

Vaping of E-Cigarettes in a Primary Care Population: Characteristics, Prevalence, and Economics

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Background

- Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes or vapes) are used by individuals to inhale aerosolized solution
 - Nicotine, flavorings, or other chemicals such as cannabidiol (CBD), Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), or methamphetamine
- This study aims to determine the characteristics, prevalence, and economics of vaping in several primary care populations

Hypothesis

- Patients of lower socioeconomic status are often seen within the federally qualified health center (FQHC) system
- Lower socioeconomic status and vape, as compared to patients who seek care for vaping use disorder in family medicine clinical or student wellness center, tend to:
 - Have more vaping use disorders
 - Spend more money on vape products
 - Use higher concentrations of nicotine

Methods

- “Vaping Community Survey” was developed to gather data on the characteristics of 600 patients from 3 different types of primary care clinics
 - 8 FQHCs in and around the city of Camden, NJ (operated by CAMcare)
 - 5 family medicine clinics operated by Rowan Medicine
 - Student wellness center at Rowan University
- Evaluate differences in vaping and socioeconomic characteristics among the 3 populations to assist with developing interventions to address vaping use disorders
- The Vaping Community Survey will be piloted with 25 medical students and residents to determine average assessment burden and gather participant feedback on the assessments
- Inclusion criteria:
 - Adults ages 18-84 who have answered “yes” to a screening question (e.g. “Have you vaped or used an e-cigarette device in the past week?”)
 - Sufficient understanding to provide informed consent & complete the VAPE Community Survey
- Optional incentive of receiving \$10 gift card for participation
- Results will be evaluated through statistical analysis of the data

Results

- Anecdotally, it has been observed that patients often do not disclose their vaping status unless queried directly

Conclusion

- There are anecdotal observations suggesting patients do not disclose their vaping status unless directly asked, including how combustible substances are being used
- As this is an ongoing study, there is currently no data available to report

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