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Center for Tobacco Studies

Supporting Nicotine Cessation in Young Vermonters

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Disclosures



• Funding from NIH, FDA, and HRSA

- No other financial relationships to disclose.
- No industry funding; no off-label medications use discussed
- The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health or the Food and Drug Administration.

Background



- Professional experience
 - Deputy Director, Rutgers Center for Tobacco Studies and tenured Associate Professor in the Rutgers School of Public Health
 - Adjunct Associate Professor in Psychological Sciences and Psychiatry at UVM; Co-director, Surveillance & Evaluation Core of UVM Center on Rural Addiction
- Vermonter and committed to public health in Vermont
- Parent with pre-teens in Vermont schools!

WHAT WORKS IN NICOTINE CESSATION?

Community Guide to Preventive Services

Intervention	Outcomes Addressed	CPSTF Finding	
Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs	Cessation Initiation Secondhand Smoke Exposure	Recommended August 2014	
Smoke-Free Policies	Cessation Initiation Secondhand Smoke Exposure	Recommended November 2012	
Interventions to Increase the Unit Price for Tobacco Products	Cessation Health Disparities Initiation	Recommended November 2012	
Mass-Reach Health Communication Interventions	Cessation Initiation	Recommended April 2013	
Reducing Out-of-Pocket Costs for Evidence-Based Cessation Treatments	Cessation	Recommended August 2012	
Quitline Interventions	Cessation	Recommended August 2012	
Mobile Phone-Based Cessation Interventions	Cessation	Recommended December 2011	
Internet-Based Cessation Interventions	Cessation	Recommended December 2019	
Mass Media - Cessation Contests	Cessation	Insufficient Evidence May 2000	

https://www.thecommunityguide.org/



Borrowing from tobacco cessation research:

- Set a quit date!
- Make it hard to access a vape.
- Identify high risk for vaping situations and be prepared.
- Wait out cravings by distracting with other activities, especially those incompatible with vaping.
- Keep your hands busy; keep your mouth busy (e.g., gum).
- Review quit reasons frequently.

- Avoid others while they are vaping.
- Reach out to family, friends and physician for support.
- For adults (18+), use FDAapproved medications (nicotine replacement therapy, bupropion, varenicline).





Question:

Can someone under 21 buy nicotine replacement products at a pharmacy?

A. Yes B. No

Little is known about efficacy of FDA-approved cessation

medications in young people



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- Adolescents are generally not recommended to use FDA-approved medications.
- Young adults are able to use FDA-approved medications, but generally **don't**.

Vaping cessation – a national priority for young people



- Free quit vaping text message program
- In five weeks (Jan Feb 2019):
 - 13,421 teens and 13,750 young adults had already joined
 - At two-week assessment, 61% of respondents indicated they had reduced or stopped using e-cigarettes altogether.



Graham AL, et al. Nicotine Tob Res. 2020;22(5):859-860.



JAMA Internal Medicine

RCT: Effectiveness of a Vaping Cessation Text Message Program Among Young Adult e-Cigarette Users

POPULATION

1253 Men, 1303 Women 26 Nonbinary or other gender



Young adults aged 18-24 y who vaped nicotine in the past 30 d and were interested in quitting Mean (SD) age, 20.4 (1.7) y

SETTINGS / LOCATIONS

to an online

study in the US

National recruitment

INTERVENTION

2588 Individuals randomized



1284 Assessment-only control Monthly assessment of e-cigarette use and abstinence via incentivized text message for 6 mo

1304 This is Quitting intervention

Assessment-only control plus automated, youth-tailored, interactive text message program for vaping cessation that delivers social support and cognitive and behavioral coping skills training

FINDINGS

Young adults who received the This is Quitting intervention had significantly higher vaping abstinence rates at 7 mo compared with those in the control group (odds ratio, 1.39; 95% CI, 1.15-1.68)



PRIMARY OUTCOME

30-d Point prevalence abstinence from vaping, as measured by selfreported abstinence from e-cigarette use 7 mo after randomization, analyzed under intent to treat

