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Smoking Cessation  
Leadership Center



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University of California  
San Francisco

# E-cigarettes and Novel Tobacco Products: Use and Cessation, co-hosted by ATTUD

**Pamela M. Ling, MD, MPH**

**Michael Steinberg, MD, MPH, FACP**

October 18, 2022

# Moderator

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University of California, San Francisco

A National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-  
Free Recovery

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**Catherine Bonniot Saucedo, Anita Browning, Christine Cheng, Brian Clark, Pamela Ling, MPH, MD, Jennifer Matekuare, Ma Krisanta Pamatmat, MPH, Jessica Safier, MA, Michael Steinberg, MD, MPH, FACP, and Aria Yow, MA.**

# Thank you to our funders



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- For technical assistance please contact (877) 509-3786 or [Jessica.Safier@ucsf.edu](mailto:Jessica.Safier@ucsf.edu).
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# Today's Presenter

## **Pamela M. Ling, MD, MPH**

Professor of Medicine in the Division of  
General Internal Medicine and

Director of the Center for Tobacco Control  
Research and Education

University of California, San Francisco



# Today's Presenter

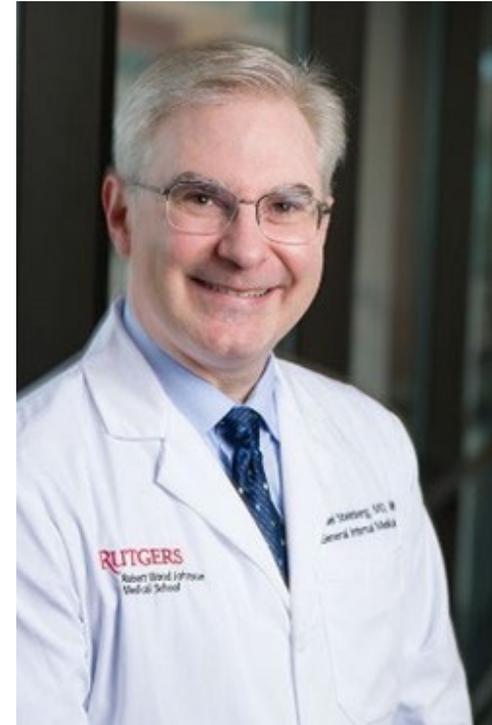
## **Michael Steinberg, MD, MPH, FACP**

Professor and Chief Division of General Internal Medicine and Vice-Chair for Clinical Research

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Medical Director

Rutgers Center for Tobacco Studies





Center for Tobacco Control  
Research and Education

# E-cigarettes and Novel Tobacco Products

Smoking Cessation Leadership Center & Association for the  
Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD)

Pamela Ling, MD MPH

10/18/2022

# Thanks to

Stan Glantz

Yogi Hendlin

Jesse Elias

Manali Vora

Sarah Rosen

Stella Bialous

Tanner Wakefield

Minji Kim

Shannon Watkins

Julia McQuoid

Nhung Nguyen

Lucy Popova

Mary Hrywna

Jane Lewis

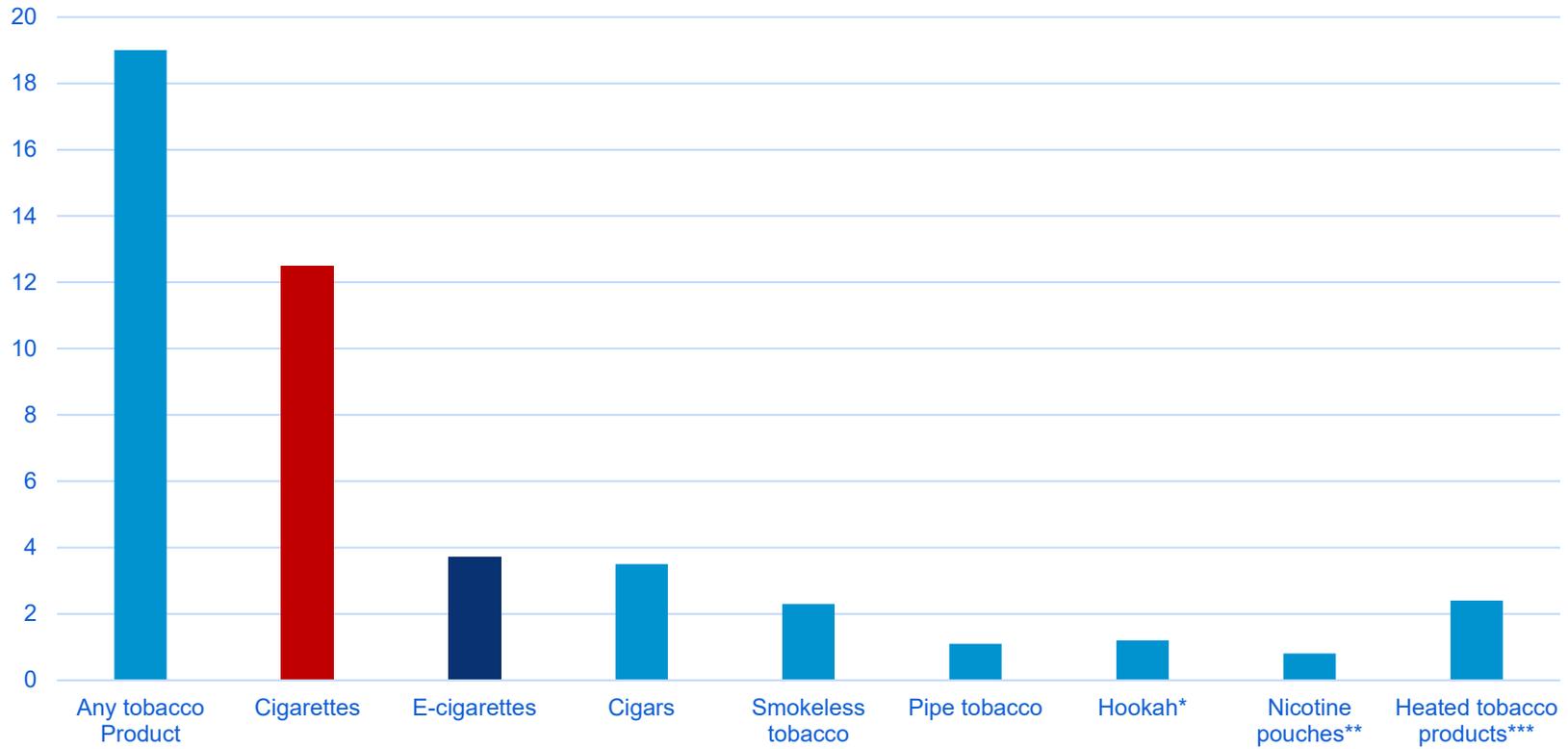
Gene Talbot

- Disclosures: none
- Funders: NIH, FDA, TRDRP
- Images of tobacco products shown for educational purposes
- I do not endorse use of these products

