

Electronic Cigarettes: a new-fangled way to keep our kids addicted

Electronic cigarettes (a.k.a. e-cigarettes or e-cigs) are battery-operated devices that turn nicotine, flavor, and other chemicals into a vapor that is inhaled by the user. Makers of e-cigarettes claim they are a safe alternative to smoking traditional cigarettes. The truth is there is no evidence to back up that claim.

Why you should be concerned about the e-cigarette



- E-cigarettes can increase nicotine addiction among young people and may lead kids to try other tobacco products, including conventional cigarettes, which are known to cause disease and lead to premature death.
- The devices do not contain any health warnings comparable to FDA-approved nicotine replacement products or conventional cigarettes.
- Some e-cigarettes are refillable, using bottles of liquid nicotine (e-liquid). Liquid nicotine is colorless, bitter-tasting, and an extremely potent toxin. Young children could inadvertently swallow this e-liquid causing nicotine poisoning, which can lead to seizures and death.

When tested by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- One e-cigarette sample was found to contain diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze. Several other samples were found to contain carcinogens (cancer-causing agents), including nitrosamines.
- The Smoking Everywhere Electronic Cigarette cartridges listed as containing no nicotine, in some cases, had very low amounts of nicotine present.

The FDA is investigating manufacturers' health claims about electronic cigarettes and is deciding whether to ban the nicotine-delivery devices as the agency did with nicotine lollipops and nicotine beverages.

Users say the e-cigarette is a healthy alternative to traditional cigarettes because it produces no dreadful odors or billowing clouds of smoke. The downside to this is that without the strong odor of traditional cigarettes, your children may be getting addicted to a deadly product right under your nose.

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