



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Vaping:

Protect the people you care about





Today's Agenda

- What is vaping?
- How does a vaping device work?
- What substances can be used in a vaping device?
- Why do young people vape?
- Protect yourself from vaping
- Talking about vaping
- Show what you know about vaping





What is vaping?



What is vaping?

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling an aerosol or vapor made from a liquid or dry material that is heated in an electronic powered device, called an electronic cigarette, or e-cigarette.



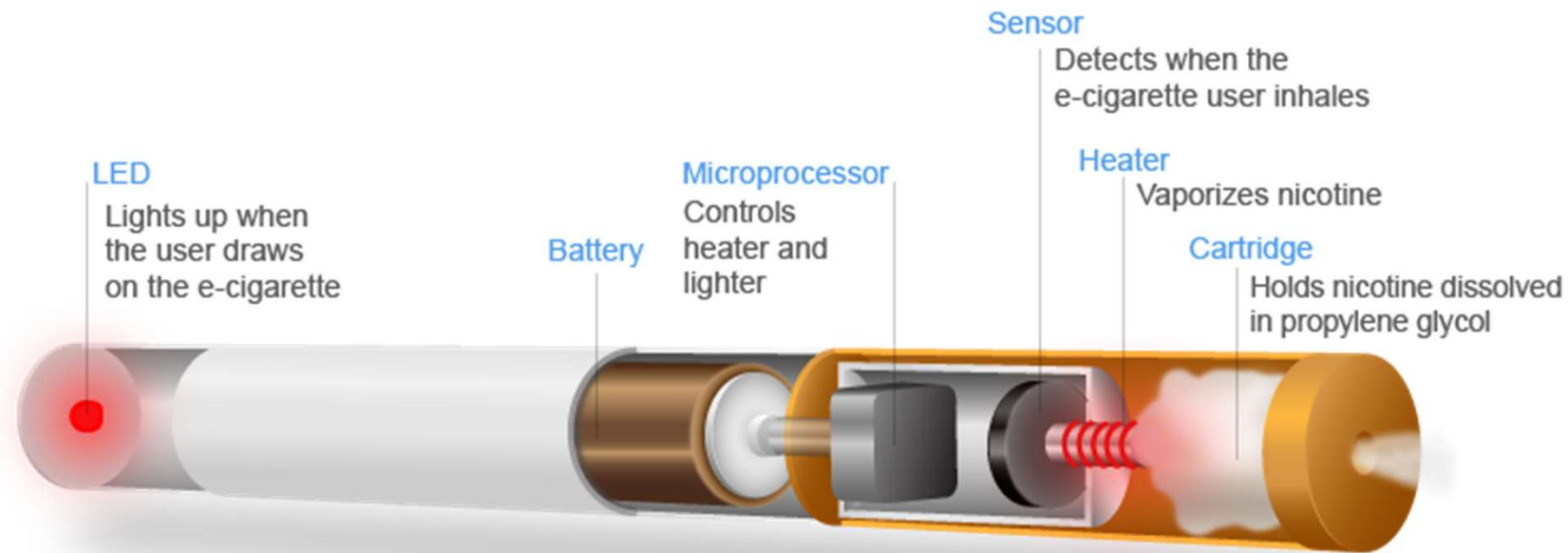


How does a vaping device work?



How does a vaping device work?

Components of a vape: Generally, the vaping device consists of a battery, a cartridge for containing the e-liquid or dry marijuana, and a heating component.





**What are different types
of vaping devices?**



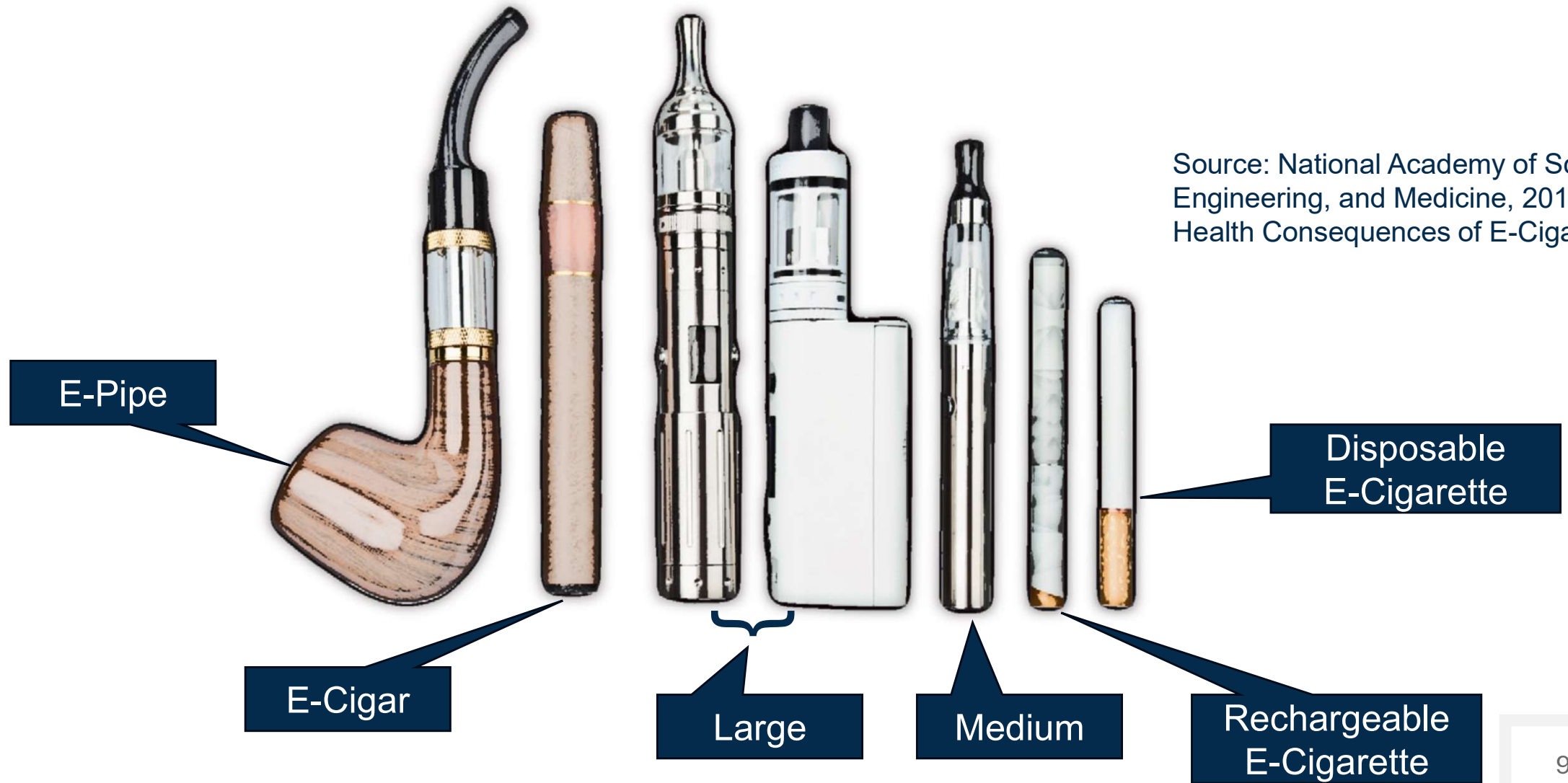
What are the different types of vaping devices?