Point prevalence abstinence at 7 mo:

Assessment-only control: 18.6% (95% CI, 16.7%-20.8%) This is Quitting intervention: 24.1% (95% CI, 21.8%-26.5%)

Graham AL, Amato MS, Cha S, Jacobs MA, Bottcher MM, Papandonatos GD. Effectiveness of a vaping cessation text message program among young adult e-cigarette users: a randomized clinical trial. JAMA Intern Med. Published online May 17, 2021. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2021.1793

Quitting resources

· 🕩 🗨 🖬 🗿 87%

L Q :





4:40

← Truth - Quit JUUL

Tuesday, Feb 26 • 8:06 AM

Hey! I'm from truth and here to help you quit JUUL or any other e-cigarette. Ready to quit? Text back your quit date (mm/dd) for 6 wks of 1/day tips. Not sure yet? That's cool too - let's do 2 weeks together to help you figure it out. HELP for help, STOP to cancel. StdMsgRatesApply. Reply MORE for more info.

04/01

Awesome, I've got your quit date as April 1, 2019. ~1 msg/day for 30 days to see you through this (a few more on quit day and the few days before/after) + how to cut down to quit if your quit date is more than a month away.

Wednesday, Feb 27 • 3:50 PM



• Vermont:

- <u>https://802quits.org/</u>
- <u>https://vt.mylifemyquit.org/index</u>
 - Text "Start My Quit" to 36072
- National:
 - <u>https://smokefree.gov/</u>
 - <u>https://teen.smokefree.gov/</u>
 - <u>https://www.becomeanex.org/</u>
 - <u>https://truthinitiative.org/quitecigarettes</u>





To understand the impact of state-level policies and communication campaigns on substance use beliefs and behaviors in young Vermonters.







Quitting behavior in young Vermonters (ages 12-25), Summer 2021

	Cigarettes	EVPs	Alcohol	Marijuana	Other substances
Ever use	171 (29%)	292 (50%)	438 (75%)	319 (54%)	104 (18%)
Past 30-day use	56 (10%)	85 (15%)	334 (57%)	150 (26%)	-
Quit or cut down					
Past year	30 (18%)	51 (18%)	67 (15%)	52 (16%)	3 (3%)
Past month	22 (73%)	35 (66%)	43 (61%)	34 (63%)	-

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Wave 7 (n=586), Preliminary data

Reasons for quitting/cutting down



	Cigarettes n = 30 (18%)	EVPs n= 51 (18%)	Alcohol n = 67 (15%)	Marijuana n = 52 (16%)
Reasons for quitting/cutting down				
Health	24 (80%)	42 (82%)	56 (84%)	27 (52%)
Money/cost	13 (43%)	41 (80%)	33 (49%)	18 (35%)
Difficulty obtaining	1 (3%)	6 (12%)	0 (0%)	4 (8%)
Don't like the taste or smell	8 (27%)	2 (4%)	6 (9%)	2 (4%)
Negative experience while using	2 (7%)	5 (10%)	15 (22%)	14 (27%)
Freedom from addiction	10 (33%)	21 (41%)	8 (12%)	13 (25%)
Perform better in school, work, sports	4 (13%)	12 (24%)	18 (27%)	13 (25%)
For another person	6 (20%)	2 (4%)	2 (3%)	4 (8%)
I don't like it anymore	3 (10%)	5 (10%)	2 (3%)	7 (13%)
Other	1 (3%)	1 (2%)	6 (9%)	6 (12%)



Wave 7 (n=586), Preliminary data

MESSAGING ON VAPING

Effects of Vaping Prevention Messages



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Addictive Behaviors 115 (2021) 106778



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Addictive Behaviors

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/addictbeh

Identifying message content to reduce vaping: Results from online message testing trials in young adult tobacco users



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^a Vermont Center on Behavior and Health, Department of Psychiatry, University of Vermont, USA

^b Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, USA

^e Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard University, USA

^d Center for Tobacco Studies, School of Public Health, Rutgers, the State University, USA

e Department of Internal Medicine, Wexner Medical Center, Center for Tobacco Research, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA