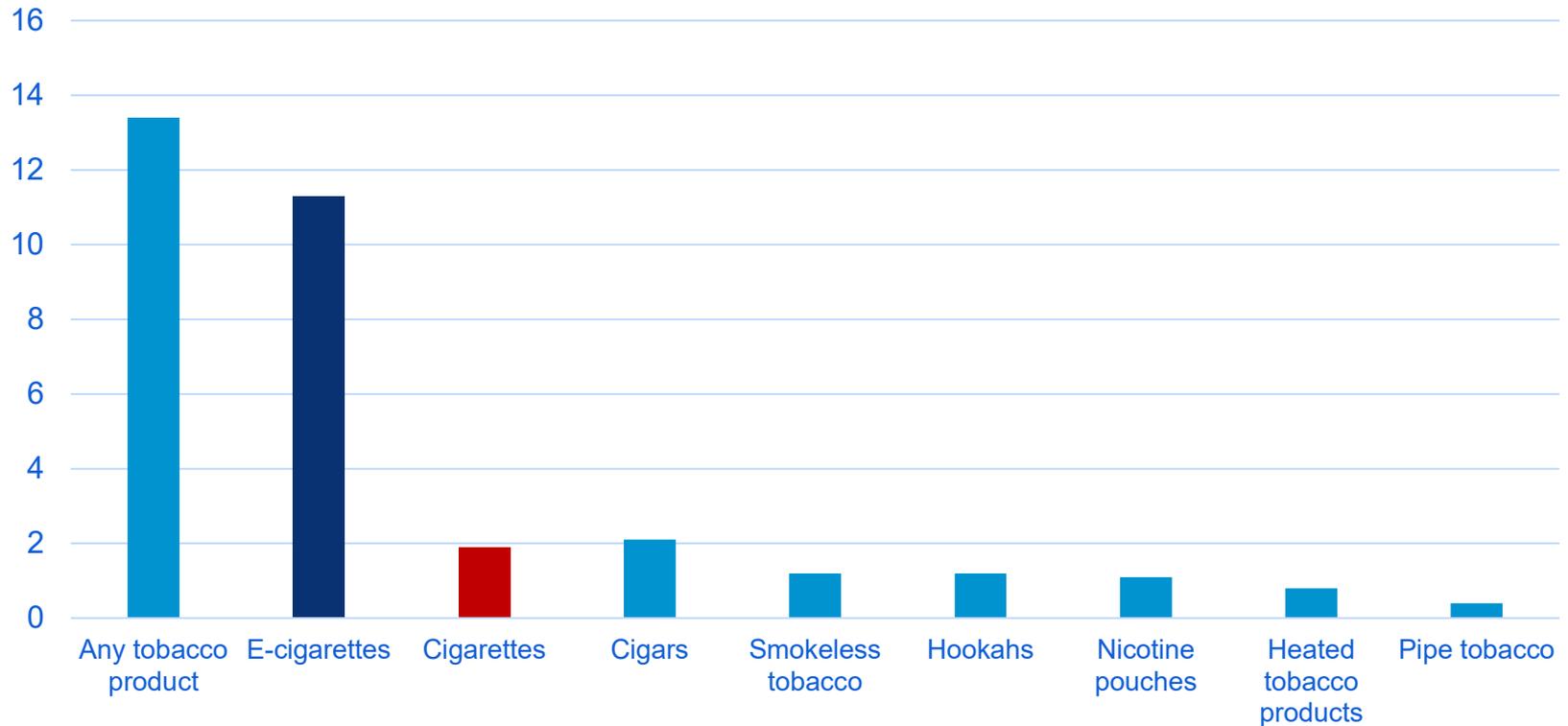
# Learning Objectives

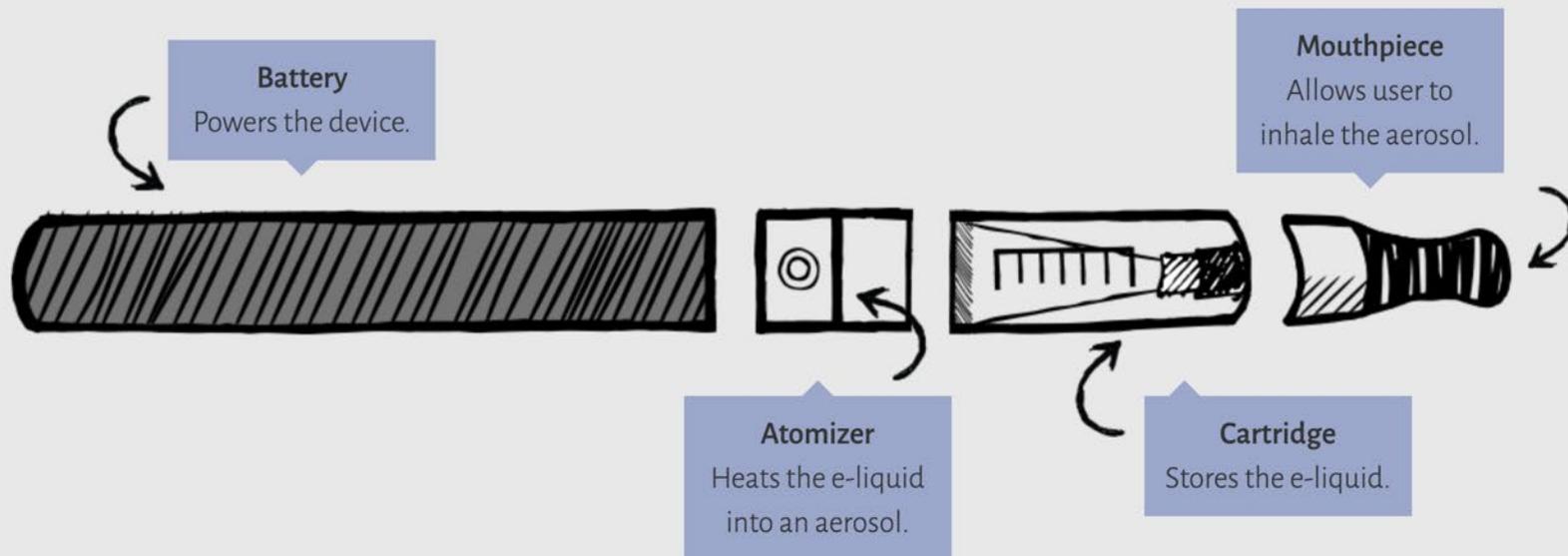
- Interpret understanding of the changing landscape of tobacco and nicotine products when assessing patients and be able to identify 3 novel tobacco and nicotine products
  - Next generation ENDS
  - Heated tobacco products
  - Nicotine pouch products and other oral nicotine
- Assess the latest evidence on e-cigarette safety, health impact and cessation efficacy

# Current Tobacco Use, Adults



# Current tobacco use, High School





# What's an electronic cigarette?



# E-cigarettes in 2022



\$8



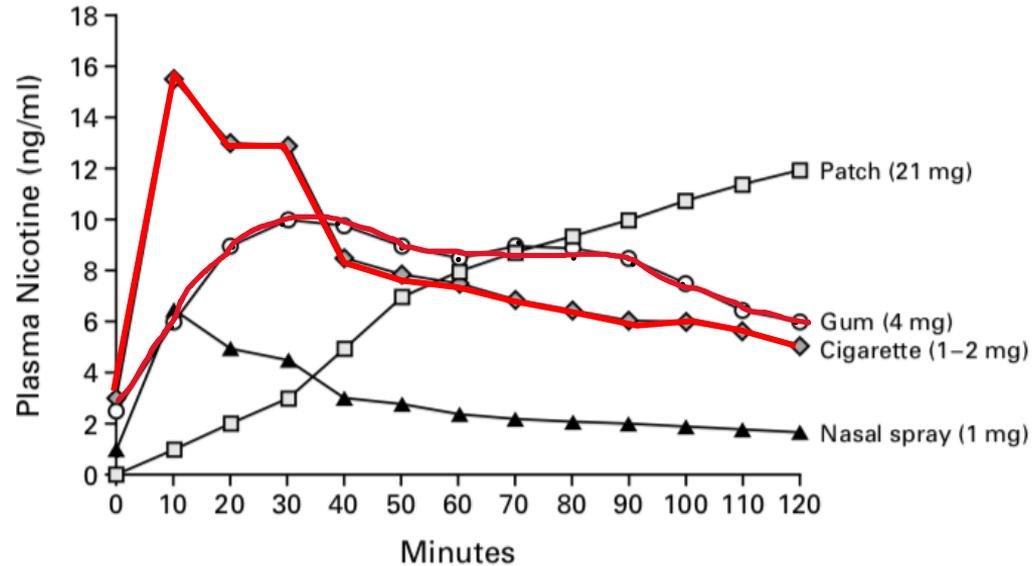
\$9  
+  
\$6



\$17-23



\$8-15



**Figure 2.** Plasma Nicotine Levels after a Smoker Has Smoked a Cigarette, Received Nicotine Nasal Spray, Begun Chewing Nicotine Gum, or Applied a Nicotine Patch.

The amount of nicotine in each product is given in parentheses. The pattern produced by the use of the nicotine inhaler (not shown) is similar to that for nicotine gum. Modified from Garrett et al.<sup>12</sup>

# Nicotine salts

- Different acids added to liquids for e-cigarette devices
- Increase palatability and product appeal
- Perceived as innovative and higher quality
- Allow higher nicotine concentration
- Wick design can also increase nicotine delivery



Leventhal AM, et al, Effect of Exposure to e-Cigarettes With Salt vs Free-Base Nicotine on the Appeal and Sensory Experience of Vaping: A Randomized Clinical Trial. JAMA Netw Open. 2021 Jan 4;4(1):e2032757.

Harvanko AM, Havel CM, Jacob P, Benowitz NL. Characterization of Nicotine Salts in 23 Electronic Cigarette Refill Liquids. Nicotine Tob Res. 2020 Jun 12;22(7):1239-1243.

# High nicotine delivery



1 pod = 200 puffs =  
1 pack of cigarettes



1 unit = 3000 puffs =  
15 pack of cigarettes

# Large volume vapes – 10,000 puffs



# Addiction sneaks up on you



“It's not like a nonstop hitting it, but it's just like every lull in conversation or downtime in between doing something, I'm casually hitting the JUUL. There's a point where you don't even realize - for me - that I was really using it or had it in my hands, anymore. It's just a natural extension of my body.”

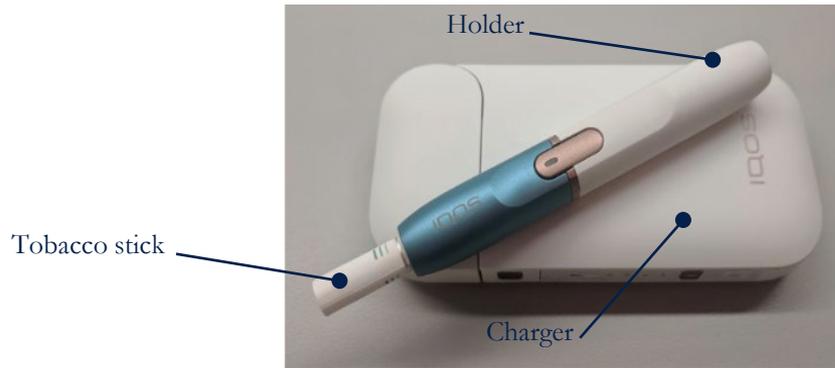
# Vuse Solo, Ciro, Vibe Authorized by FDA but 95% sales Vuse Alto



# What is IQOS?

“Heated Tobacco Products” or “Heat-not-burn” by Philip Morris/Altria

- Heating blade heats tobacco stick (branded Marlboro HeatSticks in US/Japan or HEETS in other markets) up to 350°C (=662°F)
- Leads global heated tobacco product market – in over 60 countries
- July 2020 FDA authorized marketing as “reduced exposure”
- Nov 2021 US sales put on hold due to patent lawsuit



