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-

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.

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.

1.4 2.9 6.3 8.8 13.5 16.7 19.8 22.2
0.0 4.0 8.0 12.0 16.0 20.0 24.0

PERCENTAGE

AGE

2016 2018

June 2019
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