Phase 1:

- 200 participants in Amazon Mechanical Turk
- Identify a smaller group of messages to be tested in Phase 2
- Identify images to be paired with messages in Phase 2

Phase 2:

- 769 participants in Amazon Mechanical Turk
- Test message/image pairs consistent with Instagram-type posts

Perceived message effectiveness (PME)



- Shown to be superior to message perceptions in estimating the likely impact of a vaping prevention message (Noar et al., 2020).
- Previous studies in tobacco control have identified effective messages as those scoring above the midpoint on message perceptions scales (Davis et al., 2013; Duke et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2016).

PME 3-item scale	Response options
This message discourages me from wanting to vape.	 1 – Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 – Strongly agree
This message makes me concerned about the health effects of vaping.	 1 – Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 – Strongly agree
This message makes vaping seem unpleasant to me.	 1 – Strongly disagree 2 3 4 5 – Strongly agree

Adapted from Baig SA, et al. Ann Behav Med. 2019;53(8):732-742.

INTERVENTION messages



CONTROL messages





Adapted from Darren Mays (personal communication).



Vape Messaging Study

Who can participate? Vermont young adults aged 18-24

What's involved?

Two 10-15 minute surveys over 1 month

Payment

- \$25 for completing both surveys
- \$10 online gift card after the first survey
- \$15 online gift card after the second survey

Study Goal

To identify messages to prevent or reduce vaping in young adults.

Vaping Prevention

Message Testing Trial

- June August 2020
 - Recruitment via social media

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- August 14 31, 2020
 - First survey distributed
- September 14 30, 2020
 - Follow-up survey distributed



International Journal of *Environmental Research and Public Health*



Article

Effects of Vaping Prevention Messages on Electronic Vapor Product Beliefs, Perceived Harms, and Behavioral Intentions among Young Adults: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Andrea C. Villanti ^{1,2,3,*}, Olivia A. Wackowski ^{1,2}, S. Elisha LePine ^{3,4}, Julia C. West ^{3,5}, Elise M. Stevens ⁶, Jennifer B. Unger ⁷, and Darren Mays ^{8,9}



Villanti AC et al. Int J Environ Res Public Health. Oct 30 2022;19(21):14182. doi:10.3390/ijerph192114182

Response to study messages



	Control	Intervention	Total	
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	p-value
Dwell time on messages in seconds (mean (SD))	133.13 (138.79)	162.89 (164.05)	148.59 (153.02)	0.02
Message perceptions, 1 - 5 scale (mean (SD))				
Relevance	3.19 (1.12)	2.58 (1.26)	2.88 (1.23)	<0.001
Likeability	3.28 (0.93)	3.22 (0.96)	3.25 (0.94)	0.52
Overall message rating , 1 - 6 scale (mean (SD))	3.97 (1.10)	3.95 (1.27)	3.96 (1.19)	0.83
Perceived message effectiveness, 1 - 5 scale (mean (SD))	2.54 (1.32)	3.72 (0.97)	3.15 (1.29)	<0.001
Messages provide new information				0.071
No	124 (45.6)	112 (38.1)	236 (41.7)	
Yes	148 (54.4)	182 (61.9)	330 (58.3)	
Messages' effect on curiosity to vape				<0.001
No effect	192 (70.6)	120 (40.8)	312 (55.1)	
Increase	4 (1.5)	9 (3.1)	13 (2.3)	
Decrease	76 (27.9)	165 (56.1)	241 (42.6)	
Messages' effect on desire to quit/cut down vaping				<0.001
No effect	204 (75.0)	162 (55.1)	366 (64.7)	
Increase	40 (14.7)	100 (34.0)	140 (24.7)	
Decrease	28 (10.3)	32 (10.9)	60 (10.6)	

	Control n (%)	Intervention n (%)	To n (tal (%)	p-value	
Dwell time on messages in seconds (mean (SD))	133.13 (138.79)	162.89 (164.05)	148.59	(153.02)	0.02	
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Messages' effect on curiosity to vape						3
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Decrease	76 (27.9)	165 (56.1)	241			5 – Strongly agree
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						5 Strongly agree
				This m	essage makes vaping	1 – Strongly disagree

seem unpleasant to me.