# Other heated tobacco products (1)



KT&G - lil

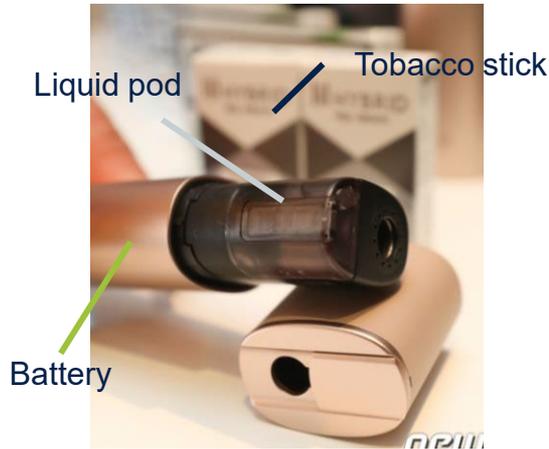
BAT - glo



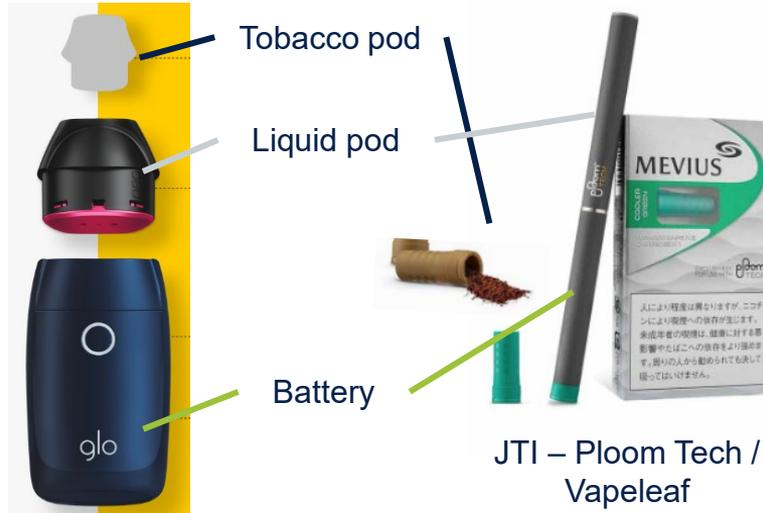
China Tobacco - MOK

# Other heated tobacco products (2)

“Hybrid” type – tobacco pod/stick and no-nicotine liquid pods



KT&G – lil Hybrid



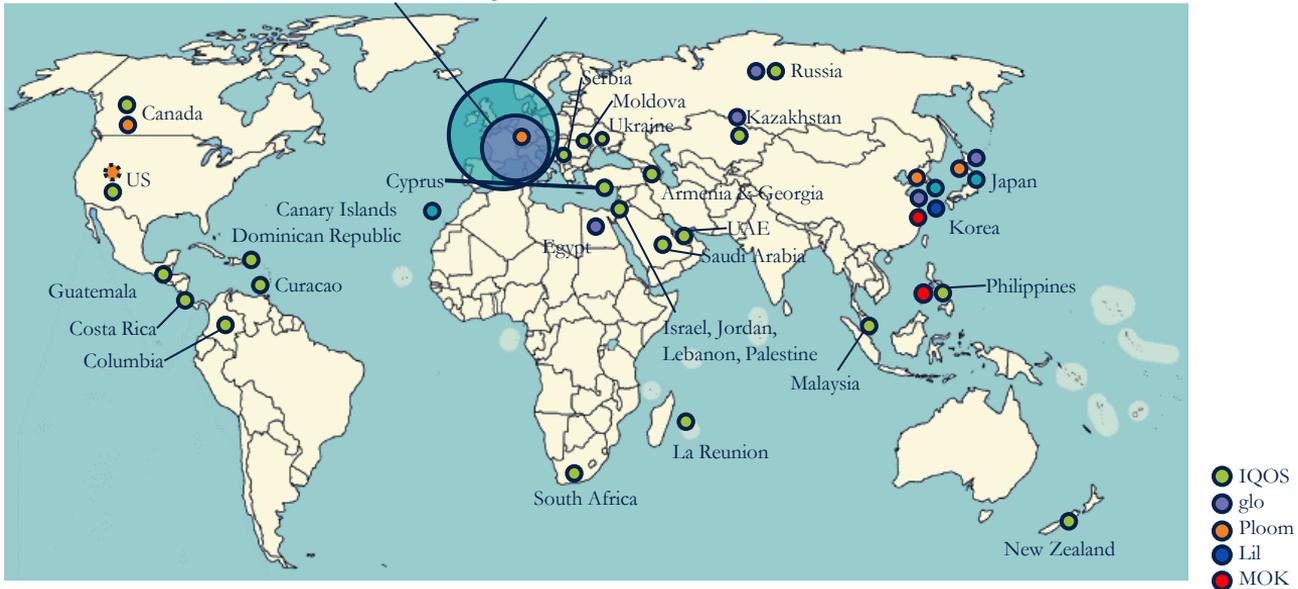
BAT – Glo Sens

JTI – Ploom Tech /  
Vapeleaf

# Where are they available now?

Glo in Europe: Azerbaijan, Croatia, Czech, Germany, Greece, Italy, North Cyprus, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine

IQOS in Europe: Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, UK



# Marketing IQOS



Kim, M. (2018) *Tobacco Control*.

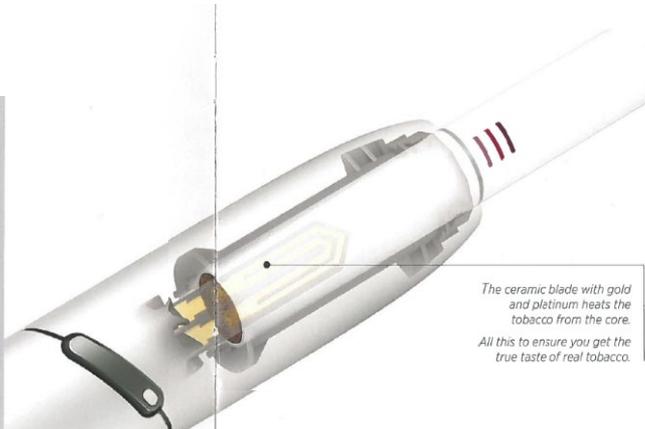
Image – Top: PMI Investor Relations Material; Bottom: Churchill et al., (2020) *Tobacco Control*.

# Combining novel electronic device and familiar tobacco leaf



“The packaging is beautiful. It feels like I am opening up a new phone or – Oh my God, if you guys didn't tell me this was a tobacco product, I would not know. It seems too sleek and elegant. This is so cool. It’s so fancy.”

(Female, 30, White, cigarettes)



*The ceramic blade with gold and platinum heats the tobacco from the core. All this to ensure you get the true taste of real tobacco.*

“I would describe it, like a PAX for tobacco. Because it’s actual leaf. It's not an oil or a tincture or a gooey vape fluid.”

(Female, 24, Multi-racial, cigarettes)

# Oral Nicotine Products



Swedish Match



Reynolds American/BAT



Altria



Swisher International



**WARNING:** This product contains nicotine.  
Nicotine is an addictive chemical.

**WARNING:** This product contains nicotine.  
Nicotine is an addictive chemical.



**WARNING:** This product contains nicotine.  
Nicotine is an addictive chemical.

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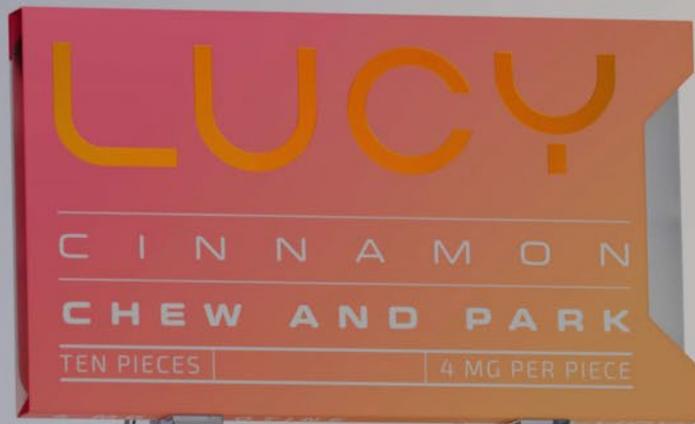
OUR MISSION

HELP & FAQs

ACCOUNT



LUCY IS THE  
DEFINITIVE NICOTINE  
ALTERNATIVE



WARNING: This product contains nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive chemical. [Dismiss.](#)



Tastes like  
real **fruit** not  
nicotine



# Lucy pouches, gum and lozenges in 2022



4, 8, 12 mg  
not NRT



2, 4, 6 mg  
not NRT

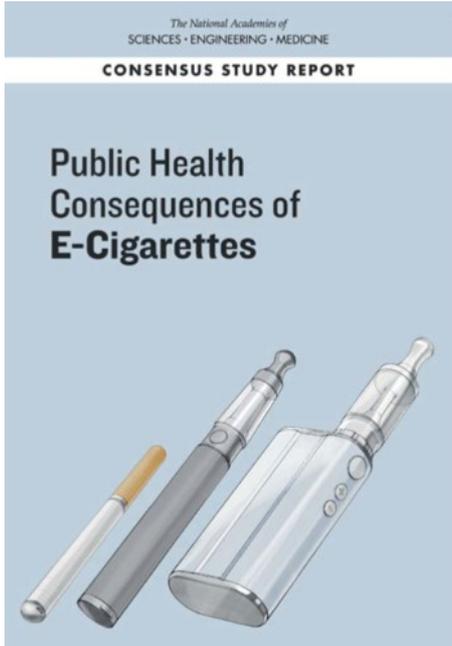


4, 8 mg  
not NRT



4 mg NRT

# National Academy of Sciences Engineering and Medicine Report - 2018



- Comprehensive literature review
- Short and long term health effects

National Centre for Epidemiology  
and Population Health



Australian  
National  
University

## Electronic cigarettes and health outcomes: systematic review of global evidence

Report for the Australian Department of Health

Emily Banks, Amelia Yazidjoglou, Sinan Brown, Mai Nguyen, Melonie Martin,  
Katie Beckwith, Amanda Daluwatta, Sai Campbell, Grace Joshy



# Published April, 2022

Worldwide systematic review

Update since 2018 NASEM report,  
other international reports

“Top up” review of new studies

Graded quality of evidence

# Health effects of e-cigarette use

- Conclusive evidence complete switching reduces exposure to toxicants
- No evidence on how e-cigarettes use affects CV outcomes (e.g. myocardial infarction, stroke or atherosclerosis)
  - In smokers, e-cigarettes increase blood pressure, arterial stiffness, impair endothelial function
  - Smokers switching completely long term decreases blood pressure
- Insufficient evidence on e-cigarette use and asthma, bronchitis or COPD in smokers, no evidence on nonsmokers
- No or insufficient evidence on effect on cancer, reproductive health, mental health, neurologic disease, sleep, oral health, wound healing

# E-cigarettes and smoking cessation

- Not FDA approved for cessation or recommended by USPSTF
- The UK recommends them but most other countries do not
  - E-cigarettes sales are banned in 32 countries
- Increased smoking cessation under RCT conditions
  - Modestly better than NRT
    - Most did not compare to varenicline
    - All smokers received counseling
- Don't improve cessation when used as a consumer product