- E-Cigs
- E-Hookahs
- Mods
- Vape Pens
- Vapes
- Tank Systems
- Juuls or Juuling (after the Juul brand of vaping devices)





Different types of vaping devices



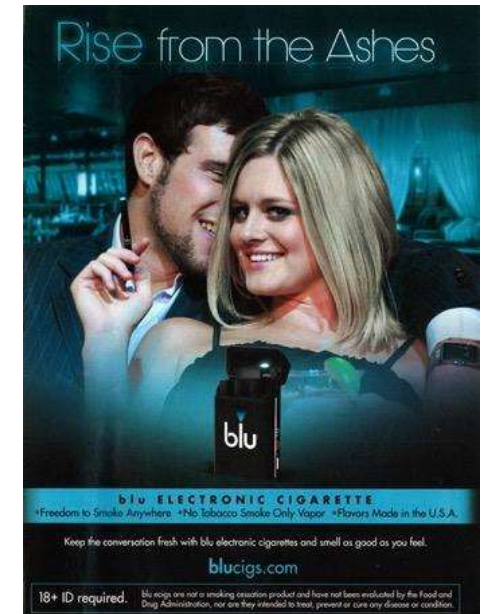


What substances can be used in a vaping device?



What can be used in a vaping device?

- Vapes were originally marketed as an alternative to cigarettes (and used similar advertising), so many vapes contain nicotine.
- Vapes can also be used to consume **marijuana concentrates** and other cannabis-related products (THC, CBD, Delta-8) ...



Source: Business Insider, The New E-Cigarette Ads Look Exactly Like Old-School Cigarette Promos, 11/5/2013



What can be used in a vaping device?

- Marijuana concentrates are increasingly being used in vaping devices. Many users prefer the vaping device because it is smokeless, sometimes odorless, and is easy to hide or conceal.
- The user takes a small amount of marijuana concentrate, referred to as a “dab,” then heats the substance using the vaping device to produce vapors that ensure an instant “high” effect for the user (“dabbing”).