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Main outcomes	Post exposure
EVP-related beliefs	
Nicotine is the main substance in electronic vapor products that makes people want to vape.	88% (No difference)
One 5% vape pod can contain as much nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes.	75% (No difference)
Addiction to nicotine is something that I am concerned about.	74% (No difference)
EVP-related harm perceptions	
Absolute harm	(No difference)
Relative to smoking cigarettes	(No difference)
Relative to vaping marijuana/THC	(No difference)
Flavored tobacco/EVPs relative to unflavored	(No difference)

Study outcomes: 1-month follow-up



Main outcomes	Post exposure	1-month follow-up
EVP-related beliefs		
Nicotine is the main substance in electronic vapor products that makes people want to vape.	(No difference)	(No difference)
One 5% vape pod can contain as much nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes.	(No difference)	(No difference)
Addiction to nicotine is something that I am concerned about.	(No difference)	(No difference)
EVP-related harm perceptions		
Absolute harm	(No difference)	(No difference)
Relative to smoking cigarettes	(No difference)	(No difference)
Relative to vaping marijuana/THC	(No difference)	(No difference)
Flavored tobacco/EVPs relative to unflavored	(No difference)	(No difference)

*Also, no difference in models adjusted for awareness of UNHYPED at baseline.

Study outcomes: 1-month follow-up

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Main outcomes	1-month follow-up
Behavioral intentions	
Try EVP soon	(No difference)
Try EVP in next year	(No difference)
Try cigarette soon	(No difference)
Try cigarette in next year	(No difference)
Behavior	
Trial since baseline (never users)	
EVPs	(No difference)
Cigarettes	(No difference)
Past 30 day use	
EVPs	(No difference)
Cigarettes	(No difference)
Cigars, Smokeless, Hookah	(No difference)

*Also, no difference in models adjusted for awareness of UNHYPED at baseline.

Study outcomes: 1-month follow-up



Manipulation checks	Post exposure	1-month follow-up
Beliefs		
Nicotine is a cause of cancer.	69% intervention vs. 59% control (p = 0.03)	(No difference)
A tobacco product that says it has no additives is less harmful than a regular tobacco product.	(No difference)	17% intervention vs. 12% control (p = 0.03)
A tobacco product that says it is organic is less harmful than a regular tobacco product.	(No difference)	(No difference)

*Also, no difference in models adjusted for awareness of UNHYPED at baseline.

Vaping prevention messages - Discussion

- Findings suggested that the intervention produced the desired response on message-related outcomes of perceived message effectiveness, reduced curiosity about vaping, and increased desire to quit or cut down on EVPs.
- However, there was no impact of the intervention on EVP-related beliefs or harm perceptions.
- Findings suggested that higher PME may be prospectively associated with lower odds of believing that nicotine is not a cause of cancer.
 - May have inadvertently created mental maps between nicotine and cancer and between vape additives and health harms.
- These findings highlight that prevention messages addressing the harms of nicotine and other constituents in EVPs should be rigorously tested to ensure that they do not contribute to false beliefs about nicotine, EVPs, and other tobacco products



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CURRENT METHODS OF QUITTING

Quitting behavior in young Vermonters (ages 12-25), Summer 2021

	Cigarettes	EVPs	Alcohol	Marijuana	Other substances
Ever use	171 (29%)	292 (50%)	438 (75%)	319 (54%)	104 (18%)
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Wave 7 (n=586), Preliminary data

