

Substance Abuse Trends Alert!

June 2019

Progressive Increase in E-Cigarette Use by Age in Florida Youth

Growing Epidemic of E-Cigarette Use Among Florida Adolescents

Data from the most recent annual report support the conclusion from [the 2016 Surgeon General Report](#) that electronic cigarette use among adolescents in Florida is an emerging epidemic. In the April 2019 [Substance Abuse Trends Alert](#), it was reported that the overall rate of youth e-cigarette use increased by 43% in two years (from 9.6% in 2016 to 13.7% in 2018). A significant gender difference was also noted with a 61% increase for Florida girls in two years (8.4% in 2016 to 13.5% in 2018) and a 32% increase for boys (10.6% in 2016 to 14.0% in 2018).

Consistent Increases in Past 30-Day Use of E-Cigarettes by Florida Youth

Research findings in published studies indicate that adolescence represents a period in life that is highly vulnerable to substances, including e-cigarettes ([Chen et al., 2017](#) & [2017](#)). In addition to the previously-reported increases and large gender-differences in vaping among Florida youth, an in-depth analysis of the 2016 and 2018 [Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey](#) data indicates that e-cigarette use increased consistently from age 11 to age 18.

In 2016, the prevalence rate for 11 year-olds was 1.4% and 14.9% for 18 year-olds (an absolute increase of 13.5%) Two years later, 2.2% of 11 year-olds and 22.2% of youth aged 18 were using e-cigarettes (an absolute increase of 20.0% by 2018). In addition to the overall differences across the age range of 11-18, e-cigarette use was substantially higher for older adolescents. For example, the absolute differences in past 30-day e-cigarette use were 0.8% (2.2-1.4) for youth aged 11; but the difference increased to 7.3% (22.2-14.9) for youth aged 18. Lastly, youth aged 13-

16 and 18 represent two periods with the highest rate of increase.

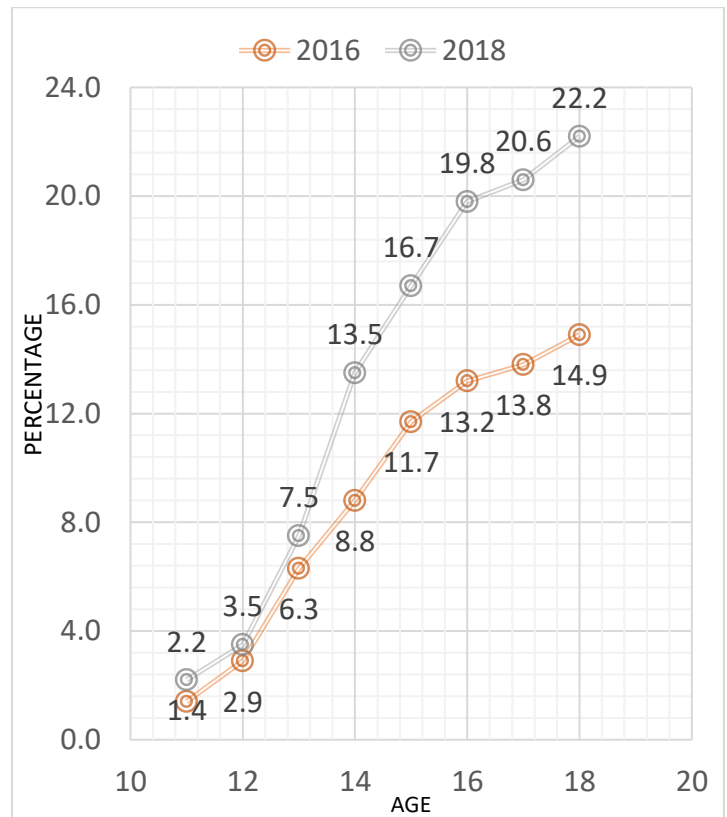


Figure 1. Increases in the rate (%) of e-cigarette use in the past 30 days among Florida youth across all age groups from 11 to 18 years of age.

Summary

The patterns of increased e-cigarette use by age provide needed data to strengthen current tobacco prevention efforts in Florida to curb the e-cigarette epidemic by targeting youth in specific age groups.



For more information about e-cigarette use among adolescents, readers can check the following sources:

Resources

[CADCA Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems: Juggling, Other Trends and Community Prevention](#)

[CDC Resource Materials](#)

[Florida Department of Children and Families Know the Cost: Youth Tobacco Prevention Video](#)

[Florida Department of Health youth vaping.](#)

[Florida Department of Health Florida Youth Tobacco Survey \(FYTS\)](#)

Patterns and Trends of Substance Use within and Across the Regions of Florida. [FADAA's Annual Report April 2019](#)

April 2019 Substance Abuse Trends Alert, [Rapid Increase in E-Cigarette Use among Florida Youth.](#)

References

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. E-cigarette use among youth and young adults: A report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016.](#)

Chen, X., Yu, B., Lasopa, S. O., & Cottler, L. B. (2017). Current patterns of marijuana use initiation by age among US adolescents and emerging adults: implications for intervention. [The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, 43\(3\), 261-270.](#)

Chen, X., Yu, B., & Wang, Y. (2017). Initiation of electronic cigarette use by age among youth in the US. [American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 53\(3\), 396-399.](#)

