

A descriptive study of the behavior, beliefs and use of electronic cigarettes among a sample of college students with asthma.

Mary Martinasek, Haley Longo and Marissa Barton

Background

Electronic Cigarettes are ubiquitous in the US. Increasing evidence suggests that these devices are not merely water vapor, but have constituents that when heated produce carcinogens. A lack of educational information on these devices has resulted in increased usage to those who have never been former smokers.

Methods

This research study was a cross sectional online survey administered at one university in Florida. The survey was sent to all undergraduate and graduate students. The survey data explored students who had reported being diagnosed by a doctor with asthma. This data was partitioned and analyzed to better understand if electronic cigarettes were of concern with students with asthma. Our research questions were to understand the behavior and use of e-cigarettes among college students.

Results

Of the 827 total sample, some of the descriptive results indicated that 19% (n=157) of the participants have been diagnosed with asthma. Of those with an asthma diagnosis, 49% indicated having ever used (even one or two puffs) of an electronic cigarette. Top influencers were friends (55%) and primary site of smoking was at home (25%). Nearly half of individuals with asthma did not use the product every day. Results also indicated that of those individuals with asthma, 47.8% perceived electronic devices as less harmful than cigarettes. Negative symptoms included coughing and throat irritation. Primary reasons for use included "no particular reason" and "healthy alternative".

Conclusion

The perception of electronic devices as being safe devices has propelled their usage even among those with underlying respiratory conditions. Programs and interventions should be focused on educating college students, and in particular those with asthma.

Notification of Acceptance

You will be notified of acceptance of your abstract by May 15, 2016. It is the author's responsibility to confirm receipt of notification of acceptance or non-acceptance of abstract. Please contact Lisa C Johnson immediately if email is not received by May 15, 2016. If your poster is selected for display, you will be responsible for travel, lodging, and other expenses.

Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts

AAE Annual Conference • August 5 - 7, 2016
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL
Submission Deadline: March 15, 2016
Please submit the following information with abstract.
Use one sheet per abstract.

*Submitting Author

First Name: Mary Last Name: Martinasek

Degrees: PhD, MPH, AE-C, RRT

Professional Title: Assistant Professor in Public Health

Organization/Institute: University of Tampa

Organization Address: 401 W. Kennedy Blvd.

City/State/Zip: Tampa

Email Address: MMartinasek@ut.edu

Preferred Phone: 813-257-5037

Additional Authors (List all authors. Use a separate sheet for additional names.)

Additional Author: Marisa E Barton

Degrees: student

Professional Title: Student researcher

Organization/Institute: University of Tampa

Organization Address: 401 West Kennedy Blvd

City/State/Zip: Tampa, FLA 33606

Email Address marisa.barton@spartans.ut.edu Preferred Phone 815-219-9691

Additional Author: Haley N Longo

Degrees: student Professional Title: Student researcher

Organization/Institute: University of Tampa

Organization Address: 401 West Kennedy Blvd

City/State/Zip: Tampa, FL 33606

Email Address: haley.longo@spartans.ut.edu Preferred Phone: 860-595-7191

ADD MORE SPOTS IF NEEDED FOR ADDITIONAL AUTHORS

Abstract Major Area (check one)

Asthma Diagnosis and/or Care

Asthma Education Program or Program Evaluation

Device and Technique Evaluation

Drug Clinical Trial

Data (check one)

Abstract with data

Abstract without data

*All correspondence will be through submitting author. Please specify if submitting author is different from presenting author.

Presenting authors will be Marisa and Haley