

Electronic Cigarette, Mod, and Vape use in Missouri in 6th-12th graders



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When asked if they had ever used electronic cigarettes (e-cigs), mods, or vapes even once, 22.5% of students in 6th through 12th grade¹ reported use and 10.6% of students reported use in the last 30 days. This is higher than the 8.4% of students who used tobacco (cigarettes or chew) in the last 30 days.

When asked how easy it would be to get these devices, 43.2% of all 6-12th grade students reported that they would be 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain. 40.5% of all students perceived 'no risk' or 'slight risk' of harm to someone using the devices.

	'Easy' + 'Very Easy'	'No risk' + 'Slight risk'
6 th Grade	11.5%	29.7%
7 th Grade	16.8%	33.2%
8 th Grade	27.0%	41.3%
9 th Grade	45.7%	40.7%
10 th Grade	59.5%	46.9%
11 th Grade	63.6%	51.4%
12 th Grade	78.3%	41.2%

While typically thought of as a delivery system for nicotine, electronic devices can be used to inhale a variety of substances. Among students who reported using these devices at least once in their lifetime, the majority indicated that they are using them to ingest flavored liquids. Nicotine was the next most used substance with 21.1% of students using the devices to ingest nicotine.

	Endorsed
Flavor only	81.3%
Nicotine	21.1%
Marijuana	7.7%
Other	5.0%

While the majority of student users are using flavored products, this does not necessarily indicate that these products are safe. The aerosols used in these devices emit lower levels of dangerous toxins than cigarettes, but still contain potentially harmful toxins². Additionally, these products are often marketed as safe because their ingredients are recognized by FDA as safe for use in foods, but the health effects of inhaling these substances remains unknown². As of August, 2016, the FDA now regulates all tobacco products including e-cigs, mods, vapes, and components which may impact availability and quality of flavor products.³

¹ Missouri Student Survey, 2016

² <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/pdfs/ends-key-facts.pdf>

³ <http://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts/Labeling/ProductsIngredientsComponents/ucm456610.htm>