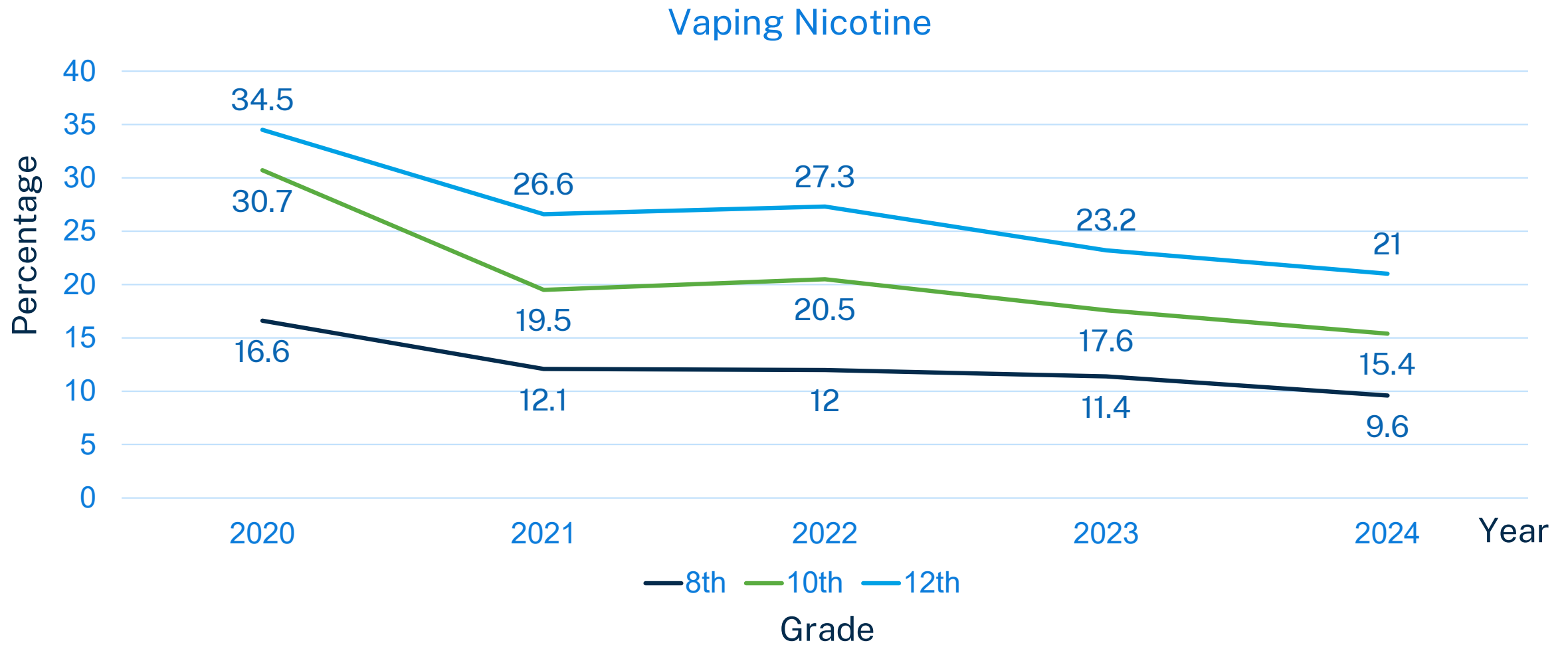
Source: DEA, Google Search



Prevalence of Vaping



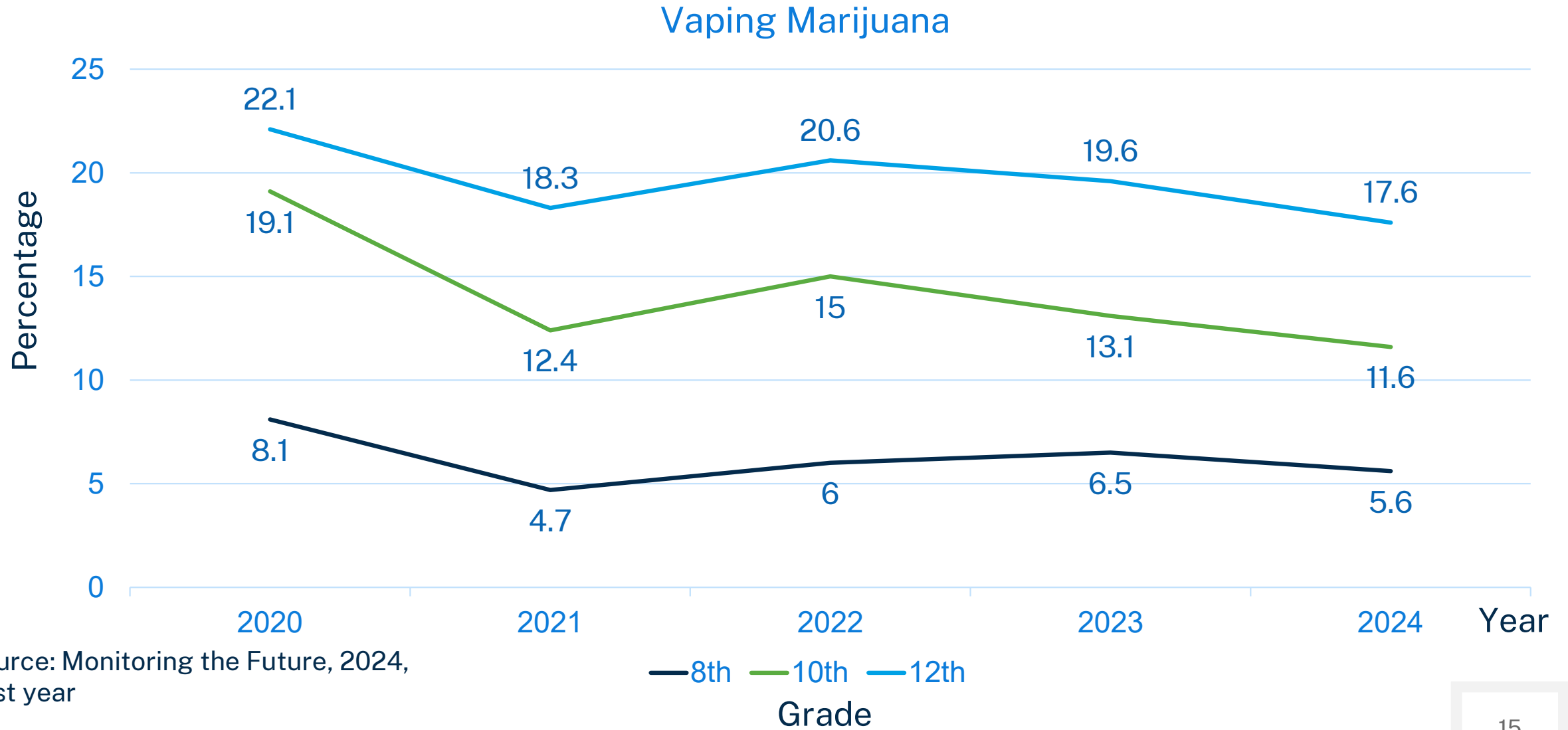
Vaping Nicotine (past year)



Source: Monitoring the Future, 2024, past year use



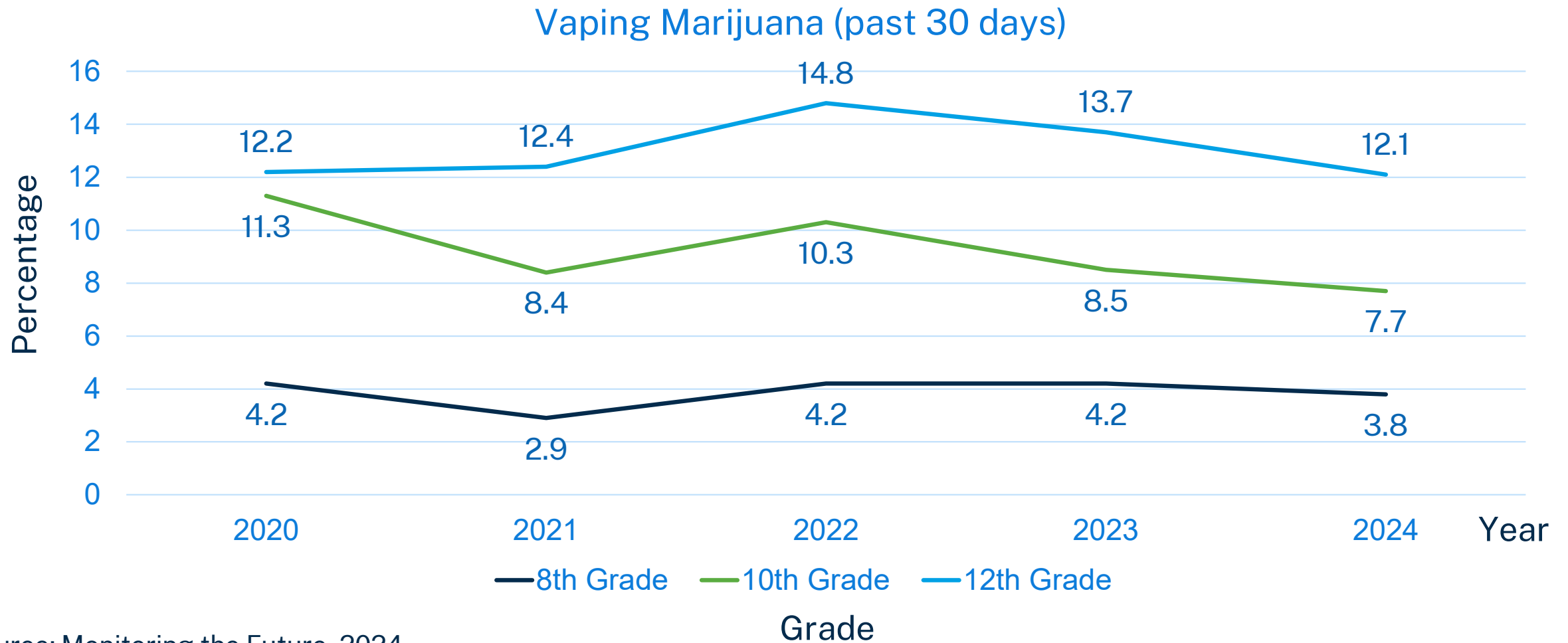
Vaping Marijuana (past year)



Source: Monitoring the Future, 2024, past year



Vaping Marijuana (past 30 days)



Source: Monitoring the Future, 2024, past 30 days



Why do young people vape?



Why Young People Vape

- **Social Influences:** The most common reason U.S. middle and high school students give for trying an e-cigarette is that a friend used them. Youth also report vaping because they are curious about e-cigarettes or because a family member used them.
- **Flavors:** In 2024, nearly 9 out of 10 middle and high school students who currently used e-cigarettes used a flavored product. The most commonly used flavors reported by these students were fruit, candy, and mint.





