

E-Cigarettes and Vaporizing

PROBLEM: E-cigarettes are not risk-free and they contribute to smoking and vaping by youth.

- **Increase in Youth and Young Adult Use:** The number of middle and high school youth who currently use electronic smoking devices tripled from 2013 to 2014.¹ In 2012, 54% of 18-24 year olds in Colorado who smoke use both e-cigarettes and regular cigarettes. This reflects heavier nicotine use and shows evidence of difficulties quitting.² Exposure to nicotine can harm adolescent brain development and can be toxic to fetuses³.
- **Undermines Smoke-Free Policies:** E-cigarettes do not emit a “harmless vapor;” passive vaporizing can expose people to nicotine and other chemicals.⁴
- **Poison Risk:** The high concentration of nicotine in refill containers, equivalent to anywhere from 2—9 packs of cigarettes, is a poisoning risk, especially for children or pets.⁵ E-Liquid, used to fill vaporizing devices, contains toxic levels of nicotine, resulting in increased calls to Rocky Mountain Poison Control.⁶
- **Flavored to Attract Youth:** E-liquids and hookah pens come in a variety of flavors that appeal to kids; from bubble gum and fruit punch to vanilla and coffee.
- **Masks Marijuana Use:** Marijuana vaporizers can look and operate similar to nicotine vaporizers. Manufacturers promote their ability to hide the odor of marijuana and ability to deliver very potent forms of marijuana. Some e-cigarettes can be retrofitted to vaporize marijuana.⁷
- **Regulation and Safety:** As of 2016, the FDA finalized a rule extending its regulatory authority to cover all tobacco products, including vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens, electronic cigarettes, e-pipes, and all other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). The regulation will take several years to be fully implemented; thus, in the meantime, consumers should be aware that products currently on the market may not have been reviewed or approved by the FDA and may still contain harmful ingredients. A 2014 study indicated that tests of different nicotine vaporizers have turned up poisonous or cancer-causing chemicals like formaldehyde and lead.⁸



PROVEN APPROACHES: Some local governments have taken the opportunity to protect citizens from the potential harms of vaporizing by regulating e-cigarettes the same way that cigarettes and other tobacco products are currently regulated: by adding vaporizing in their existing smoke-free policies and regulating how e-cigarettes can be sold.⁹

WHAT ACTIONS HAVE COLORADO COMMUNITIES TAKEN?

- ⇒ Edgewater, 2014: Amended smoke-free ordinance to prohibit e-cigarette use and use of other vaporizing devices wherever smoking is prohibited.¹⁰
- ⇒ Golden, 2012, 2014: Required tobacco retailers to have a license; 2014 ordinance expanded smoke-free places and prohibits e-cigarette and other vaporizer use where smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Lakewood, 2014: Amended smoke-free law to prohibit use of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices where smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Fort Collins, Brighton, Louisville, 2014: All amended their local smoke-free laws to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes and other vaporizers wherever smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Greeley, 2015: Amended smoke-free law to prohibit use of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices where smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Arvada, 2015: Expanded the smoke-free law and prohibited the use of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices in all outdoor and most indoor public places where smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Wheat Ridge, 2015: Expanded the smoke-free law and added the prohibition of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices in places that are smoke-free.

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