

There are many types of vaporizers, including electronic cigarettes, e-cigars, and hookah pens.

Vaporizing and Youth

Tobacco companies are targeting youth...

...and it is working.

Tobacco companies have a long history of marketing to youth and are now selling vaporizers in Colorado. Vaporizers appeal to youth because of colorful or trendy high-tech packaging and kid-friendly flavors such as strawberry, peach, and menthol. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), **the number of middle and high school youth who had tried an e-cigarette doubled** from 2011 to 2012.¹

Contains Highly Addictive Nicotine

Nicotine vaporizers, such as electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and hookah pens, vaporize liquid that can contain nicotine, **a poisonous and highly addictive substance**, and other chemicals and flavors. The high concentration of nicotine in refill containers, equivalent to anywhere from 2 to 9 packs of cigarettes, is an overdose risk, especially for children or pets.²

Can Contain Other Dangerous Chemicals

Nicotine vaporizers are not yet regulated for safety and health, so the contents in each product and the effects of vaporizing the chemicals are not known. Tests of different nicotine vaporizers have turned up **poisonous or cancer-causing chemicals** like formaldehyde and lead.³

Illegal for Youth but Easy to Buy

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy, possess, or use vaporizers.⁴ However, vaporizers are advertised and sold at stores where youth shop. **Youth are purchasing vaporizers online** by claiming to be older when asked for age verification.

Can Conceal Marijuana Use

Marijuana vaporizers can look and operate similar to nicotine vaporizers, and their **use is becoming widespread even among youth**. Manufacturers promote their ability to hide the odor of marijuana and ability to deliver very potent forms of marijuana. Marijuana affects brain development, and when it is used heavily by young people, the negative effects on thinking and memory may be permanent.⁵

DEFINITIONS

VAPING: *inhaling vapor from e-cigarettes or other vaporizing devices.*

E-JUICE: *the liquid inside refill cartridges for nicotine vaporizers. Also referred to as "e-liquid," "juice," or "smoke juice."*

What can you do?

If you have more questions or want to get involved in local prevention and policy efforts that promote tobacco-free living, visit www.tobaccofreejeffco.com, email tobaccofree@jeffco.com, or call 303-275-7555.

1. Center for Disease Control. "Notes from the Field: Electronic Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students- United States, 2011- 2012. MMWR. September 6, 2013 / 62(35);729-730.
2. Cameron JM et al. "Variable and potentially fatal amounts of nicotine in e-cigarette nicotine solutions." *Tobacco Control*. 2014; 23:77-78.
3. Goniewicz ML et al. "Levels of selected carcinogens and toxicants in vapour from electronic cigarettes." *Tobacco Control* 2014; 23 (2), p. 133.
4. Colorado Revised Statutes 18-13-121, 39-28.5-101
5. National Institute on Drug Abuse. DrugFacts: Marijuana. Revised January 2014. National Institutes of Health.