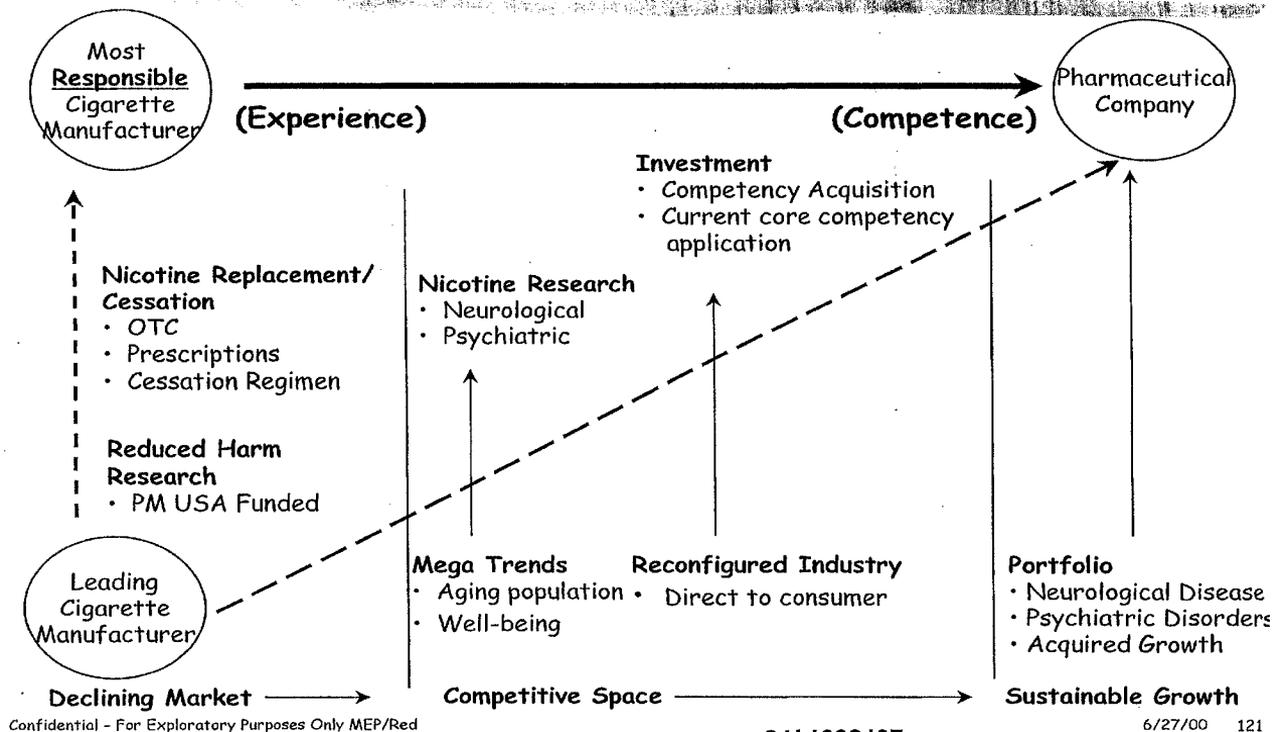
# The Pharmaceuticalization of the Tobacco Industry

Yogi Hale Hendlin, PhD; Jesse Elias, MA; and Pamela M. Ling, MD, MPH

- Standardized dosing
- Sleek, medical design
- Government certification
- Renormalization



# Pharmaceutical Exploration



Source: <http://industrydocuments.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/qskl0172>

# Novel products and harm reduction discourse

- Products that look like medicines seem safer
- Vague claims
- Third-party vaping advocacy groups make vocal more extreme claims



# Nicotine

Explained



September 2013

At the levels found in cigarette smoke, e-cigarette vapours or the concentrations in nicotine replacement products, nicotine is likely to be no more risky for most people than regularly drinking coffee.



Source: "Nicotine Explained." British American Tobacco. 2013.

# Summary

- Novel tobacco products continue to proliferate
- Increasing nicotine delivery through salts and size
- Many circumvent regulation of flavors
- Advertising on social media is more aggressive
- Multiple products under the same brand
  - Authorization becomes unclear (Vuse)
  - Status as NRT unclear (Lucy)
- Tobacco companies repositioning as nicotine pharmaceuticals
- Non-nicotine products on the horizon – vitamins, CBD



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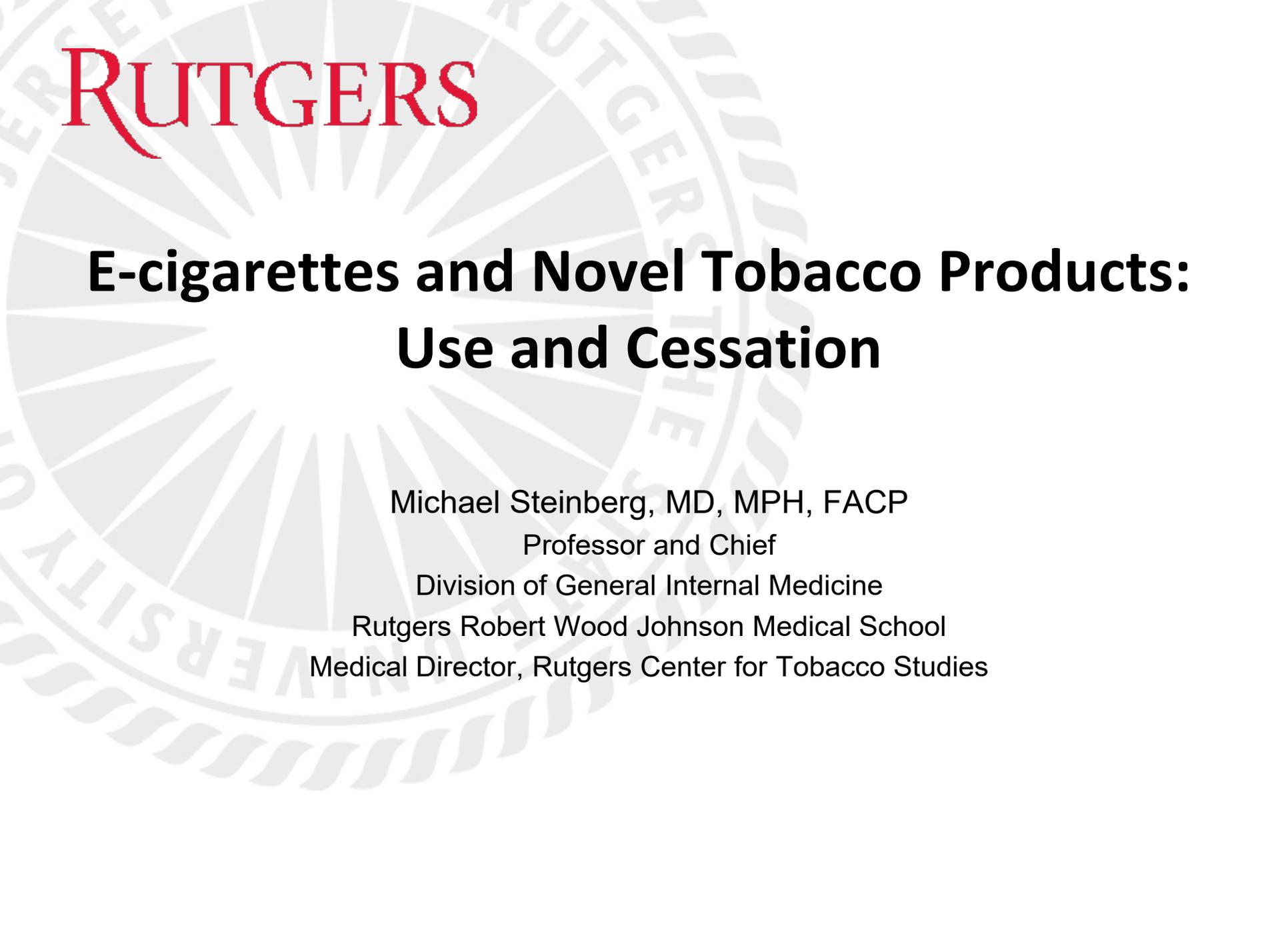
Ocean+CBD Original Diffuser

Eucalyptus | Lime | Tangerine

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LOGIN

The background of the slide features a large, light gray watermark of the Rutgers University seal. The seal is circular and contains the text "RUTGERS UNIVERSITY" around the perimeter. In the center of the seal is a sunburst design with rays emanating from a central point.

**RUTGERS**

# **E-cigarettes and Novel Tobacco Products: Use and Cessation**

Michael Steinberg, MD, MPH, FACP

Professor and Chief

Division of General Internal Medicine

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Medical Director, Rutgers Center for Tobacco Studies

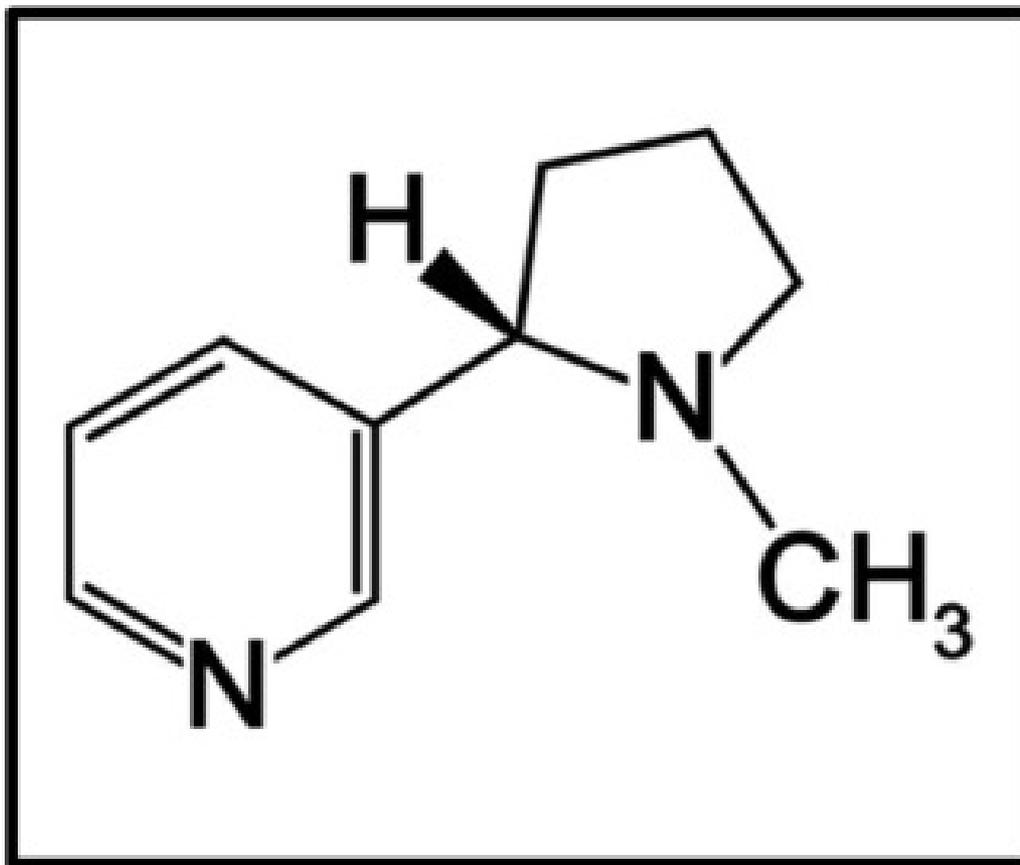
# Objectives

- Describe the unique aspects in assessing use behaviors and nicotine dependence for ENDS users
- Develop evidence-based strategies to assist with cessation of ENDS themselves for dependent users

