
THE IMPACT OF VAPING IN SCHOOLS: A GROWING CONCERN



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INTRODUCTION

- Vaping has become one of the most significant health and disciplinary issues in schools.
- Impacts extend beyond student health: school climate, attendance, and learning environments are affected.
- Addressing vaping requires collaboration among schools, families, and communities.

WHAT IS VAPING?

- Inhalation of aerosol from e-cigarettes or similar devices.
- Marketed as 'safer than cigarettes,' but contains nicotine and other harmful chemicals.
- Growing popularity due to flavors, social media influence, and misconceptions.



VAPES COME IN DIFFERENT SIZES, COLORFUL PACKAGING AND SOME RESEMBLE CANDY, MAKING IT ENTICING TO OUR YOUTH.



Vape companies use bright, colorful packaging, candy and fruit flavors to entice children and teens.

Educators and parents need more resources to differentiate a vape from a candy as they can look very similar.

Some vape cartridges can even mimic an apple watch!



CONNECTICUT SNAPSHOT

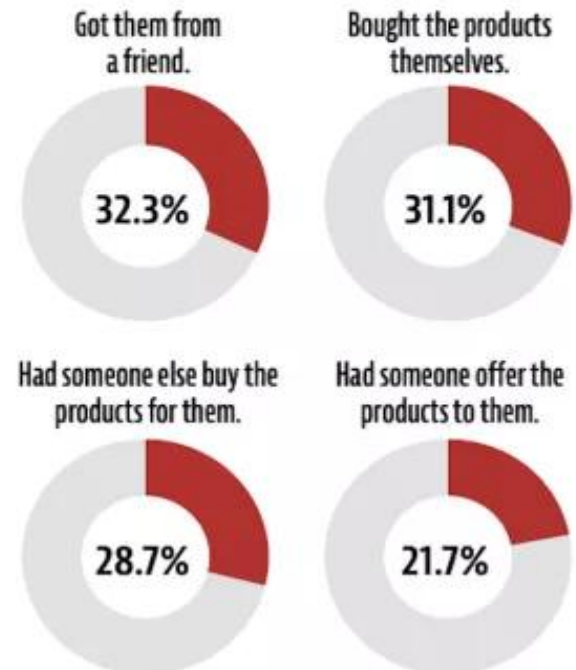
- CT middle & high schools report rising incidents of vaping in bathrooms and locker rooms.
- Flavored vaping remains a primary driver despite restrictions.
- Discipline referrals linked to vaping have increased across districts.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- Over 2.5 million U.S. middle and high school students currently use e-cigarettes (2023 CDC data).
- Nearly 85% use flavored products.

ACCESS TO THE VAPE

Among U.S. middle and high school students who used e-cigarettes in 2021:



SOURCE: CDC

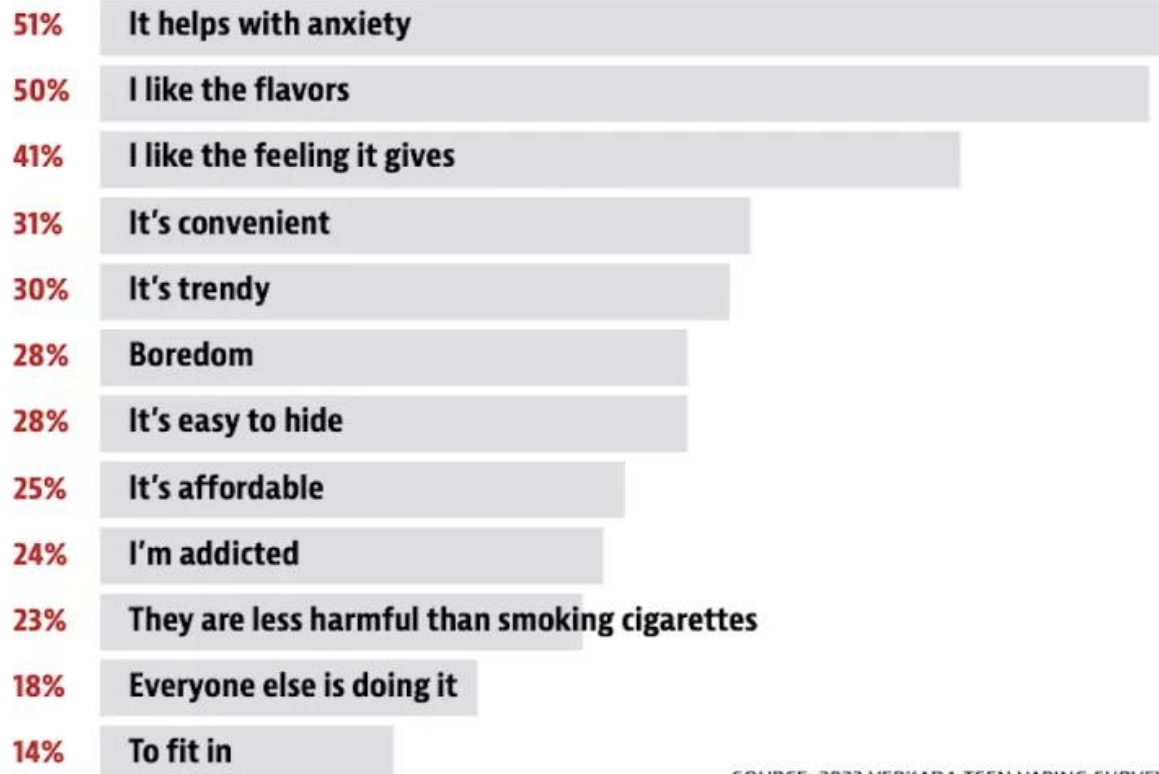
IMPACT ON SCHOOLS

- Health office visits related to nicotine use/withdrawal.
- Increased disciplinary incidents.
- Safety concerns: bathroom monitoring, vape detection systems.
- Strain on staff time and resources.
- Negative impact on learning and student focus.



WHEN TEENS WERE ASKED WHY THEY VAPE?

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS DESCRIBES WHY YOU VAPE?



SOURCE: 2023 VERKADA TEEN VAPING SURVEY

ENVIRONMENTAL & WASTE IMPACT OF VAPING

- Disposable vapes create significant waste: plastic, lithium-ion batteries, nicotine liquid.
- Many students discard vapes in bathrooms, hallways, or school grounds.
- Hazardous waste issue: batteries and chemicals cannot go in regular trash.
- Increased costs for custodial staff, disposal, and maintenance.
- Adds to the broader environmental footprint schools are working to reduce.

HEALTH & SAFETY CONCERNS

- Links to anxiety, depression, and concentration issues.
- Unknown long-term effects of inhaled chemicals.
- Risk of fires/explosions from devices on school property.

CURRENT RESPONSES

- State restrictions on flavored vaping products.
- District disciplinary policies updated to include vaping.
- Education campaigns and student support services.
- Schools adopting vape detectors and increasing supervision.

MOVING FORWARD

- Strengthen prevention education in health curriculum.
- Expand student support (counseling for nicotine addiction).
- Family engagement – parent workshops, communication strategies.
- Policy development – consistent, equitable enforcement.
- Collaborations with state and community agencies.

CLOSING | CALL TO ACTION

- Vaping is both a public health crisis and a school culture issue.
- Schools cannot solve it alone – requires partnerships among families, healthcare, policymakers, and communities.
- Commitment: Protecting student health and ensuring safe, supportive learning environments.
- Healthy students are better learners.