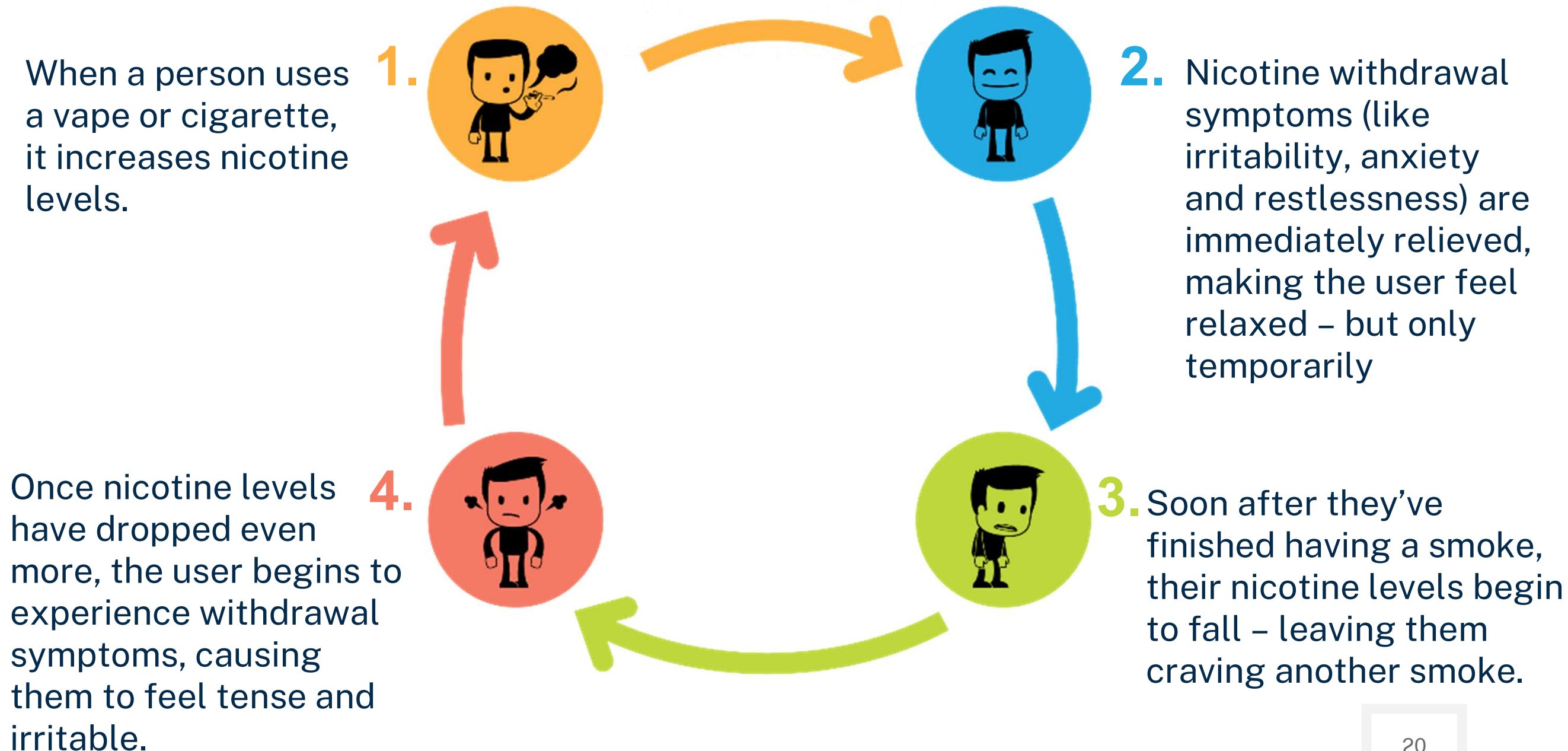
Why Young People Vape

- **Advertising:** In 2021, 7 in 10 U.S. middle and high school students reported exposure to e-cigarette marketing. About three in four (74%) students who used social media had seen e-cigarette-related posts or content.
- **Nicotine:** Nicotine is the main addictive substance in tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. With repeated use, a person's brain gets used to having nicotine. This can make them think they need nicotine just to feel okay. This is part of nicotine addiction.





