

# Health care providers want to learn more about E-cigarettes

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Cross-section of an e-cigarette.  
Illustration: US Food and Drug Admin.

(HealthDay)—Health care providers who treat adolescents are aware of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), but have moderately low levels of knowledge about them and comfort discussing their use, according to a study published online Dec. 10 in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

Jessica K. Peppers, M.P.H., from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and colleagues evaluated [health care providers](#)' awareness of e-cigarettes and examined their comfort with and attitudes toward discussing e-cigarettes with teenage patients and their parents. Data were collected from an online survey completed by a statewide sample of 561 Minnesota health care providers (46 percent family medicine physicians, 20 percent pediatricians, and 34 percent nurse practitioners) who treat [adolescents](#).

The researchers found that 92 percent of providers were aware of e-

cigarettes, and 11 percent reported treating an adolescent who had used them. Patients, news stories, and advertisements were most frequently cited as sources of information about e-cigarettes, rather than professional sources. Providers had moderately low levels of knowledge about and comfort discussing e-cigarettes with adolescents and their parents, and expressed considerable concerns that e-cigarettes could lead to tobacco use. Family physicians reported knowing more about e-cigarettes and being more comfortable discussing their use with patients (P

"Health care providers who treat adolescents may need to incorporate screening and counseling about [e-cigarettes](#) into routine preventive services, particularly if the prevalence of use continues to increase in this population," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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