Methods used for quitting/cutting down



	Cigarettes n = 30 (18%)	EVPs n= 51 (18%)	Alcohol n = 67 (15%)	Marijuana n = 52 (16%)		
Methods used for quitting/cutting down						
Quitting on your own	25 (83%)	39 (76%)	63 (94%)	47 (90%)		
Counseling with SUD specialist	1 (3%)	-	1 (1%)	-		
Talking with school counselor or mental health professional	2 (7%)	5 (10%)	2 (3%)	4 (8%)		
VT Helplink	1 (3%)	5 (10%)	а	а		
Text message program	-	-	-	-		
Online/web-based program	1 (3%)	-	-	-		
Talking with primary care provider	-	1 (2%)	1 (1%)	1 (2%)		
Talking with other doctor	-	-	-	-		
Medication	-	-	-	-		
Calling a quitline	2 (7%)	-	а	а		
Using NRT	1 (3%)	3 (6%)	а	a		



Wave 7 (n=586), Preliminary data

Screening for Vaping and Tobacco Use

Fewer than half of PACE participants in Spring 2021 reported being asked by their health care provider about vaping/tobacco use or given information about vaping during a health care visit. Figure 1. Health care provider screening and communication about vaping/tobacco use at health supervision visits*

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*At the last visit, if in the last 2 years, and either health supervision visit (check-up or physical) or visit for sports, camp, college, or work

Quitting resources

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L Q :





4:40

← Truth - Quit JUUL

Tuesday, Feb 26 • 8:06 AM

Hey! I'm from truth and here to help you quit JUUL or any other e-cigarette. Ready to quit? Text back your quit date (mm/dd) for 6 wks of 1/day tips. Not sure yet? That's cool too - let's do 2 weeks together to help you figure it out. HELP for help, STOP to cancel. StdMsgRatesApply. Reply MORE for more info.

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Awesome, I've got your quit date as April 1, 2019. ~1 msg/day for 30 days to see you through this (a few more on quit day and the few days before/after) + how to cut down to quit if your quit date is more than a month away.

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• Vermont:

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 - Text "Start My Quit" to 36072
- National:
 - <u>https://smokefree.gov/</u>
 - <u>https://teen.smokefree.gov/</u>
 - <u>https://www.becomeanex.org/</u>
 - <u>https://truthinitiative.org/quitecigarettes</u>





Tailored text message and web intervention for smoking cessation in U.S. socioeconomically-disadvantaged young adults: A randomized controlled trial

Andrea C. Villanti^{a,*}, Catherine Peasley-Miklus^a, Sarah Cha^b, Jonathan Schulz^a, Elias M. Klemperer^a, S. Elisha LePine^a, Julia C. West^{a,c}, Darren Mays^d, Robin Mermelstein^e, Stephen T. Higgins^{a,c}, Amanda L. Graham^{b,f,g}

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^e Department of Psychology and Institute for Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago, United States

^f Department of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, United States

^g Department of Oncology, Georgetown University Medical Center/Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, United States



Preventive



Participants and Procedures

- 343 SDYA aged 18-30 who reported smoking "every day" or "some days," had access to a smartphone and reported interest in quitting in the next 6 months were recruited nationally from online ads between April 2020 and June 2020.
- Participants were randomized to referral to online cessation resources (control; n=171) or a 12-week web and text message smoking cessation intervention (n=172; NCT04379388).

Measures and Analyses

- Primary outcomes were self-reported past 30-day point prevalence abstinence (PPA) and confidence to quit smoking assessed in all participants at 12-weeks
- Secondary outcomes included past 7-day PPA and readiness rulers.
- Intent to treat analyses examined relationships between study condition and outcomes at 12 weeks.



text

Daily text messages

- Up to 5 messages per day
- Content varied according to the specific themes identified in the formative research.
 - Barriers to cessation raised by SDYAs
 - Stress management
 - Lack of alternative coping strategies
 - Personal reasons for quitting.
- Keywords
 - "CRAVE," "MOOD," "COPE," "SLIP," or "MORE" to receive additional content via text message
 - "STOP" to opt-out of study messages.

Weekly check-in survey via text

- Assess smoking status
- Usefulness of message content
- Actions resulting from the text messages
- Satisfaction with intervention

	9:41 AM	50 %
Messages	text Study	Contac

Don't let a craving stop you in your tracks. Run, walk, or do 5 jumping jacks! Getting blood pumping will make urge to smoke pass more quickly.