Stress Cycle of Nicotine Use





The Risks of Vaping



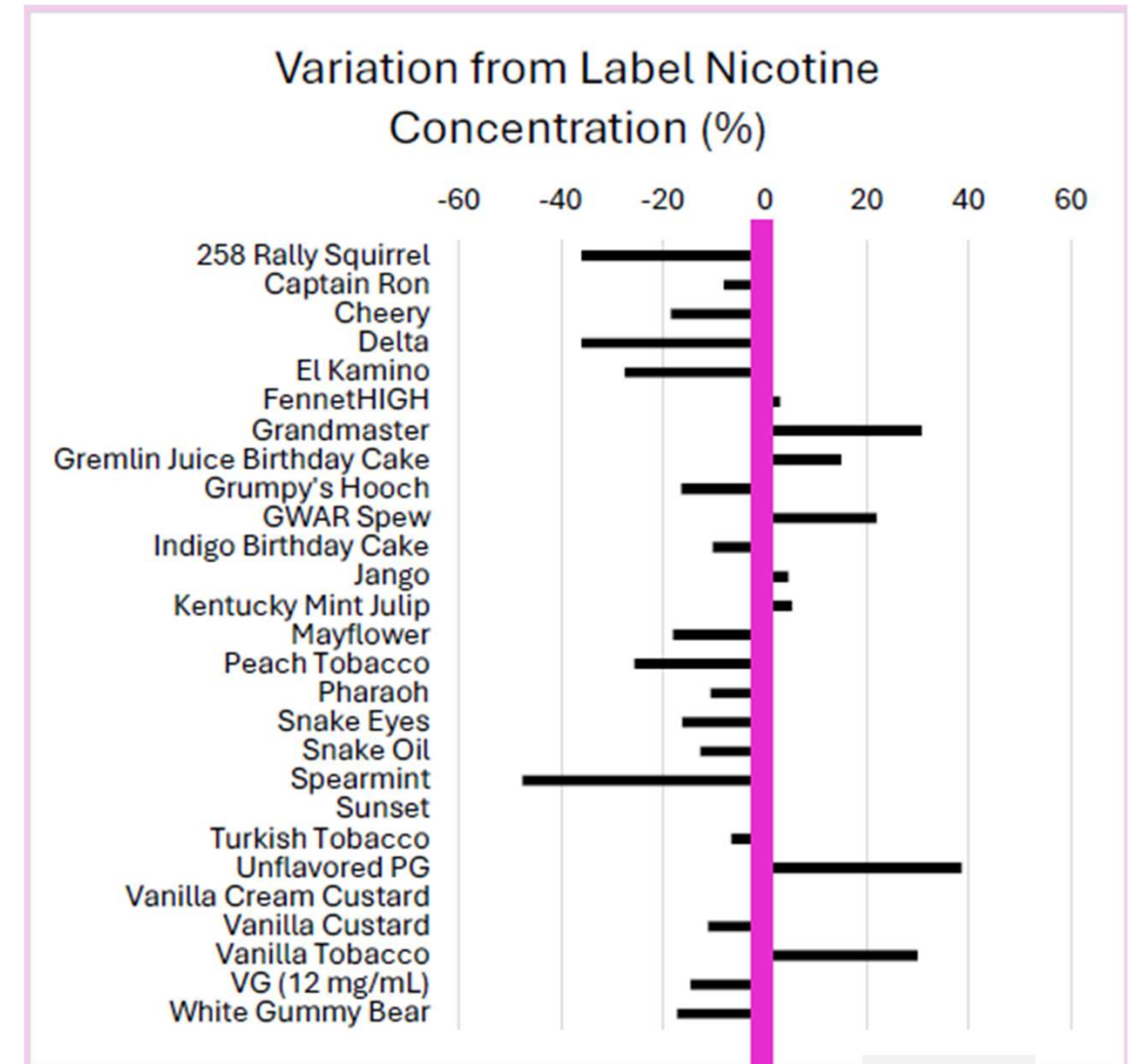
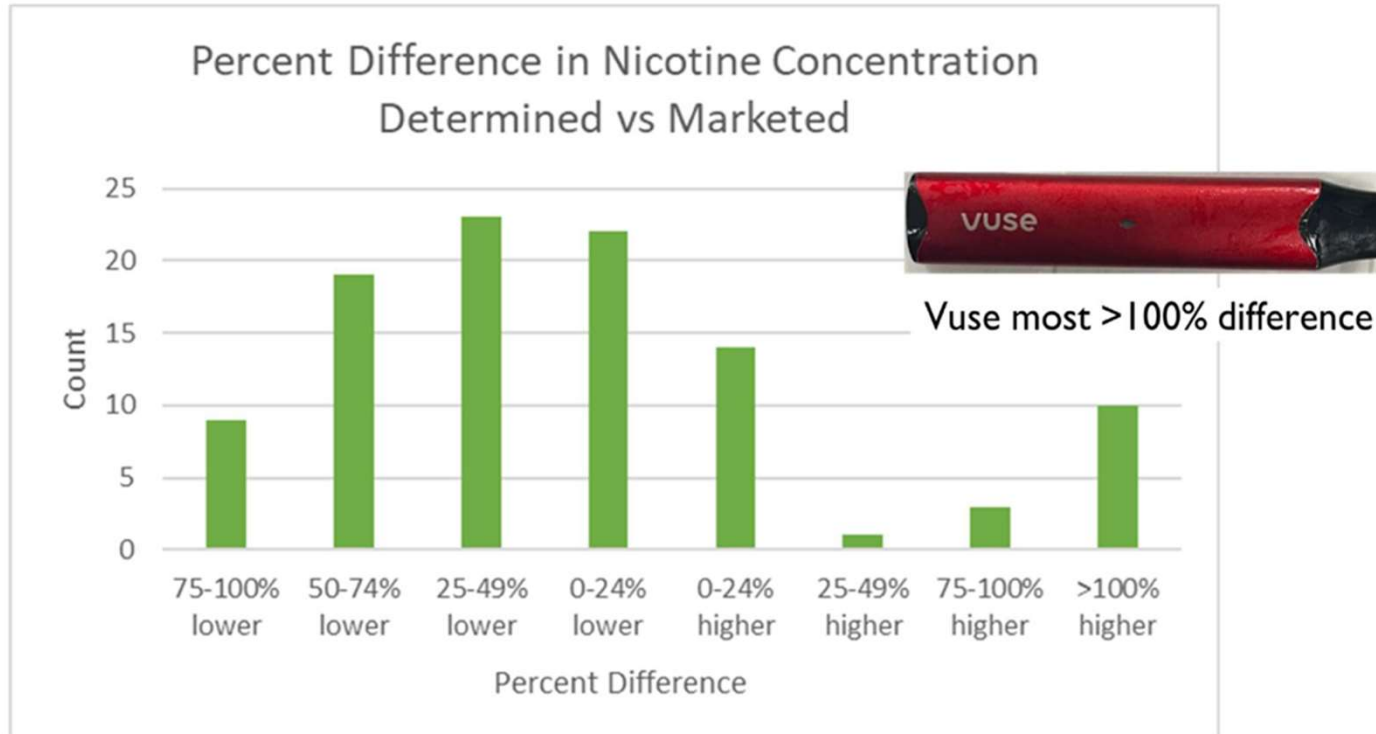
The Risks of Vaping

- Vapes that do not contain nicotine, marijuana, or other psychoactive substances can still be dangerous.
- Vitamin E acetate has been indicated in EVALI, which stands for E-cigarette or Vaping Product Use Associated Lung Injury. This is a potentially fatal syndrome associated with vaping.
- Researchers found toxic metals in vapes.
- More than 2,000 explosion and burn injuries resulted in visits to hospital emergency departments from 2015 to 2017.





