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Hot Topics
Liquid Nicotine Exposure is Still a Serious Risk to Children
Liquid nicotine exposure still poses a serious risk to children, even though the annual exposure rate decreased in 2016 compared to 2015, according to a recent study published in Pediatrics. The researchers examined data from the National Poison Data system and found that, between January 2012 and April 2017, there were 8269 calls to US poison control centers reporting liquid nicotine exposures among youths ages 6 and younger. 92.5% of the children exposed to liquid nicotine ingested it, and 83.9% of the exposures were among children younger than 3 years old. The annual exposure rate per 100,000 children increased from .7 in 2012 to 10.4 in 2015, but decreased to 8.3 in 2016. Monthly liquid nicotine exposures dropped by about 20% nine months after the implementation of a federal child-resistant packaging law in 2016, with significant decreases shown in states that did not have pre-existing laws on child-resistant packaging. Because too many children are still being exposed to liquid nicotine, the researchers recommend increasing public awareness, and expanding regulations on e-liquid packaging, flavoring, labeling, and concentrations, as well as on e-cigarette product design. Read more.

From the AAP Richmond Center
2018 AAP National Conference & Exhibition – Register Now!
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) invites you to the 2018 National Conference & Exhibition (NCE) on November 2-6 in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Orlando. This year’s theme is “Sky’s the Limit”. Don’t miss the largest pediatric-focused educational and networking event of the year! Registration is now open.
SAVE THE DATE: The AAP Section on Tobacco Control program, "Current Issues in Pediatric Tobacco Control" (Session H1072), will be held on Saturday, November 3, from 1-5pm at the 2018 NCE. Presenters will discuss: 1) the impact of secondhand smoke exposure on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), 2) intergenerational care strategies and opportunities to improve child health by addressing health needs of parents and caretakers in pediatric practice, and 3) practical strategies for integrating Clinical Decision Support (CDS) tobacco screening and referral tools into electronic health record systems. Finally, the program will conclude with a poster session highlighting critical research and quality improvement programs to advance tobacco cessation efforts in health systems and communities. Be sure to block out the time and day in your calendar now!

Also plan to attend the separate, Seminar session, "Vaping, Dripping, and Hookah Use: Counseling Parents and Teens", which will occur on Monday, November 5, at 4pm (Session S3124).

In the News

A Comparative Analysis of Perceived Electronic and Regular Cigarette Use Among US Youth
A new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health examined adolescents' perceived prevalence of e-cigarette and cigarette use and investigated whether differences in perceived versus actual use is related to tobacco-related attitudes and behaviors.

Researchers analyzed data from the 2015 and 2016 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) and found that most U.S. middle and high school students overestimate how many of their peers are using e-cigarettes and cigarettes. Education about the dangers of youth tobacco product use, including through mass media campaigns, can help de-normalize and reduce tobacco product use among our nation’s youth.

Read the full study here.

Majority of HUD-Assisted Residents Are Former or Never Smokers
A new research brief from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that two out of three U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-assisted residents are former smokers or never smokers. Data for this study was derived from over 4000 adults who participated in the National Health Interview Survey, as well as HUD-linked data. The study demonstrated that 48% of HUD-assisted adults were never smokers, 33% were current smokers, and 18.6% were former smokers. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke; hence, secondhand smoke exposure continues to be a public health threat. Results from this study can help with evidence-based development and implementation of smokefree programs and policies to help minimize the harm of tobacco use deaths and diseases among HUD-assisted adults and children.

Protecting Children from Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Alaska
A recent article posted by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion highlights the ongoing challenge the state of Alaska faces with protecting children from the effects of secondhand smoke exposure. Approximately 19% of adults and 40% of Alaska natives smoke cigarettes, putting children in Alaskan communities at a higher risk for secondhand smoke exposure. Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk for other negative health effects, including ear infections, severe asthma attacks, respiratory infection and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). This article highlights past and ongoing efforts to combat this unique challenge. Click here to read more.
If Disney Buys Fox, Who Protects the Kids

As Walt Disney Company prepares to integrate 20th Century Fox movie and television studio into its corporation, antismoking advocates contacted the Walt Disney Company to ask them to extend existing anti-smoking policies into these newly-purchased assets.