# Disclosure

- No commercial disclosures

# Nicotine – Key Component of FDA policy



# FDA Faced a “challenging crossroads”



## Highlights of Nov. 15, 2018 Statement, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb MD:

- Despite progress, we find ourselves at a very challenging crossroads.
- ***We didn't predict...an epidemic of e-cigarette use among teenagers.***
- ***...nicotine isn't a benign substance...especially...when it comes to children, and the effects...on a developing brain.***

# Nicotine Perceptions

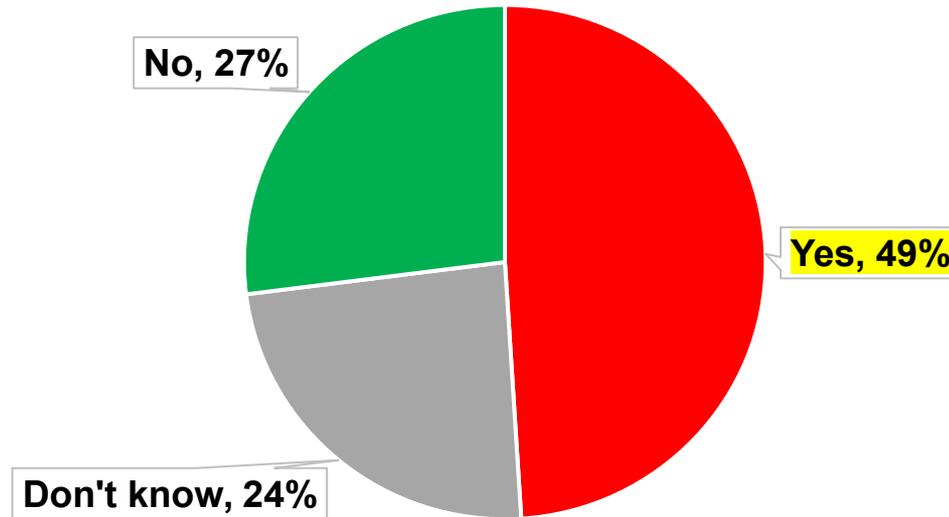
- Since Nicotine is a key component of FDA policy going forward, understanding how Nicotine is perceived is critical

# Truth Initiative Young Adult Cohort Study

- Participants aged 18-40 (n = 4,091) in Wave 10 (Fall 2016)
- 19 items on nicotine and nicotine product perceptions, including health harms of nicotine patch/gum and e-cigarettes compared to cigarettes.
- **66%** reported nicotine is responsible for a "relatively" or "very large" part of the **health risks** caused by smoking
- **More than half of young adults (55%)** believed that nicotine is a **cause of cancer**.
- Females, Blacks, Hispanics, and those with less than some college education
  - More likely to report true or "don't know" to "nicotine is a cause of cancer"
  - Higher odds of believing that nicotine was responsible for a "relatively" or "very large" part of the health risks of smoking and cancer caused by smoking

# HINTS - Health Information National Trends Survey

## Nicotine Causes Cancer

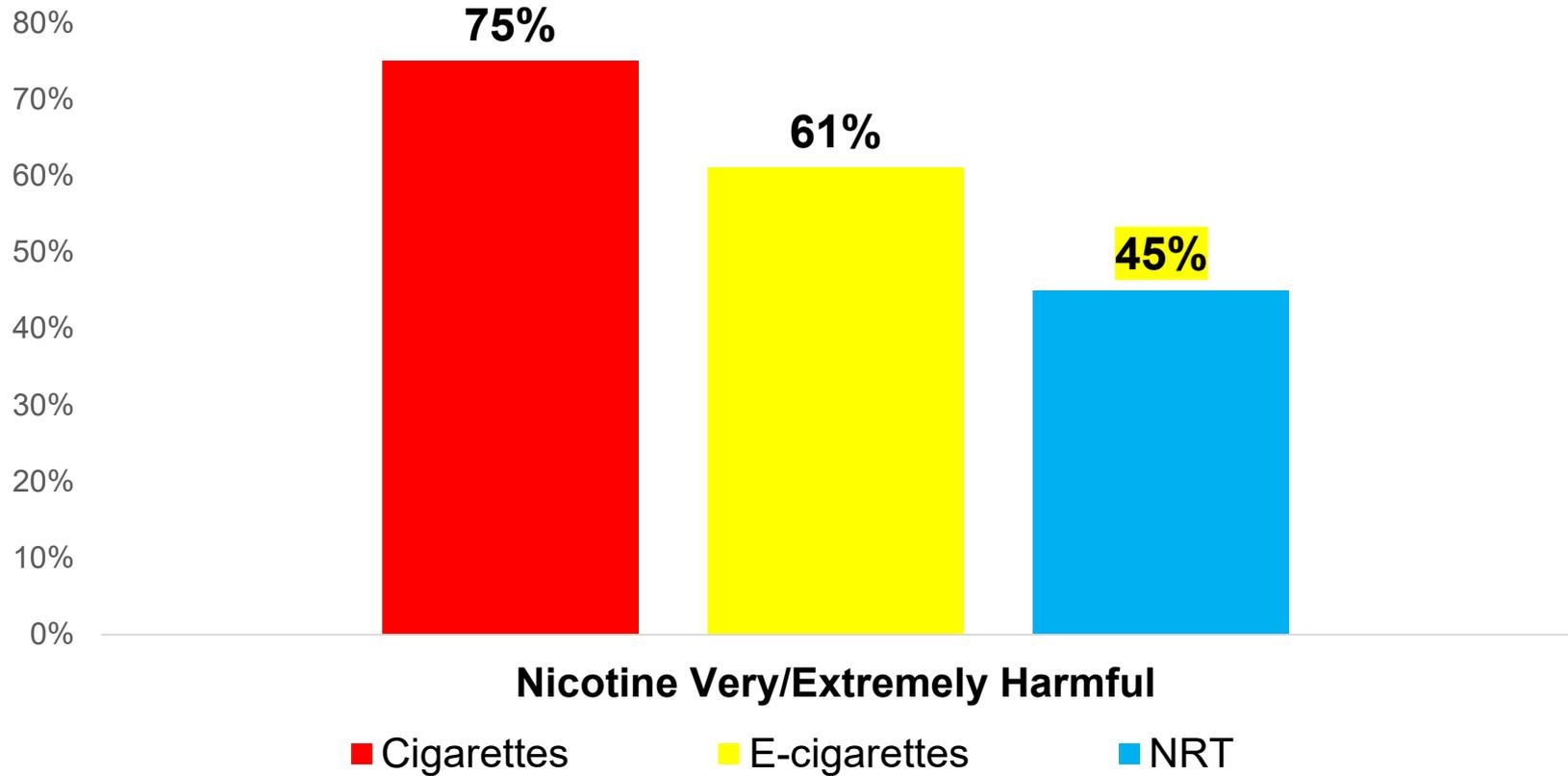


N=3,738

O'Brien et.al., Prev Med; 2017

# PATH

## Perceived Harm of Nicotine by Product Type

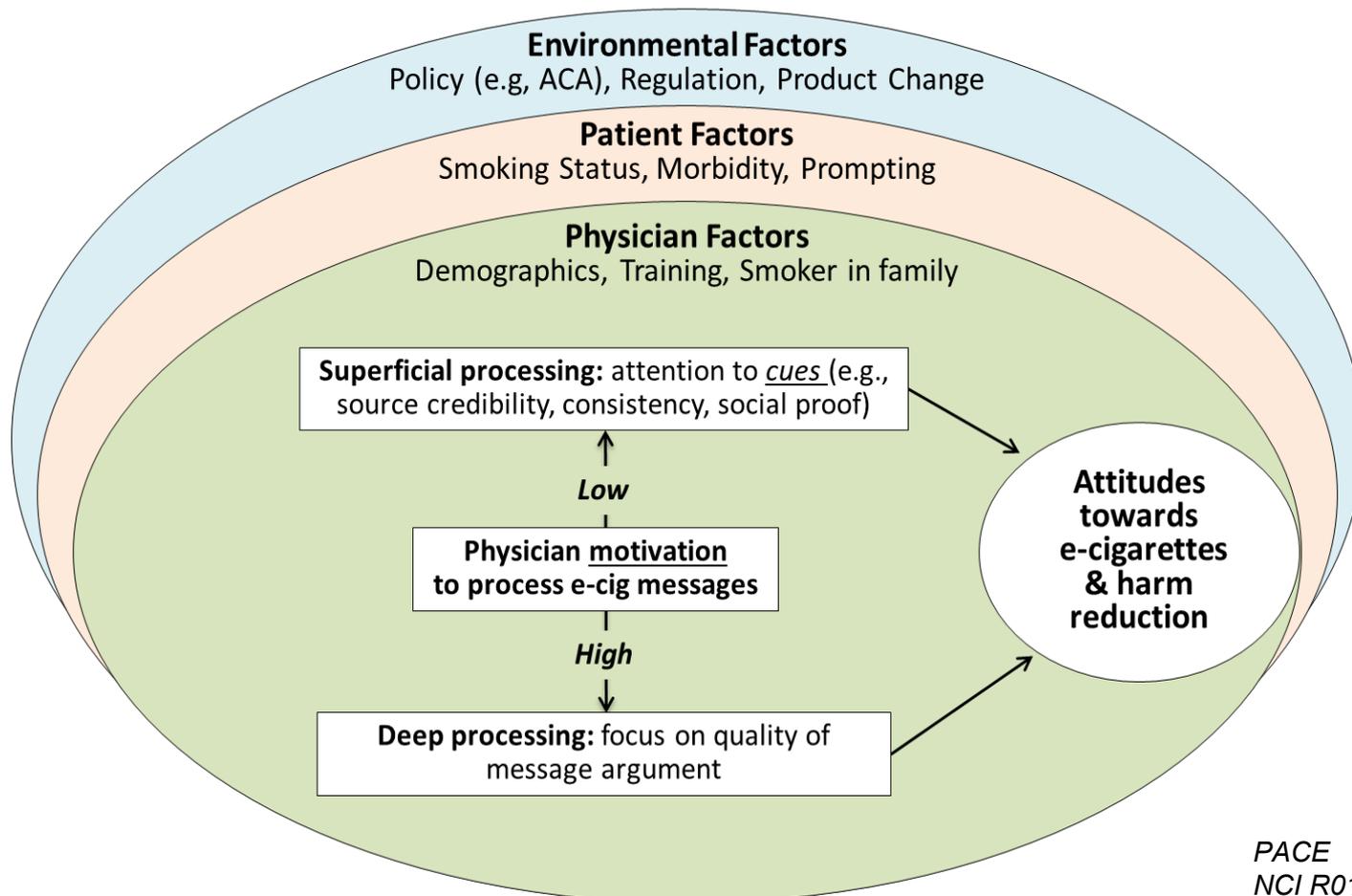


# General Public Perceptions - Summary

- Majority (66-75%) believe Nicotine is responsible for much of harm to health from nicotine containing products
- Approximately HALF believe Nicotine causes cancer
- Misperceptions more common among
  - Over age 65
  - Black, Hispanic, “other” race/ethnicity
  - Lower education
- Perceived harm of nicotine varies by product source
  - Even high for NRT... problem for utilization

What about physicians?