Mislabeling

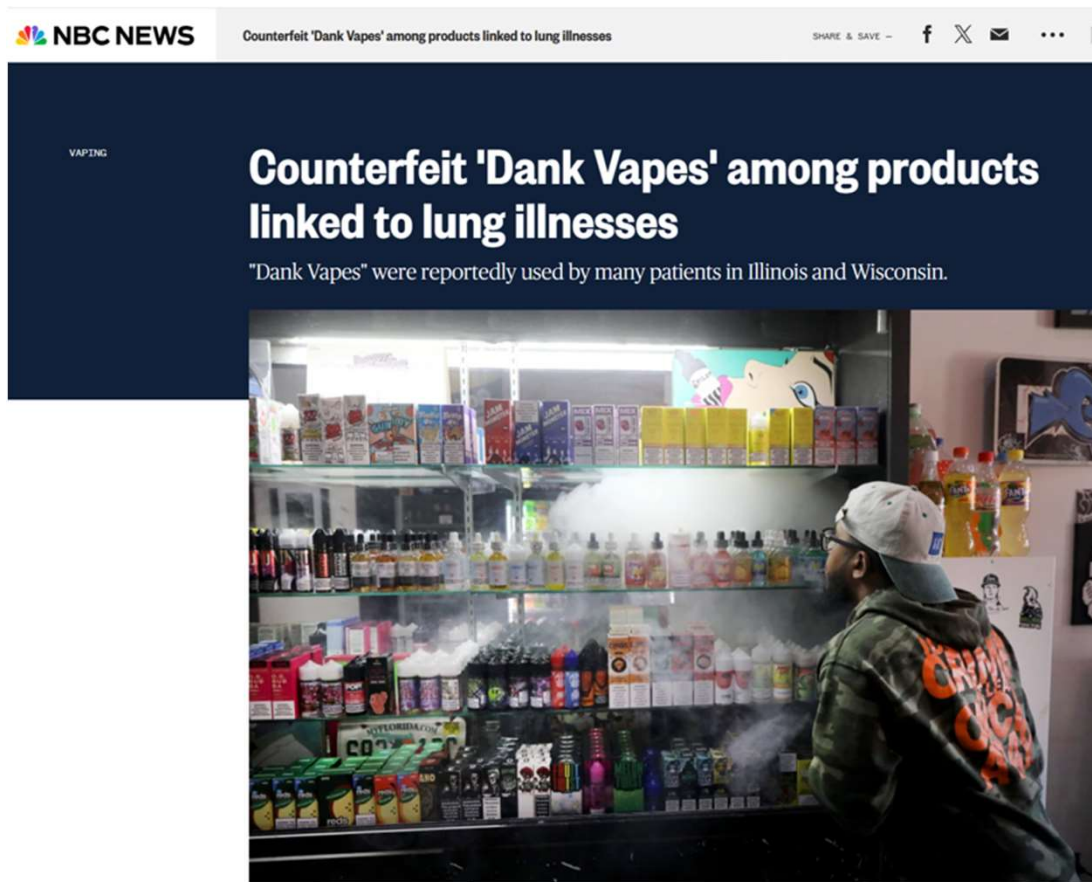


Source: Virginia Commonwealth University, 2025



Counterfeit Devices

- U.S. retail sales data show 86% of e-cigarette sales are for illegal products





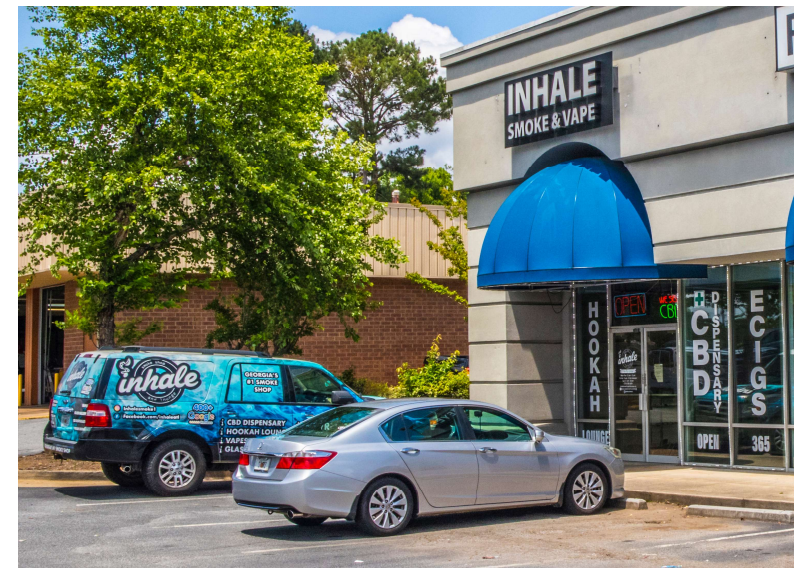
Signs That Vape Is Fake

- Strange particles or foreign materials in the product
- Packaging or labeling that seems off-kilter, lacking, or containing errors such as misspellings
- Products that have been tampered with or are tainted
- Products that have been purchased from unauthorized retailers or third-party online marketplaces
- Pricing that is unusually lower than market value
- Products that are no longer commercially available from the manufacturer or illegal in the jurisdiction where they are sold



Counterfeit Devices

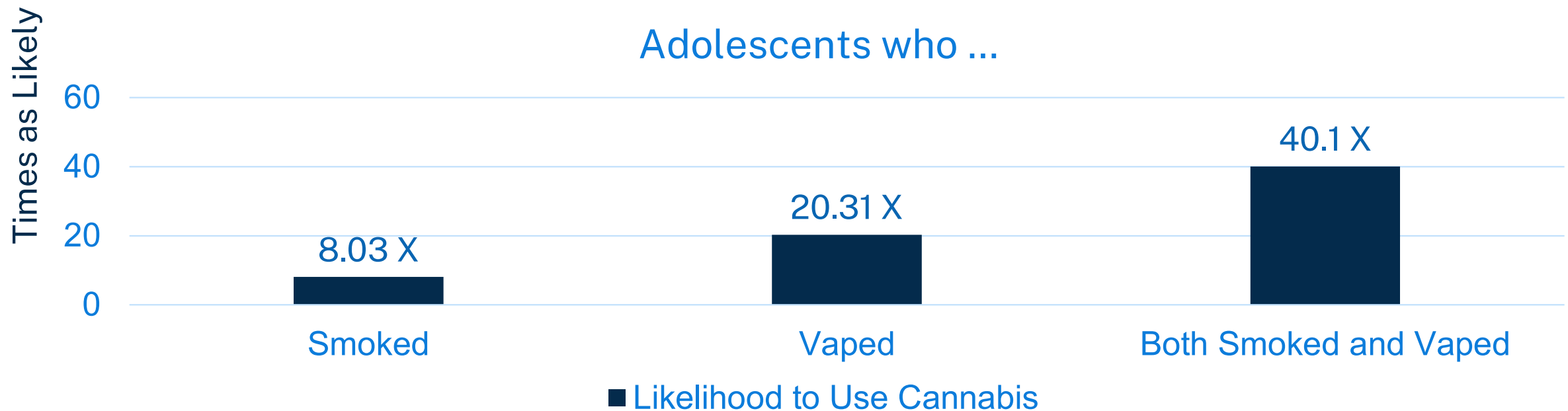
- FDA works with the Department of Justice to enforce laws against selling counterfeit vapes or selling vapes to underage people
- There are more than 10,000 vape stores in the United States (not including convenience stores and online sales).
- In December 2024, the FDA issued warning letters to 115 brick-and-mortar retailers for selling unauthorized e-cigarette products.





It's not just nicotine...