Thu, Sep 19, 1:26 PM





Thu, Sep 19, 1:26 PM







Figure 2. Point prevalence abstinence outcomes at end-of-treatment (12 weeks) by study condition (n = 343)



^a Intent to treat analyses use Poisson models with robust variance and control for variables with imbalance across study conditions (i.e., Hispanic ethnicity, current enrollment in school, past 30-day alcohol use, readiness to quit, Nondaily Smoking Cessation Motivation scale score, and past 30-day electronic vapor product, snus, and nicotine replacement therapy use at baseline).





^aAnalyses limited to participants who reported past 7-day or past 30-day cigarette use at follow-up and control for baseline assessments of these outcomes

Conclusions

- Results from this study demonstrate strong effects of a brief, low-touch tailored text message smoking cessation intervention on smoking abstinence, reduction in days smoked, and confidence to quit at 12 weeks.
- Even if abstinence from this shortterm intervention is not sustained, increasing quit attempts in this group may improve quit success in the future, as well as overall population quit rates.





OTHER CONSIDERATIONS?

EVP and marijuana use

Ever and past 30-day electronic vapor product (EVP) and marijuana use by age group, PACE Vermont pilot study, 2019



1a. Prevalence of electronic vapor

1b. Prevalence of marijuana use by age group

ERS

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Policy and Communication Evaluation

Waves 1-3, complete cases

Last time you vaped... (weighted)



Last time you vaped, what was in the mist you inhaled?





Waves 1-3, complete cases – Ever EVP users

Perceived addictiveness

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How addictive do you think each of the following substances are?





Wave 2, Summer 2019

West JC, Burt KB, Klemperer EM, Chen HL, Villanti AC. Latent Classes of Perceived Addictiveness Predict Marijuana, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use in Youth and Young Adults. Subst Use Misuse.1-11, 2023.

Relative perceived harms of vaping,



smoking, cannabis use



Preliminary data. Please do not cite or distribute.

VT: Adult use cannabis market and EVPs

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Vermont Annual Res	ults and Key Data	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Index							
Vermont Adult-	Total Regulated Adult-use Market (\$)						
	Cannabis Flower	\$0	\$26,928,552	\$103,667,829	\$127,605,232	\$126,266,086	\$113,996,273
	Pre-rolls	\$0	\$2,805,057	\$10,798,732	\$13,292,212	\$13,152,717	\$11,874,612
	Concentrates	\$0	\$2,805,057	\$10,798,732	\$13,292,212	\$13,152,717	\$11,874,612
	Vaporizer Pens	\$0	\$14,025,287	\$53, 993,661	\$66,461,058	\$65,763,587	\$59,373,059
	Eduble Products	\$0	\$6,732,138	\$25,916,957	\$31,901,308	\$31,566,522	\$28,499,068
	Topical Products	\$0	\$1,683,034	\$6,479,239	\$7,975,327	\$7,891,630	\$7,124,767
	Other Accessories	\$0	\$1,122,023	\$4,319,493	\$5,316,885	\$5,261,087	\$4,749,845
	Total Vermont Adult-use Market	\$0	\$56,101,150	\$215,974,644	\$265,844,232	\$263,054,346	\$237,492,236

• Vaporizer pens comprise 25% of projected sales in all years.

https://ccb.vermont.gov/reports

- Ongoing tracking in PACE Vermont re: awareness, exposure, liking, impact on behavior
 - Opportunity to evaluate impact and inform future efforts

OUTLNST





- RUTGERS Center for Tobacco Studies
- Important to assess impacts of educational messaging on many outcomes
 - Does vaping prevention messaging reinforce misperceptions of nicotine (e.g., causes cancer)?
- Important to consider perceptions of different products, how they cluster, and potential spillover effects of public education
 - How does e-cigarette messaging impact perceptions of vaping cannabis?

Ongoing challenges



- Addressing co-use of substances
- Increasing reach and efficacy of prevention interventions into young adulthood
- Increasing reach, efficacy, and uptake of treatment interventions in young people