# Conceptual Framework for e-cigarette discussion during patient encounter



# PACE – Response (Wave 1)

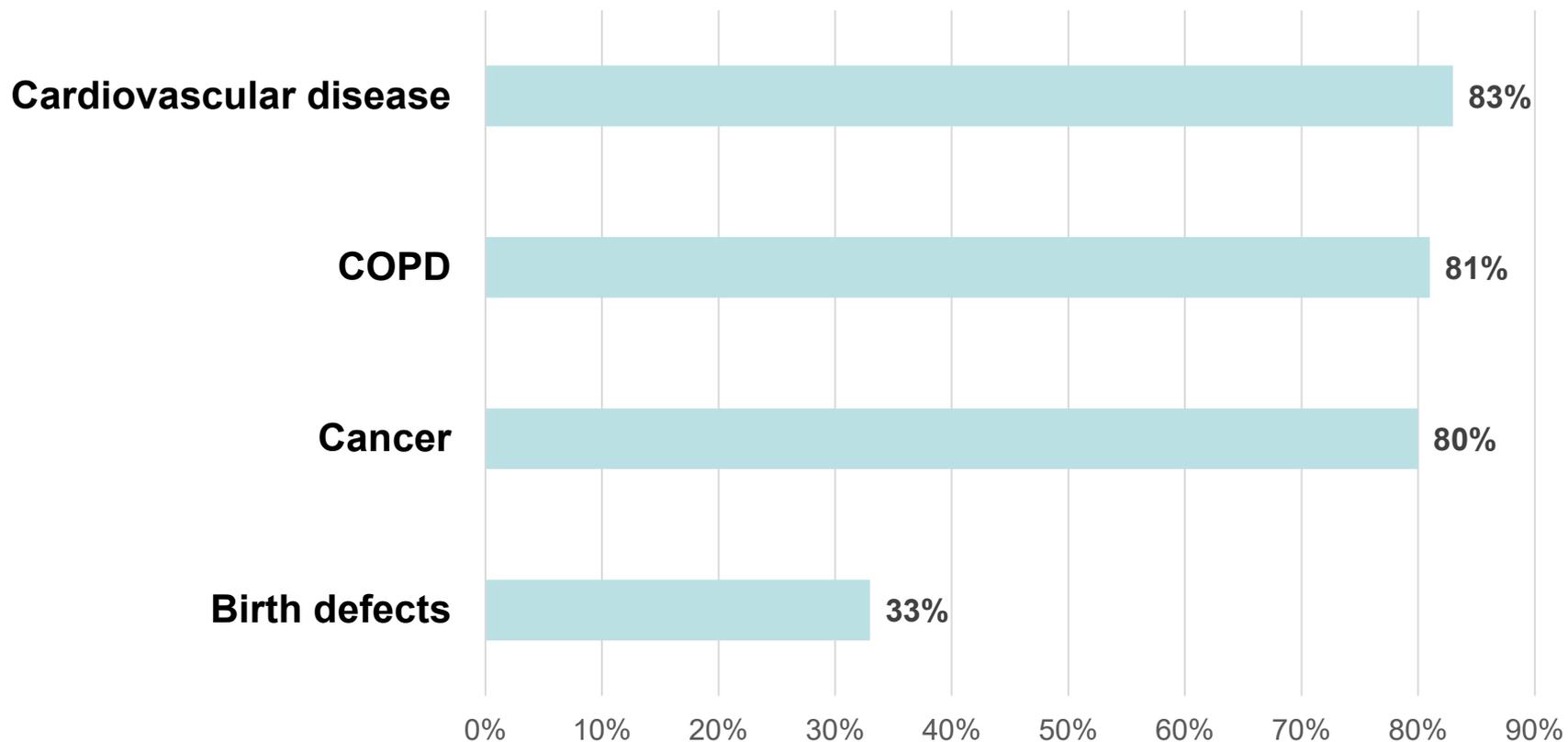
- N=1020 (51.8% response rate after ineligibles removed)
- Female 35%
- White 65%
- Age: mean 51.5 years
- 6 specialties
  - Cardiology
  - Family Medicine
  - Internal Medicine
  - Oncology
  - OB/GYN
  - Pulmonology

## PACE – Nicotine item (Wave 1)

- Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree that nicotine on its own directly contributes to the development of the following health problems
  - Strongly agree/Somewhat agree/Somewhat disagree/Strongly disagree

# PACE (Wave 1)

**Strongly agree that nicotine contributes to...**



# Implications of Nicotine Misperceptions

- Misperceptions regarding nicotine are common both in the general population and among physicians
- These perceptions will impact the beliefs surrounding NRT as well as lowering nicotine-content in combusted products
  - Vital for physicians to be aware as they are sources of health information and prescribers of NRT
  - Potential misperception that “low-nicotine” cigarettes are less harmful

# Approaching the Treatment of ENDS Use

# Assessment of ENDS

- How are these products used
  - Nicotine delivery
    - Dose
    - Frequency
- Level of dependence
- Behavioral associations



#### D. E-CIGARETTE USE AND VAPING

*The following questions are about e-cigarette use. E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that usually contain a nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled. You may know them as vape-pens, hookah-pens, e-hookahs, e-cigars, e-pipes, personal vaporizers, or mods. Brand examples include NJOY, JUUL, Blu, VUSE, MarkTen, Logic, Vapin Plus, eGo, and Halo.*

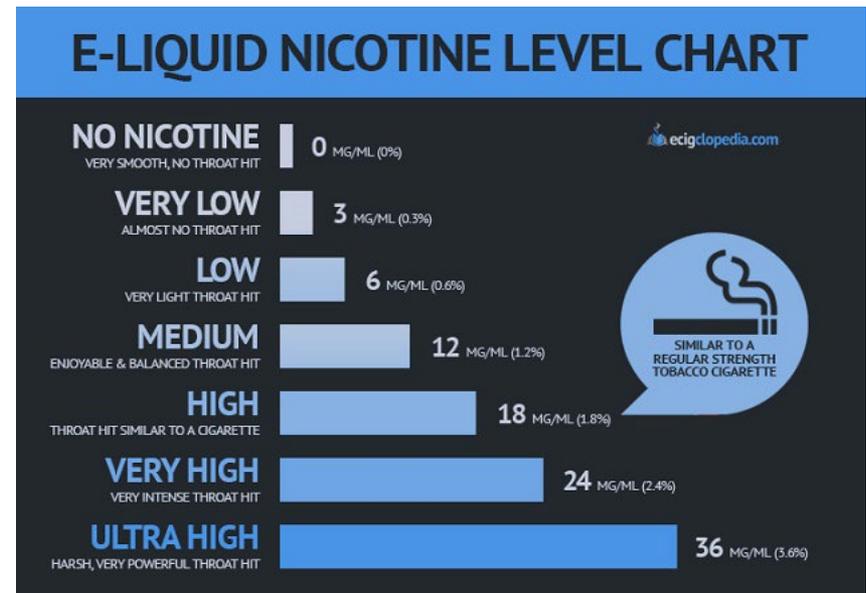
1. Have you ever used an e-cigarette such as NJOY, JUUL, Blu, VUSE, MarkTen, Logic, Vapin Plus, eGo, or Halo, even once or twice?	Yes	
	No	
2. How old were you when you first tried using an e-cigarette, even once or twice?	_____ years old	
3. How long have you used an e-cigarette?	Less than 6 months	
	6 months-1 year	
	1-2 years	
	More than 2 years	
	Never	
4. Do you use e-cigarettes as an alternative to quitting tobacco altogether?	Yes	
	No	
5. Do you use e-cigarettes at times when or in places where you could not smoke regular cigarettes?	Yes	
	No	
6. How many pods/cartridges do you use per day?		
7. How many e-cigarette puffs would you smoke in a day? For example, 200 puffs is equivalent to 1 pod / cartridge of JUUL use.	_____ Times per day	
8. What brands of e-cigarettes have you ever tried?		
9. What flavors of e-liquids have you used for your e-cigarette?		

# Nicotine from ENDS

- Nicotine content is highly variable
  - Clinical studies indicate that e-cigarettes deliver only modest nicotine concentrations to the **inexperienced** e-cigarette user
  - However, **experienced** e-cigarette users (especially with advanced tank systems or JUUL-type devices) are able to achieve systemic nicotine concentrations similar to those produced from traditional cigarettes

# Nicotine levels and Dependence

- Nicotine content on labeling is often inaccurate (Davis, 2015)
- Many young people unaware of the nicotine content of their ENDS (Morean, 2016)
- Self-reported use of products with higher nicotine concentration (e.g., nicotine-salt pod) was associated with significantly greater frequency of vaping, urges to vape, and perceived vaping addiction ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Hammond, 2021)



### Penn State Electronic Cigarette Dependence Index

1. How many times per day do you usually use your electronic cigarette? (assume one "time" consists of around 15 puffs, or lasts around 10 minutes) \_\_\_\_\_ per day
2. On days that you can use your electronic cigarette freely, how soon after you wake up do you first use your electronic cigarette? \_\_\_\_\_ minutes
3. Do you sometimes awaken at night to use your electronic cigarette?  Yes  No
4. If yes, how many nights per week do you typically awaken to do so? \_\_\_\_\_ nights
5. Do you use an electronic cigarette now because it is really hard to quit (using e-cigs)?  Yes  No
6. Do you ever have strong cravings to use an electronic cigarette?  Yes  No
7. Over the past week, how strong have the urges to use an electronic cigarette been? (check one)
  - No urges
  - Slight
  - Moderate
  - Strong
  - Very strong
  - Extremely strong
8. Is it hard to keep from using an electronic cigarette in places where you are not supposed to?  Yes  No

**When you have not used an electronic cigarette for a while, OR when you tried to stop using one:**

9. Did you feel more irritable because you couldn't use an electronic cigarette?  Yes  No
10. Did you feel nervous, restless or anxious because you couldn't use an electronic cigarette?  Yes  No

# PROMIS-E

- When I haven't been able to **vape** for a few hours, the craving gets intolerable.
- I find myself reaching for my **e-cigarette** without thinking about it.
- I drop everything to go out and buy **e-cigarettes or e-juice**.
- I **vape** more before going into a situation where **vaping** is not allowed.