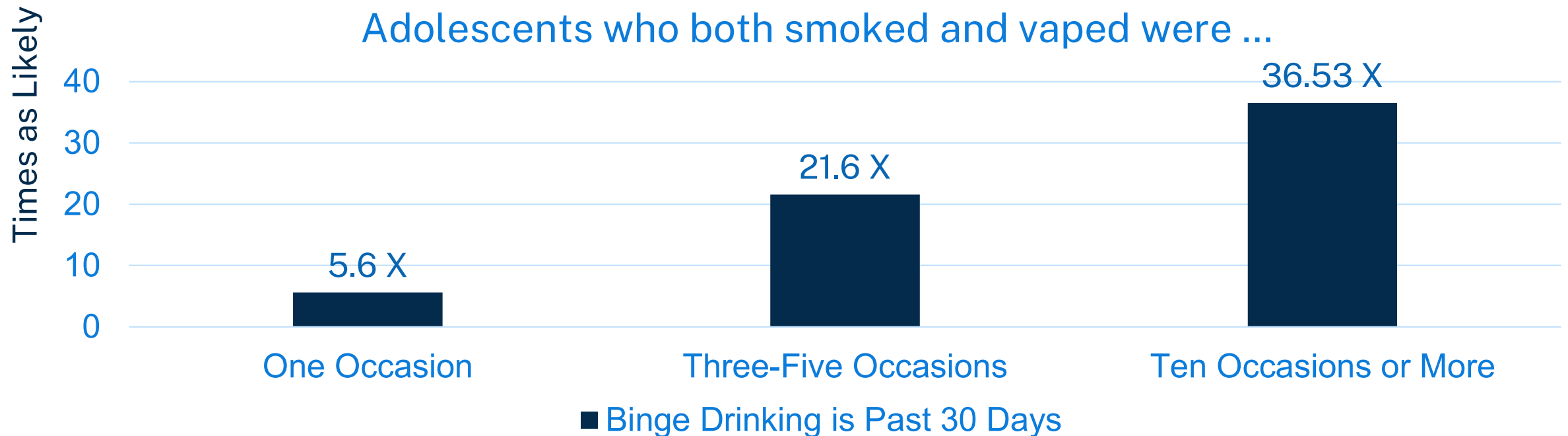
Compared to those who do not use nicotine, adolescents who smoke, vape, or both are more likely to use cannabis.





It's not just nicotine...

Compared to those who do not use nicotine, adolescents who smoke and vape nicotine are more likely to binge drink.





What are marijuana concentrates?

- THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the primary psychoactive substance in marijuana.
- A marijuana concentrate is a highly potent THC concentrated mass that looks like honey or butter, which is why it is referred to or known on the street as “honey oil” or “budder.”
- It can contain extraordinarily high THC levels ranging from 40% to 80%.
- This form of marijuana can be up to four times stronger in THC content than potent plant marijuana, which normally measures around 20% THC levels.





Consequences of Plant Marijuana & Marijuana Concentrates

- Plant marijuana users may also experience withdrawal and addiction problems.
- Marijuana use affects attention, memory, and learning skills.
- Students who use marijuana are more likely not to finish high school or get a college degree, compared with their peers who don't use marijuana.

Being a highly concentrated form of marijuana, the effects upon the user may be more psychologically and physically intense than plant marijuana use.



Effects of Plant Marijuana & Marijuana Concentrates

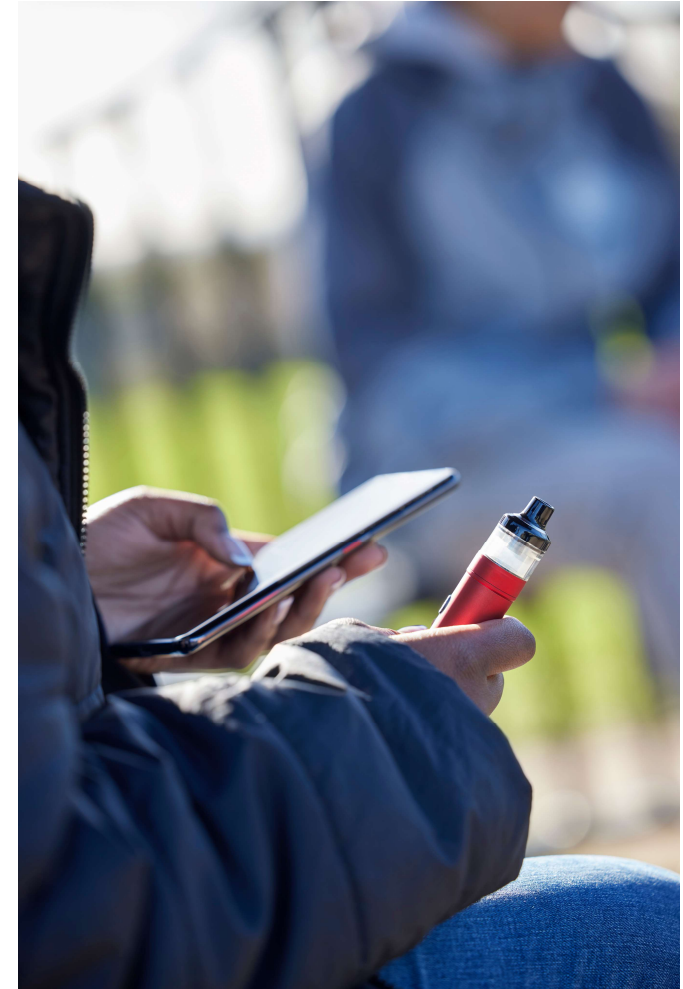
- To date, long-term effects of marijuana concentrate use are not yet fully known.
- Known effects of plant marijuana use include:
 - Paranoia; anxiety; panic attacks; hallucinations.
 - Increased heart rate and blood pressure.





What are names for marijuana concentrates?

- Street or “slang” terms change often and vary regionally across the country.
- Marijuana concentrates are often referred to as:
 - 710 (the word “OIL” flipped and spelled backward)
 - Wax, ear wax, honey oil, budder, butane hash oil, butane honey oil (BHO), shatter, dabs (dabbing), black glass, and errl.





Contamination

- Some states that allow marijuana to be sold also screen for up to 66 pesticides, yet there are thousands of other unauthorized chemicals that growers or processors use.
- “When you concentrate your flower cannabis into a concentrate, most pesticides come over and concentrate during that same procedure.”
- Synthetically manufactured THC goes through a chemical process that leaves behind dangerous residues. About a quarter contain a corrosive, toxic chemical similar to sulfuric acid.


Source: Josh Swider, CEO of Infinite Chemical Analysis Labs, a company that chemically evaluates marijuana products in all forms (Interview, 2/4/2025)



Why are e-cigarettes so dangerous? The vapor you breathe may contain...



Nicotine




Flavoring such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease




Cancer-causing chemicals



Volatile organic compounds



Heavy metals such as nickel, tin and lead



Ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs

Source: [visithealtheoregon.org/vapingillness](https://www.visithealtheoregon.org/vapingillness)
Oregon Health Authority



Talking about Vaping



Ask open-ended questions

- Open-ended questions are questions that can't be answered with a simple “yes” or “no” or other short answer.
- Avoid “why” to prevent defensiveness.
- Examples:
 - "What do you think you will do?"
 - "What's the next step?"
 - “What do you think has to change?”
 - “What are your options?”
 - "Of the things we have mentioned here, what seems to make sense?"
 - "Tell me more about what you'd like to do."
 - "How do you think you want to handle this?"



Talking about Vaping

You Matter

Your life and decisions affects others

The Risks are Real

Vapes are risky and can lead to addiction

What you can say

Get Help

People who know how to help want you to be healthy. Seek and accept help.

Give Help

Many things – from being a true friend to mentoring to getting involved in your community – can save lives.



Use an “Information Sandwich”

- Ask before you share information / give advice
 - Invite to talk
 - Share your advice / information
 - Check back





Use an “Information Sandwich”

“Can I share something I heard?”

