

New study finds largest population increase among US adult ecigarette users is in younger adults

October 5 2020



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

A new study from the American Cancer Society assessed trends between 2014 and 2018 in the prevalence of e-cigarette use and population count

of e-cigarette users, according to combustible cigarette smoking histories, in younger (18-29 years), middle-aged (30-49 years), and older (50 years and older) U.S. adults. The study appears in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

The most notable finding was an increase in [e-cigarette use](#) among younger adult never smokers of combustible cigarettes, whose use nearly tripled (1.3% to 3.3%) between 2014-2018, potentially suggesting increasing primary [nicotine](#) initiation with e-cigarettes. While this two-percentage point increase appears modest, when combined with a large and growing prevalence and population of never-smokers nationally, this increase represented the largest absolute increase in [e-cigarette](#) users—an estimated 0.87 million more never smoking younger adults users in 2018 (1.35 million) than in 2014 (0.49 million). The authors also note substantial increases in e-cigarette use among near-term quitters (i.e. those that quit combustible cigarettes 1-8 years ago, when e-cigarettes proliferated the US retail market) across all age groups. This trend suggests continued use of e-cigarette devices among those who may have switched from cigarettes previously, potentially for nicotine maintenance.

"Urgent efforts are needed to address the potential rise in primary nicotine initiation with e-cigarettes among younger adults. It is also important to aid the transition of e-cigarette users—particularly among younger adults—to non-use of all tobacco or nicotine products given that the long-term consequences of e-cigarette use are mostly unknown," said Priti Bandi, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, Risk Factors Surveillance Research for The American Cancer Society.

More information: Priti Bandi et al. Trends in E-Cigarette Use by Age Group and Combustible Cigarette Smoking Histories, U.S. Adults, 2014–2018, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* (2020). [DOI: 10.1016/j.amepre.2020.07.026](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2020.07.026)

Provided by American Cancer Society

Citation: New study finds largest population increase among US adult ecigarette users is in younger adults (2020, October 5) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-10-largest-population-adult-ecigarette-users.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.