



# 3 in 10 Ohio adults have used an e-cigarette; most favor taxing them

The **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** is conducted every year to learn more about the health opinions, behaviors and status of adults in Ohio. In 2017, OHIP asked Ohio adults several questions about electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

## WHAT DID OHIP FIND?

An electronic nicotine delivery system, also known as an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette, is a system that uses a battery and a heating element to deliver nicotine vapor to the user. Using such a device is widely known as “vaping.” In 2017, OHIP asked Ohio adults, “Have you ever used an electronic cigarette?” Nearly 3 in 10 Ohio adults (28%) reported having ever used an e-cigarette. This is higher than in 2016 (19%) and about the same as in 2015 (24%).

## Younger adults more likely to use e-cigarettes

Younger adults are more likely than older adults to have ever used an e-cigarette. Half of Ohio adults between the ages of 18 and 29 (50%) have ever used an

## Percentage of Ohio adults who report they have ever used an electronic cigarette

Ohio adults **28%**

### By age

18-29 **50%**

30-45 **37%**

46-64 **23%**

65 and older **4%**

### By cigarette smoking status

Current smoker **67%**

Former smoker **26%**

Never smoked **13%**

e-cigarette. This compares with more than 3 in 10 adults (37%) between the ages of 30 and 45, 2 in 10 adults (23%) between the ages of 46 and 64, and only 4% of adults 65 and older.

Research about the relationship between e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes is still evolving, including the question of whether one activity leads to the other. OHIP found that 7 in 10 adults who currently smoke traditional cigarettes (67%) had ever used an e-cigarette. This compares with

nearly 3 in 10 former cigarette smokers (26%) and more than 1 in 10 adults who have never smoked cigarettes (13%).

## 6 in 10 favor taxing e-cigarettes

OHIP asked, “Would you favor or oppose the State of Ohio placing an excise tax on the sale of e-cigarettes so that e-cigarettes are taxed at a rate similar to a pack of cigarettes?” Six in 10 Ohio adults (60%) favor

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such a tax, compared with only 3 in 10 adults (34%) who oppose it. These results were about the same among adults of all political parties

## Most Ohio adults believe electronic vapor harms children

OHIP also asked, “Do you believe that when children breathe the aerosol from other people’s electronic vapor products that it causes no harm, little harm, some harm or a lot of harm?” While research on this topic is ongoing, there does seem to be some level of harm to children exposed to electronic vapor.<sup>1</sup>

One in 10 Ohio adults (10%) believe that electronic vapor caused no harm to children. More than 1 in 10 Ohio adults (14%) believe electronic vapor causes little harm, 4 in 10 (43%) feel it causes some harm and 2 in 10 (23%) believe that it causes a lot

<sup>1</sup> Nguyen KH, Tong VT, Marynak K, King BA. Perceptions of Harm to Children Exposed to Secondhand Aerosol From Electronic Vapor Products, Styles Survey, 2015. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2017;14:160567. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd14.160567>

### Percentage of Ohio adults who favor placing an excise tax on the sale of e-cigarettes so that e-cigarettes are taxed at a rate similar to a pack of cigarettes



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of harm. The remaining 1 in 10 Ohio adults (11%) did not know.

### WHY DO WE ASK THESE QUESTIONS?

E-cigarettes are a fairly new product. The health risks of this product have not been clearly determined, and research is under way. While use of traditional tobacco products has been declining over the past decade, use of e-cigarettes is becoming more common, particularly among younger adults. These questions give a clearer indication of who is using e-cigarettes, and where public opinion stands on e-cigarette policy and safety.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

Teens from Youth to Youth International in Columbus are actively working to counter e-cigarettes and traditional tobacco products. Through data gathering, public policy advocacy, counter-marketing campaigns, and peer influencing, they are reducing smoking one teen at a time. Youth to Youth’s core mission is to develop young people into fully functioning adults and countering tobacco is just one component of that work. To find out more please visit [youthtoyouth.net/tobacco](http://youthtoyouth.net/tobacco).