Trends in Electronic Cigarette Use Among High School Youth
NYS-YTS 2014-2018

In September 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration declared youth use of electronic cigarettes to be a national epidemic.1 According to data from the 2018 New York State Youth Tobacco Survey (NYS-YTS), over 27% of high school students report current use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and similar devices, a 160% increase from the 2014 prevalence of 10.4%.2 Additional analyses indicate that among high school students in New York:

- E-cigarette use increased significantly between 2014 and 2018 among students in every grade level.
- Among 9th and 10th grade students, significant increases in e-cigarette use were observed from 2014 to 2016, with no significant increase from 2016 to 2018; for 11th grade students, significant increases were observed from 2014 to 2018, with no significant increase measured in 2016.
- Among 12th grade students, significant increases were observed from 2014 to 2016 and from 2016 to 2018. In 2018, nearly 4 out of every 10 students in 12th grade (36.7%) report current e-cigarette use, defined as use on one or more days in the past 30 days.

Preventing youth initiation of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, is a priority of the NYS Tobacco Control Program. Almost all e-cigarettes contain nicotine3, a highly addictive drug derived from tobacco that can have lasting effects on brain and cognitive development.4 With or without nicotine, e-cigarettes are not hazard-free and e-cigarette aerosol may contain heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, ultrafine particles, and other toxins linked to lung disease.4 E-cigarette use can undermine established tobacco-free norms and increase the risk of ever using combustible tobacco cigarettes among youth and young adults.4

Current Electronic Cigarette Use Among High School Youth
by Grade Level, NYS-YTS 2014-2018

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StatShots can be accessed online at: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/