



Tobacco UPDATE

An Update on Tobacco Control
and Prevention Activities
in Region 6/5S

Issue 10

July 2023

Tobacco News

FDA Issues 180+ Warning Letters to Retailers of Youth- Appealing Vapes

The FDA issued warnings letters to violators after a recent inspection blitz. The agency sent out 189 letters to retailers who are selling unauthorized cigarettes. The inspections targeted specific brands

such as Elf bars and ESCO bars. Both these



products are disposable e-cigarettes that are popular with the youth. They also do not have prior approval from the FDA, so retailers are not allowed to sell them. The FDA has only authorized [23 tobacco flavored e-cigarette products and devices](#). Selling tobacco products to any persons [under the age of 21](#) is illegal under federal law. [Full Article](#)

Maine Senate Votes to Ban Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products

The Maine senate voted to approve a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products. This includes flavored cigars, e-cigarettes, and vape pens.



Senator Jill Duson sponsored the bill, which came to a 18-16 vote. According to the senator, these flavors get kids hooked to smoking. Duson also shared how her family members have been hooked to tobacco. She said that this was due to targeted marketing of menthol cigarettes to black people. The same thing is happening with the youth today. Tobacco companies are targeting kids with flavors such as mint, candy, and fruit. Flavors like menthol and others, mask the harsh flavors of tobacco. This helps make it easier and more appealing for people to smoke. [Full Article](#)

Announcements & Events

Upcoming Events

July 21

- [Asthma Basics Workshop;](#)
Webinar; 11am-12:30pm CT

July 12

- [Gamechanger: Shifting from tobacco control to ending the industry's influence for good;](#)
Virtual; 12pm-1:30pm ET.

July 23-26

- [Texas Say What! Conference;](#)
Live in-person; Austin, TX

July 25

- [Litigation 101: How the Court System Can Impact Commercial Tobacco Control Policy;](#) **Virtual; 1:00pm CT; Registration Required.**

We Want to Hear from You!

Our tobacco coordinator helps community stakeholders with tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. This includes:

- Conducting presentations on tobacco and other products
- Connecting to resources that promote tobacco cessation
- Providing technical support on creating tobacco-free policies

If you have any needs related to tobacco/vaping prevention and control, please feel free to reach out. You can also send an email for any events and announcements you want included in our next issue. We release the newsletter every first week of the month. Please send your announcements/events a few weeks before.

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July Spotlight

Vape Devices

There are many types of e-cigarette devices. Just like cellphones, these devices have new models that come out each year. In today's spotlight we explain the most common types of e-cigarette devices.

Disposable E-cigarettes



These types of vapes are designed for one-time use. They are not rechargeable or refillable. Once it runs out of e-liquid or charge, users can discard it. Some are called cig-a-likes because they look the same as traditional cigarettes.

Brands: Elf Bar, Puff Bar, ESCO Bar, etc.

Pre-filled or Refillable Vape Pens



A type of rechargeable e-cigarette designed for multiple uses. The e-liquid

comes pre-filled or in refillable

cartridges. The cartridge is usually both separate from the battery pen.

Tanks or Mods

These devices can also be used multiple times. They are modifiable



devices. User can customize parts or substances in the device.

Pre-filled Pods/ Pod-Mods



Pod Mods are devices with pre-filled or refillable "pods" which you

can also modify. They come in many shapes and form. Pods can come in different flavors or substances like THC or CBD.

Brands: JUUL, Vuse, Suorin, etc.

If you or anyone you know would like to quit vaping or smoking, help is available at the Texas Tobacco Quitline.

The Texas Tobacco Quitline is FREE and can provide you resources for quitting, please visit this [link](#) or call: **877-YES-QUIT**

Latest in Research

E-cigarette-Associated Cases Reported to Poison Center from 2022-2023

The CDC published a new report last month in it's Monthly Morbidity and Mortality Report. The report talks about case reports to poison centers



that involve e-cigarettes. The study collected data from April 2022 until March 2023.

There were 7,043 e-cigarette exposures during that period. This is double the 2018 data. The researchers also saw an increase of 32% in reported cases from April 2022 to March 2023. Most of the cases involved children less than 5 years old (87.8%). Inhalation and ingestion were the most common routes of exposure. Around 8% required treatment a medical facility. Only 5% of reports indicated the e-cigarette brand. Elf bar was the most common brand among those reported.

E-cigarettes have the potential to cause poisoning in young children. It

is a continuing public health concern. Raising awareness about the dangers of vapes will be key in preventing these cases. [Full Article.](#)

E-cigarette Unit Sales by Product and Flavor Type, 2020-2022

The CDC also released data on E-cigarette sales last month. Sales data was from the years 2020-2022.

The study found that e-cigarette sale increased by 46.6%



during that period. Pre-filled cartridge sales decreased from 75.2% to 48%. However, disposable e-cigarette sales more than doubled from 24.7% to 51.8% during the same period. Among disposable e-cigarettes, Elf bar was the most popular brand. Flavored disposable e-cigarettes are the most common device type reported.

Restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products is a great strategy to limit youth use. Flavored tobacco products include flavored cigars, e-cigarettes, and menthol cigarettes. Combining this strategy with other [evidence-based approaches](#) can reduce youth initiation. [Full Article](#)



References

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