluded that out of one hundred fifty-five students surveyed 14.8% of the students admitted to vaping, with tenth grade students vaping more than other grades (Figure 2). Of the 23 students who admitted to vaping 3.2% admitted to vaping all days in the past 30 days. Only 10.3% of students knew that the liquid they were vaping contained nicotine and 31.6% were unsure if their vapes contained nicotine. The most utilized vaping device was the Juul, followed by vape pens, and box mods. Additional data from other Cattaraugus County schools is needed to determine the severity of vaping in the county compared to the rest of New York State.

RESULTS OF SURVEY CONTINUED

Students reported the reasons they began vaping; results showed because it looked cool, because friends are vaping, and a large number of students reported they did not know why they started vaping (Figure 3). Students were asked if most youth their age vaped and the results indicated that 84.5% of students agreed youth their age vaped. 16.1% of students indicated that they are curious about vaping and 18.1% of students indicated if a friend offered them a vape they would try it.

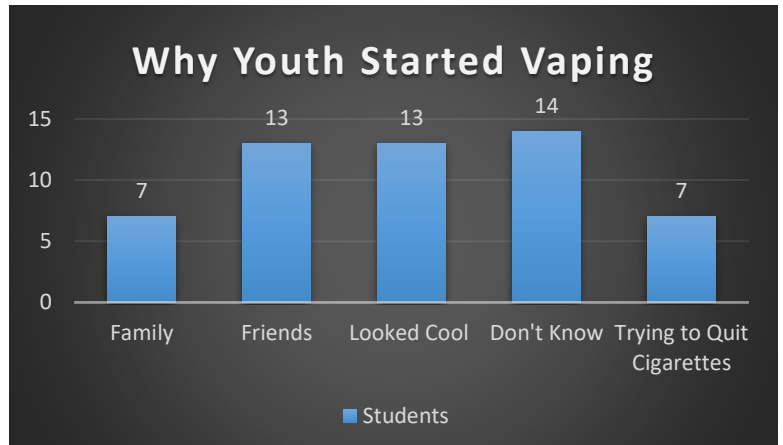


Figure 3

TRUE OR FALSE

Vaping is less harmful than smoking cigarettes.

Brains are not fully developed until age 25

41.9% of students reported **FALSE**

21.9% of students reported **TRUE**

33.5% of students reported **I Don't Know**

Chemicals shown: PROPYLENE GLYCOL, BENZENE, THC, DIACETYL, CARCINOGENS, FORMALDEHYDE, TAR, NICKEL, LEAD, HARMFUL CHEMICALS, ACETALDEHYDE, NICOTINE, VEGETABLE GLYCERIN.



43.2 % of students believe there is more nicotine in e-cigarettes than cigarettes

43.9% of students believe there is about the same amount of nicotine in e-cigarettes than cigarettes

5.8% of students believe there is less nicotine in e-cigarettes than cigarettes

NEXT STEPS

The CATCH My Breath survey is currently live on the Cattaraugus County Health Department website for the year of 2020. The goal is to outreach to additional schools within Cattaraugus County to provide a better overview and include more data to determine the severity of youth vaping within the county. The data will be updated at the end of the 2019- 2020 school year.