In 2015, Walt Disney Studios announced that it would prohibit smoking in movies across the Marvel, Lucas, Pixar and Disney films, putting Disney at the forefront of antismoking efforts in Hollywood. Now, antismoking advocates want Walt Disney Studios to extend that rule to all future youth-rated films (G, PG, PG-13) made by Fox and its Fox Searchlight specialty label. Disney has declined to comment until the purchase is finalized.

Read the full article here.

FDA Warns Companies Selling E-liquids that Resemble Kid-Friendly Food Products

This month, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued warning letters to companies that manufacture, distribute and sell e-cigarette liquid with labels or advertising that resembles child-friendly food products. The products cited resemble common children’s food items, such as Tree Top-brand apple juice boxes, Nilla Wafer Cookies, and Sour Patch Kids candy. Several companies were also cited for selling these products to youth under age 18. These actions are an important step in protecting youth from the dangers of nicotine and tobacco products, however, AAP policy recommends that FDA should do more to protect youth, by enacting a complete ban on flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. Flavored tobacco products are known to appeal to youth. Last month, AAP and several other health groups sued the FDA over delays in regulating e-cigarettes.

Resources and Events

CDC Infographic: That USB Stick Might Be an E-cigarette

The CDC created a new infographic to help teachers and parents identify USB-shaped e-cigarettes and understand their health effects for young people. This downloadable resource presents the information quickly and clearly, utilizing graphics and facts about these increasingly popular products. The Infographic can be found on the CDC’s Electronic Cigarette Web page under “Related resources”.

TCN Interactive State Policy Map

The Tobacco Control Network (TCN) launched its TCN State Policy Map, a new interactive tool now available on the TCN website. This interactive map allows users to select any number of 11 different tobacco control policies listed in the toolbar to the left of the map, and states and territories that have all selected policies implemented will change color. In addition, users can hover their cursors over each state and territory to see where they stand with regards to each of the 11 listed policies. More information on the features of the map can be found on the policy map Web page and in the user guide.

World No Tobacco Day 2018: Tobacco and Heart Disease

May 31, 2018

This year’s World No Tobacco Day will focus on the impact tobacco has on the cardiovascular health of people worldwide. The World Health Organization and partners are using this year’s campaign to increase the awareness of the link between tobacco and heart and other cardiovascular diseases (CVD), including stroke, which combined are the world’s leading causes of death. They also aim to increase awareness of feasible actions and measures that key audiences, including governments and the public, can take to reduce the risks to heart health posed by tobacco. Visit the World No Tobacco Day Web site for more information, including downloadable posters and social media materials.
People in the News
FDA Takes Important Steps to Address Youth Use of JUUL E-Cigarettes, but Must Do More

On April 24th, the Food and Drug Administration took an important first step to address the significant rise in youth use of JUUL e-cigarettes. This included an official request that the FDA sent directly to JUUL Labs requiring the company to submit important documents to better understand the reportedly high rates of youth use and the particular youth appeal of these products.

That same day, AAP and several partner organizations released a statement that commended FDA and Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, for recognizing the seriousness of this issue, but noted that FDA must do more to protect children from these products: This includes removing from the market JUUL flavors that clearly appeal to children and adolescents, preventing the introduction of look-alike products, and subjecting e-cigarettes to FDA review of their public health impact, as required by law. AAP and the partner organizations state that the rise in youth use of JUUL is due in part to the FDA’s failure and delay in enforcing its own rules requiring prior review of new or changed tobacco products. Read the full text of the press statement from AAP and our partner organizations.

AAP and the same partner organizations previously wrote a letter to the FDA (on April 18th), urging the agency to take strong and immediate action to address the dramatic rise in teen use of JUUL e-cigarettes, while Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and 10 other senators issued separate letters to JUUL Labs and the FDA seeking steps to restrict pediatric use of the e-cigarettes.

For more information on JUUL, download a factsheet from the Richmond Center or visit HealthyChildren.org, or contact us at RichmondCenter@aap.org.