PROMIS Short Form v1.0 – Smoking: Nicotine Dependence for Daily and Nondaily Smokers 4a

### Smoking: Nicotine Dependence for Daily and Nondaily Smokers – Short Form 4a

Please respond to each question or statement by marking one box per row.

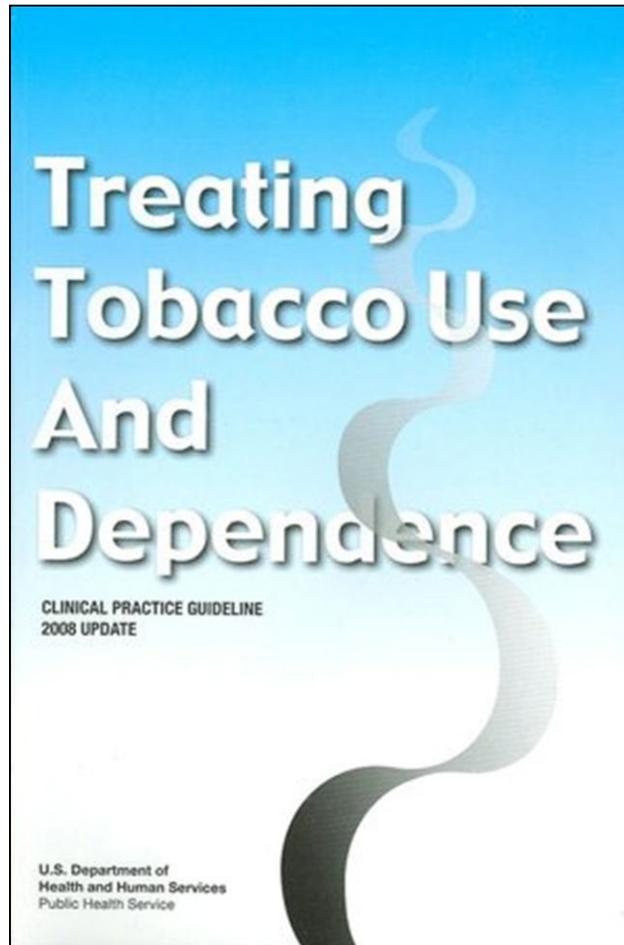
		Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
SMKNDP01	When I haven't been able to smoke for a few hours, the craving gets intolerable.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
SMKNDP02	I find myself reaching for cigarettes without thinking about it.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
SMKNDP03	I drop everything to go out and buy cigarettes.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
SMKNDP04	I smoke more before going into a situation where smoking is not allowed.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

# ENDS Assessment

- Psychometric analysis of **PROMIS-E** showed good internal consistency
- No established cut-off for dependence
- 55% reported some level of dependence (Morean, 2018)
  
- **E-cigarette Fagerstrom Test for Cigarette Dependence**
- **Penn State E-Cigarette Dependence Index**
- **E-cigarette Wisconsin Index of Smoking Dependence Motives**
  
- All three scales (e-FTCD, PS-ECDI, and e-WISDM) appear to be valid measures of a construct that leads to self-perceived addiction, heavy use, early use after overnight deprivation, and continued use over time (Piper, 2020)



# Treatment

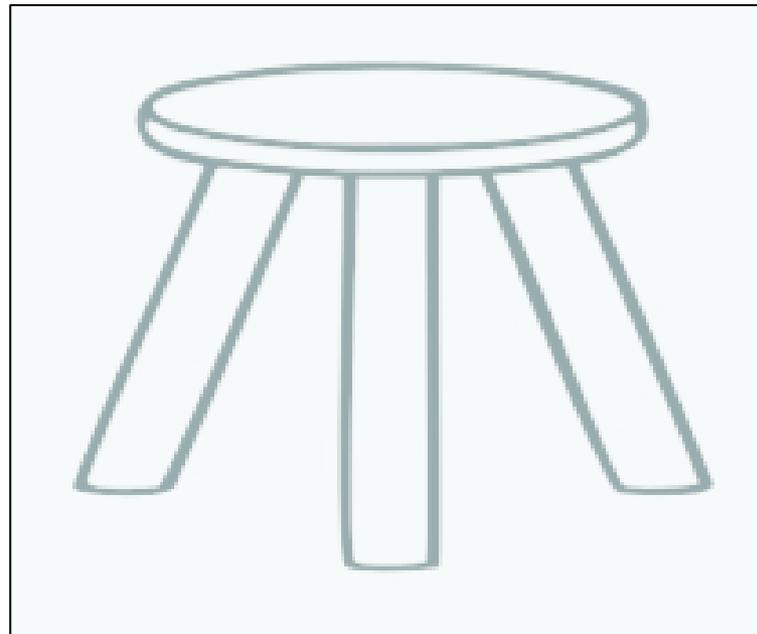


<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco>

# We Know What Works – Just need to apply it

- Effective, *comprehensive*, evidence-based treatment exists for tobacco dependence (Fiore, 2008)

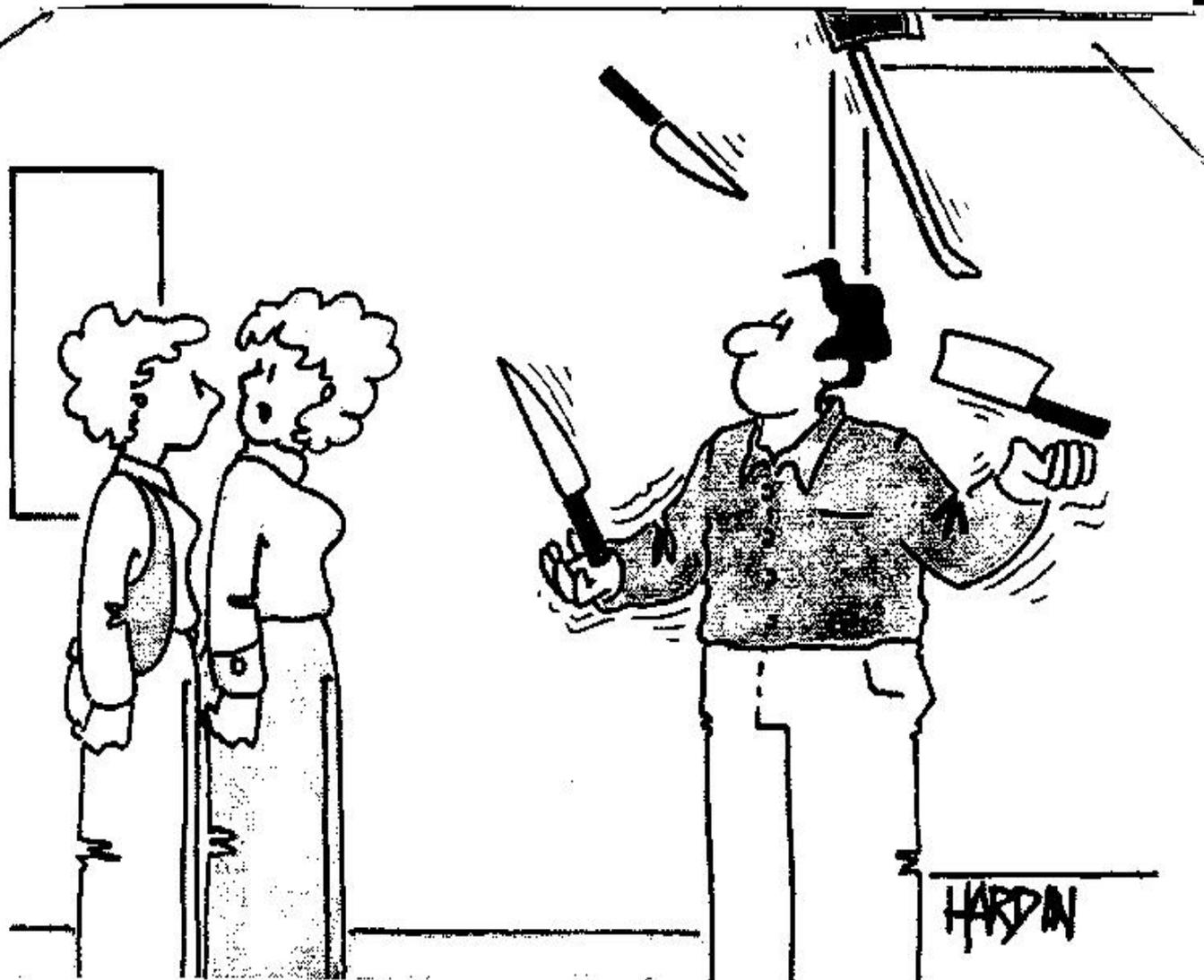
**Behavioral  
Counseling**



**Support/  
Follow-up**

**Pharmacotherapy**

<u>Intervention</u>	<u>Meta-Analysis</u>	<u># of studies/patients</u>	<u>Efficacy for abstinence (95% CI)</u>
<b>NRT</b>			
Any NRT vs. placebo	Hartmann-Boyce, 2018	133/64,640	RR 1.55 (1.49-1.61)
Gum vs. placebo	Hartmann-Boyce, 2018	56/22,581	RR 1.49 (1.40-1.60)
Patch vs. placebo	Hartmann-Boyce, 2018	51/25,754	RR 1.64 (1.53-1.75)
Lozenge vs. placebo	Hartmann-Boyce, 2018	8/4439	RR 1.52 (1.32-1.74)
Inhaler vs. placebo	Hartmann-Boyce, 2018	4/976	RR 1.90 (1.36-2.67)
Nasal Spray vs. placebo	Hartmann-Boyce, 2018	4/887	RR 2.02 (1.49-2.73)
Combination NRT vs. Single NRT	Lindson, 2019	14/11,356	RR 1.25 (1.15-1.36)
Combination NRT vs. Placebo	Cahill, 2013	2/NA	OR 2.73 (2.07-3.65)
<b>Bupropion</b>			
Bupropion vs. placebo	Howes, 2020	45/17,866	RR 1.64 (1.52-1.77)
Bupropion vs. NRT	Howes, 2020	10/8230	RR 0.99 (0.91-1.09)
Bupropion vs. Varenicline	Howes, 2020	6/6286	RR 0.71 (0.64-0.79)
<b>Varenicline</b>			
Varenicline vs. placebo	Cahill, 2016	27/12,625	RR 2.24 (2.06-2.43)
Varenicline vs. NRT	Cahill, 2016	8/6264	RR 1.25 (1.14-1.37)
Varenicline vs. Combination NRT	Cahill, 2013	NA/NA	OR 1.06 (0.75-1.48)
<b>Combination Therapy</b>			
Bupropion + NRT vs. NRT alone	Howes, 2020	12/3487	RR 1.19 (0.94-1.51)
Bupropion + Varenicline vs. Varenicline alone	Howes, 2020	3/1057	RR 1.21 (0.95-1.55)
Varenicline + NRT vs. Varenicline alone	Chang, 2015	2/787	OR 1.62 (1.18-2.23)

