Hot Topics
Reasons for Electronic Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students

In a recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) analyzed data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey to assess reasons for e-cigarette use among U.S. middle- and high-school students. In 2016, among students who had ever used an e-cigarette, the most common self-reported reasons for use were: 1) use by a “friend or family member” (39%); 2) availability of “flavors such as mint, candy, fruit, or chocolate” (31%); and 3) the belief that “they are less harmful than other forms of tobacco such as cigarettes” (17%).

E-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco product among U.S. youth. As such, continued efforts to further reduce all forms of tobacco product use, including e-cigarettes, are important. Population-level strategies to reduce e-cigarette use among youth include incorporating e-cigarettes into smoke-free indoor air policies, restricting youth access to e-cigarettes in retail settings, licensing retailers, and establishing specific package requirements.

Read the full MMWR report here.

From the AAP Richmond Center
AAP Section on Tobacco Control Now Accepting Abstract Submissions – Due April 13th

Upcoming Events

March 21
Kick Butts Day

April 2
2:00-3:30pm ET
ASTHO Webinar

April 13
AAP Section on Tobacco Control
Abstract Submissions due

May 5-8
2018 PAS
Toronto, Canada

June 15, 2020
NIH R21
Applications Due
The AAP Section on Tobacco Control is seeking abstracts to be considered for presentation at the 2018 AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) in Orlando. We invite you to submit abstracts for poster presentations describing ongoing or completed tobacco-control projects and/or presenting original research findings; abstracts will be presented during the NCE Section on Tobacco Control Program. Abstracts describing quality improvement projects may be eligible for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) credit! Section membership is not a requirement to submit. For more information, please visit https://www.aap.org/en-us/continuing-medical-education/Pages/Abstracts.aspx.

AAP West Virginia Chapter Includes Tobacco 21 as a Legislative Priority
AAP West Virginia Chapter members visited the state capitol in February to promote the chapter's 2018 Legislative Priorities to lawmakers. Included among the priorities is raising the tobacco purchase age to 21 and promotion of tobacco cessation efforts. Other priorities include establishing EPSDT or the CHIP benefit package as the state's benchmark plan for insurers, responding to the state's opioid epidemic and protecting the state's strong school immunizations laws. The chapter also discussed firearm injury prevention and obesity with lawmakers.

In honor of the chapter's advocacy day coinciding with Valentine's Day, the West Virginia Senate adopted Senate Resolution 40, designating February 14, 2018 as Tiny Hearts Day. The resolution highlights the chapter's priorities and extends the Senate's gratitude and appreciation for all the work the chapter does on behalf of all children and families in the state.

In the News
Age Requirements for E-Cigarette Purchases Protect U.S. Youth
A new study, conducted at RTI International in collaboration with the University of California San Francisco and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that states with age requirements for e-cigarette purchases have the same or less adolescent cigarette smoking compared to states without these age requirements. The results of this study suggest that these minimum age of sale policies benefit youth.

The new study, published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, analyzed tobacco product use, including e-cigarettes, from over 80,000 adolescents across the United States. It found that the amount of adolescent cigarette smoking was less or the same in states with age requirements on e-cigarettes compared to states without these laws.

Read the entire article here.

Harm Perceptions of Intermittent Tobacco Product Use Among U.S. Youth, 2016
A recent article published in the Journal of Adolescent Health demonstrates that one in ten youth viewed intermittent cigarette smoking as causing little to no harm. Researchers surveyed over 20,000 sixth through twelfth-grade students through the 2016 National Youth Tobacco Survey about the perceived harm of using four different tobacco products sporadically. The survey revealed that 9.7% of youth thought intermittent cigarette use was relatively harmless and 12% felt that intermittent smokeless tobacco use was relatively harmless. The numbers were higher for alternative tobacco products, with 18.7% of youth stating that intermittent hookah use was relatively harmless and 37.5% of youth stating that intermittent e-cigarette use was harmless. The article also revealed that youth with lower harm perceptions were more likely to report current use compared to those who reported "a lot" of harm. Targeted education towards the youth about the risks of intermittent tobacco product use is essential to reduce misperceptions of harm. Read the article for more information.

