Electronic Vapor Devices and Youth

Electronic cigarettes and other vapor devices are battery operated devices often designed to be used like conventional tobacco products. Users "vape" rather than smoke them.

Potential health issues

Contains highly addictive nicotine. Vapor devices contain nicotine which is poisonous, highly addictive, and potentially harmful for brain development. Some experts also warn that nicotine use could establish patterns that leave young people more vulnerable to addiction to other substances.

These devices go by many names, including electronic cigarettes, e-cigars, and hookah pens

Can contain marijuana and other dangerous substances. Other substances can be vaped, including marijuana and oil containing THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Newer designs don't look like conventional cigarettes and can look like flashlights, flash drives, pens, even toys. Because of their discreet design and lack of odor, these can easily conceal marijuana and THC, a problem in schools.

Attractive to youth. Fruit and candy flavorings are used in the "vaped" liquids. Liquid nicotine refills and flavorings do not have child-proof or child-resistant packaging. Since 2013 Washington Poison Control reports spikes in nicotine exposures in children. A toddler in New York died in December 2014 after ingesting liquid nicotine. The high-tech designs are attractive to youth and according to a 2014 national study, teens are more likely to use electronic cigarettes than tobacco cigarettes.

Easy to buy. A Clark County ordinance prohibits the sale of electronic vapor devices to youth under age 18. However, they are advertised and sold at malls and stores where youth shop. Currently, there are no restrictions on advertising or placement, and no licensing requirements or compliance monitoring as is done with tobacco and alcohol retailers.

What can you do?

Join a group of regional partners working on strategies to reduce the sale and use of electronic smoking devices.

P R E V E N T !
The Substance Abuse Prevention
Coalition of Clark County

www.preventclarkcounty.org

CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

**http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/
community/tobaccofree/publicsmoking.html**