

YOUTH TOBACCO USE

FACT SHEET

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Prince George's County

No tobacco product is safe for youth to use, whether it is smoked, smokeless, or electronic vapor. Reducing youth tobacco use is critical to prevent adult tobacco use: nearly 9 in 10 cigarette smokers began smoking by age 18. Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body; more than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking. Tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including 70 that cause cancer. Today, more youth are using electronic vapor products such as electronic cigarettes, most of which contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive, and can harm adolescent brain development which continues until age 25. Electronic vapor products are available with flavorings, which may be more appealing to youth.

In 2016, 18% of Prince George's County's graduating high school class used tobacco.

6,000

public high school students in the county are estimated to use tobacco products.



1 OUT OF EVERY 6

high school students indicated they use tobacco products.



16.6%
in 2016

high school tobacco use has decreased from 23% percent of students in 2014 to 16.6% in 2016.

Many students in the county have tried electronic vapor tobacco products.

Students in every grade use a variety of tobacco products, including: cigarettes, cigars, hookah, smokeless tobacco, and electronic vapor products.

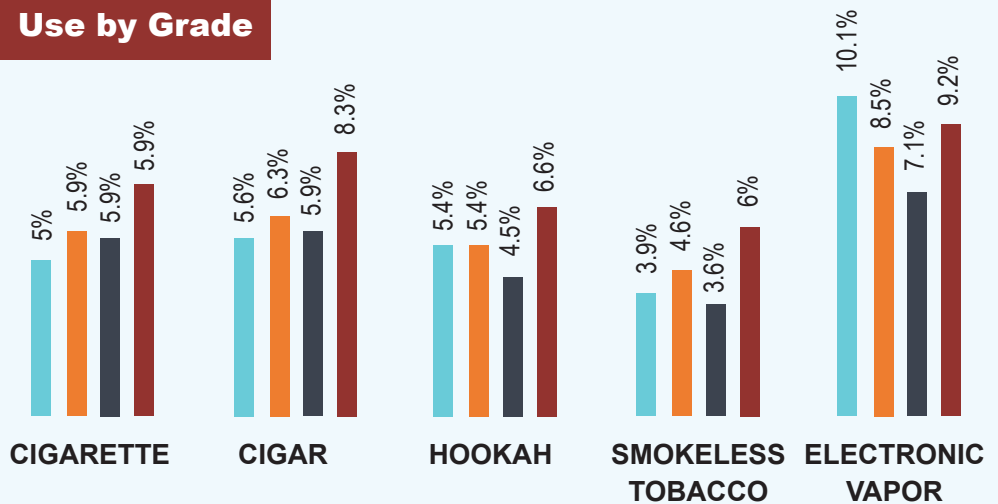


1 OUT OF EVERY 4

middle school students have tried an electronic vapor product.

Tobacco Use by Grade

9th 10th 11th 12th

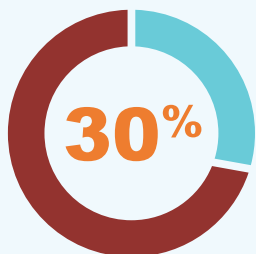


1 OUT OF EVERY 3

high school students have tried an electronic vapor product.

Many students are exposed to smoking at home.

Not all students are educated about the dangers of tobacco.



OVER 30%

of middle school students in the county live with someone who smokes cigarettes or cigars.

60%

of high school students reported being educated about the danger of tobacco use in their classes.

Data Sources: [Youth and Tobacco Use](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014](#); [2016 Maryland Youth Behavior Risk Survey](#), Maryland Department of Health; [2016-2017 Maryland Public School Enrollment](#), Maryland Department of Education

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