“Vapes can contain chemicals that can be really harmful. The companies that make them want you to keep buying their product.”

“What do you think about that?”

Invite to Talk



Provide Information



Check For Understanding



Show what you know about vaping

QUIZ SHOW

The title 'QUIZ SHOW' is rendered in a bold, 3D style. 'QUIZ' is in white with a blue outline, and 'SHOW' is in orange with a blue outline. Two large yellow 3D stars are positioned on either side of the word 'QUIZ'. The background is a dark blue with lighter blue rays emanating from behind the text.



“Vaping is considered safe.”





“Vaping is considered safe.”



FALSE — Vaping is not considered safe for teens and young adults, especially since the adolescent brain is still developing and taking in these substances may be harmful. Additionally, some vape devices might explode, resulting in burns and other injuries.



“It is just water vapor”





“It is just water vapor”



FALSE — Most vaping devices contain and release a number of potentially toxic substances including metals and volatile organic compounds, some of which have been linked to cell and DNA damage.



“Vaping helps you quit smoking.”





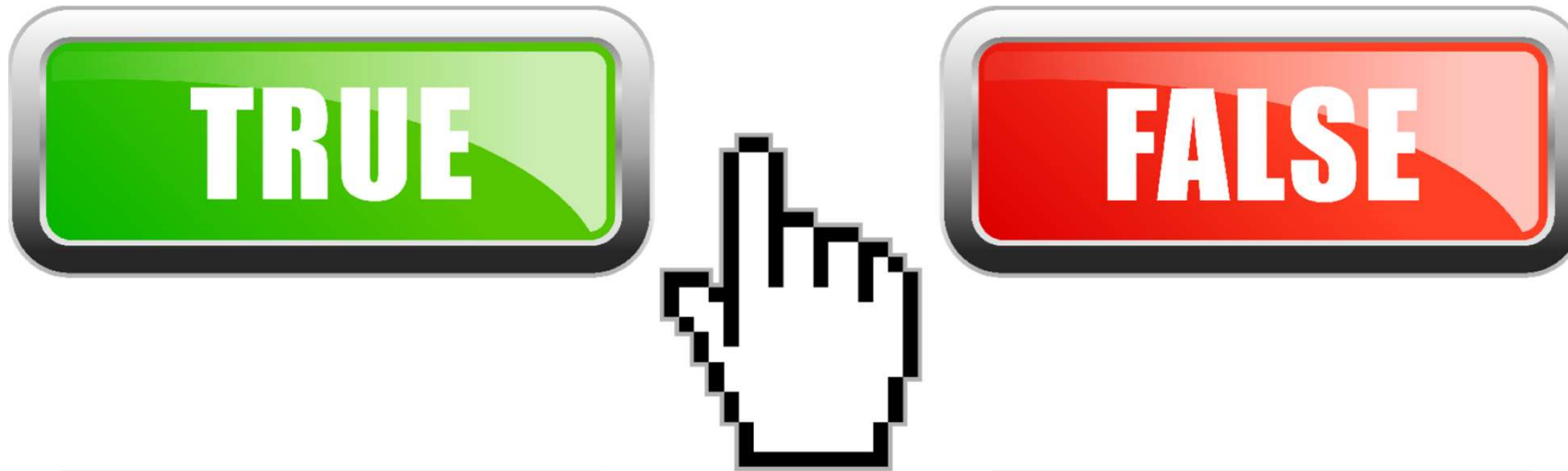
“Vaping helps you quit smoking.”



TRUE & FALSE — Although using e-cigarettes as a way to stop smoking may work for adults, young adults who had ever used e-cigarettes had seven times higher odds of becoming smokers one year later.



“If it is sold in a store, it must be safe.”





“If it is sold in a store, it must be safe.”



FALSE – The Food and Drug Administration has authorized 34 products, sold by three companies.

Between January 2024 and June 2024, the total number of e-cigarette products sold in the U.S. reached 6,287 products.

FDA also states that vaping is not safe for youth.



“Vapes can be used to consume products other than nicotine or cannabis.”





“Vapes can be used to consume products other than nicotine or cannabis.”



TRUE – A 2024 study found that vapes are used to consume opioids, cocaine, synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones (K2/Spice), hallucinogens, MDMA (Ecstasy) and methamphetamine.

Alcohol can also be vaped, which can lead to intoxication and harm.



“Young people who vape are more likely to use other addictive substances.”





“Young people who vape more likely to use other addictive substances.”



TRUE – A study by researchers at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health of more than 50,000 U.S. adolescents indicates that vaping nicotine is strongly linked with an increased likelihood of high levels of binge drinking and cannabis usage.



“Parents and caregivers can help protect their children from vaping.”





“Parents and caregivers can help protect their children from vaping.”



TRUE – According to CDC, parents and caregivers can protect their children by modeling non-use of vaping devices; making their home tobacco-free; talking to their child about the risks of vaping and helping them quit if they start.



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Find help and support

- Together for Families contains information and resources from DEA and our partners
- Contains information about prevention, getting help, and support for families affected by substance use



The screenshot shows the 'Together for Families' website. The top banner features a dark green background with a circular logo on the left containing a stylized tree with orange and green leaves. To the right of the logo, the text 'Together for Families' is displayed in white, with 'for' in a smaller, italicized font. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'Get Together for Families Updates' with a blue underline. The text below this title reads: 'Sign up to receive news and information that can help you help your family or families in your community.' To the right of this text is a blue button with white text that says 'Join the Together for Families Network Here'. Below this section, there is another section titled 'About Together for Families' with a blue underline. To the left of this title is a smaller version of the circular logo. To the right of the title is a paragraph of text: 'Families play a key role in preventing and responding to substance use. Too many families are grieving the death of a loved one due to substance use or coping with the stress that comes from loving a person affected by substance use or misuse. Fortunately, there are thousands of professionals and volunteers involved in all types of organizations who are in positions to help families help their loved one. The Drug Enforcement Administration is honored to partner with these organizations at the state, national and local level. Together for Families seeks to be a place where you can find information that helps you wherever you are on your journey.' To the right of this text is a photograph of a woman hugging a young girl.

Together for Families

Get Together for Families Updates

Sign up to receive news and information that can help you help your family or families in your community.

[Join the Together for Families Network Here](#)

About Together for Families

Families play a key role in preventing and responding to substance use. Too many families are grieving the death of a loved one due to substance use or coping with the stress that comes from loving a person affected by substance use or misuse. Fortunately, there are thousands of professionals and volunteers involved in all types of organizations who are in positions to help families help their loved one. The Drug Enforcement Administration is honored to partner with these organizations at the state, national and local level. Together for Families seeks to be a place where you can find information that helps you wherever you are on your journey.

www.dea.gov/togetherforfamilies



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Email us: community.outreach@dea.gov

Online: www.dea.gov/education-prevention/community-outreach