Teens Who Use E-Cigarettes Are Exposed to Carcinogenic
Compounds
A recent study published in the March 2018 issue of Pediatrics found that teens who use e-cigarettes could be exposed to substantial levels of chemicals that could potentially cause cancer. Researchers evaluated saliva and urine samples from a group of teens with an average age of 16. The study examined 67 teens who exclusively used e-cigarettes, 17 teens who were dual users of e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes, and a control group of 20 teens who did not use either tobacco product. The study demonstrated at least five possibly harmful toxicants including propylene oxide, acrylamide, acrylonitrile, and crotonaldehyde were found in the bodies of teens who used only e-cigarettes. This study provides important evidence about the direct health risks of e-cigarette use.

Resources and Events

New CDC Infographic: Electronic Cigarettes—What's the bottom line?
The CDC Office on Smoking and Health has created a new e-cigarette infographic that provides standard background information, including the health effects of using e-cigarettes and trends in use among youth and adults. See the CDC Electronic Cigarette Web page under “Related Resources”.

Kick Butts Day – March 21
The AAP Richmond Center is teaming up with colleagues at the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Physicians to support Kick Butts Day on March 21, 2018. Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism, promoted by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, that empowers youth to stand out, speak up and seize control against Big Tobacco. More than 1,000 events in schools and communities across the United States are expected this year on March 21. View the Kick Butts Day Web site and encourage community members to register their events and promote the day via social media. More information on youth-specific resources can be found on the AAP Richmond Center Web site.

Register for Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting
May 5-8, 2018
Toronto, Canada
Registration is now open for the Pediatric Academic Societies’ (PAS) annual meeting in Toronto, Canada. The conference will be held May 5-8, 2018. This meeting offers programs with the latest science, from basic to translational, and clinical and health services research from across academic pediatric specialties. View the PAS website for registration information.

Webinar: Ask the Experts: The Intersection of Tobacco and Opioids – ASTHO
April 2, 2018
2:00-3:30pm ET
While tobacco remains the leading cause of death and disease in the United States, nicotine addiction is not the only substance misuse concern among the public health community. The opioid epidemic has become a top priority of public health, healthcare, and policy leaders. This Ask the Experts webcast will feature a virtual panel discussion moderated by ASTHO President, John Wiesman, exploring this intersection and the bi-directional relationship between these addictions with behavioral health and chronic disease, and opportunities for state and territorial health agencies to collaborate internally to address nicotine and opioid addiction, across tobacco, chronic disease, injury prevention, behavioral health, and other programs. Register now!

NIH Funding Opportunity
Deadline: June 15, 2020
NIH published an open-funding opportunity announcement (FOA) to support observational or intervention research focused on reducing health disparities in tobacco use in the United States: PAR-17-218 – U.S. Tobacco Control Policies to Reduce Health Disparities (R21). The FOA is intended to stimulate scientific
People in the News

Ramzi Salloum, PhD

The Richmond Center acknowledges Ramzi Salloum, PhD, for his recent role as a panelist at the recent town hall for the University of Florida (UF) Healthstreet’s “Our Community, Our Health (OCHOH)” series on youth tobacco use trends and prevention policy. This interactive, community-member centered town hall increased public awareness of youth tobacco use trends, shared research being done by various institutions, and addressed questions about youth tobacco use trends, prevention policy, and the impact of the Tobacco 21 initiative. Other panelists included Victoria Hunter Gibney, Chair of Tobacco Free Alachua, and Andrew Romero, Health Policy Program Manager for the Florida Department of Public Health.

Dr Salloum has been an American Academy of Pediatrics Tobacco Consortium member since 2017. He is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics at the University of Florida College of Medicine and a member of the UF Health Cancer Center and the Institute for Child Health Policy. He is a health services researcher focused on decision making across the cancer prevention and control continuum, including prevention, screening, and treatment.