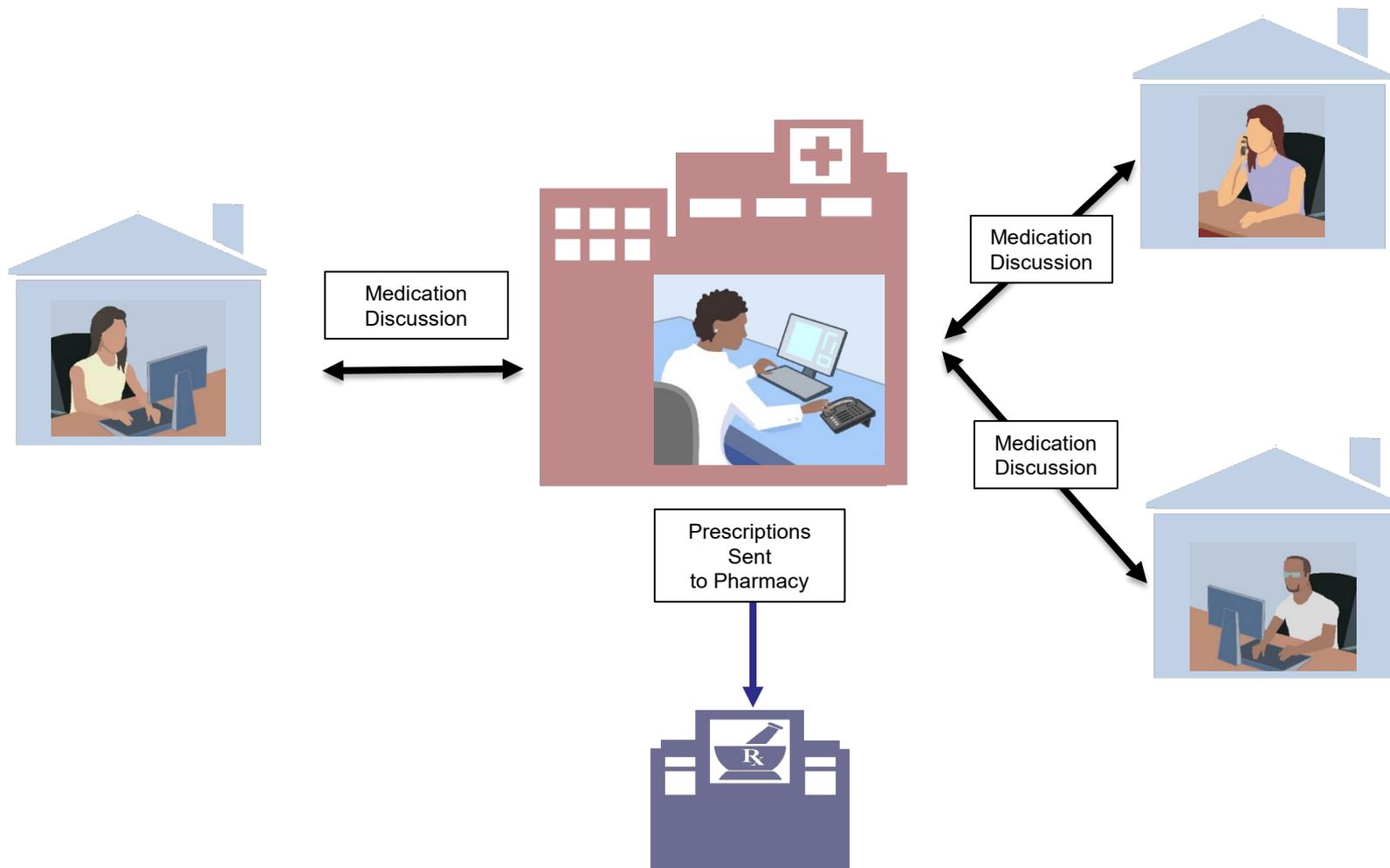


"The nicotine patch controls the cravings,  
but he still needs to do something with his hands."

# Tools of the Trade



# Telehealth: Remote Access for Tobacco Cessation Assistance



# ENDS Treatment

- Ask-Counsel-Treat model (American Academy of Pediatrics)
  - Universal tobacco screening starting at age 11
  - *(Physician can “look-up” devices online to estimate nicotine concentration)*
  - Behavioral treatment can be delivered by in-person, on-line, text
  - Consider off-label use of NRT for patients < 18 years for moderate or severe nicotine dependence
  - Varenicline mixed results – not effective age 12-19, but possibly age 17-19
  - No significant benefit for bupropion in less than age 17

# ENDS Treatment

## School-based E-cigarette cessation programs: What do youth want?

- High school youth
- 8 focus groups (4-10 adolescents per group, total N = 62)
  - current and past e-cigarette users in different groups
- Qualitative themes: youth want a vaping cessation program to include:
  - Education about health effects of vaping
  - Relatable personal anecdotes from others
  - Rewards for quitting
- Most frequently endorsed skills - youth want to learn ways to deal with stress (92%), relaxation (60%), and deal with poor concentration (55%)

# ENDS Treatment

Case report - Successful use of nicotine replacement therapy to quit e-cigarettes

- 24 year-old using tank e-cigarette (16 mg e-liquid)
- Fagerstrom scale for nicotine dependence = moderate
- **Recommended 14 mg patch + with 4 mg nicotine lozenges (approximately 8/day), with strategies for behavioral change**
- After the first week of using both, cut e-cigarette use in half.
- Discontinued the patch after 1 week because felt no control over its dosing
- Continued to use approximately 8 nicotine lozenges (4 mg) per day
- **Six weeks into the program, switched to 4 mg cinnamon nicotine gum, as cinnamon was his preferred e-cigarette flavor**
- **End of 12-week program, he had quit using e-cigarettes entirely**
- Used NRT intermittently for the next 6 months, at which time he discontinued

# ENDS Treatment – Pilot Study

- Pharmacy-based (n=24); 6-month follow-up; self-report vape-free
- 3 arms – not statistically different abstinence (n=7-9)
  - Vape taper (reducing nicotine concentration and frequency) + Behavior support: **75%** vape-free at 6 months
  - NRT + Behavioral support: **43%** vape-free at 6 months
  - Self-guided (Control – no intervention): **44%** at 6 months

# ENDS Treatment

## Effectiveness of a Vaping Cessation Text Message Program Among Young Adult e-Cigarette Users

- 2-group, RCT - 2019 to 2020
- 18 to 24 years - past 30-day e-cigarette use, interested in quitting
- Active **intervention** arm (n = 1304) “This is Quitting”, automated text message program for vaping cessation (social support; cognitive and behavioral skills training)
- Primary outcome = self-reported 30-day point prevalence abstinence at 7 months (intention-to-treat - non-responders as vaping)
- Abstinence rates were **24.1%** (95% CI, 21.8%-26.5%) intervention vs. **18.6%** (16.7%- 20.8%) control (**odds ratio, 1.39**; CI 1.15-1.68; p < .001).

# ENDS Treatment

Pilot feasibility study of a behavioral intervention for nicotine vaping cessation among young adults delivered via telehealth

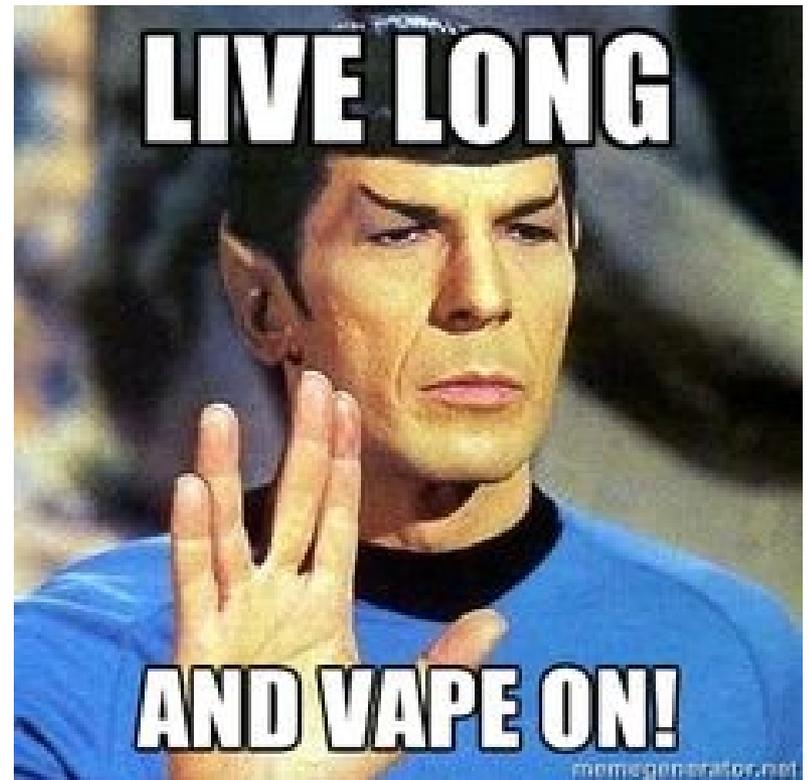
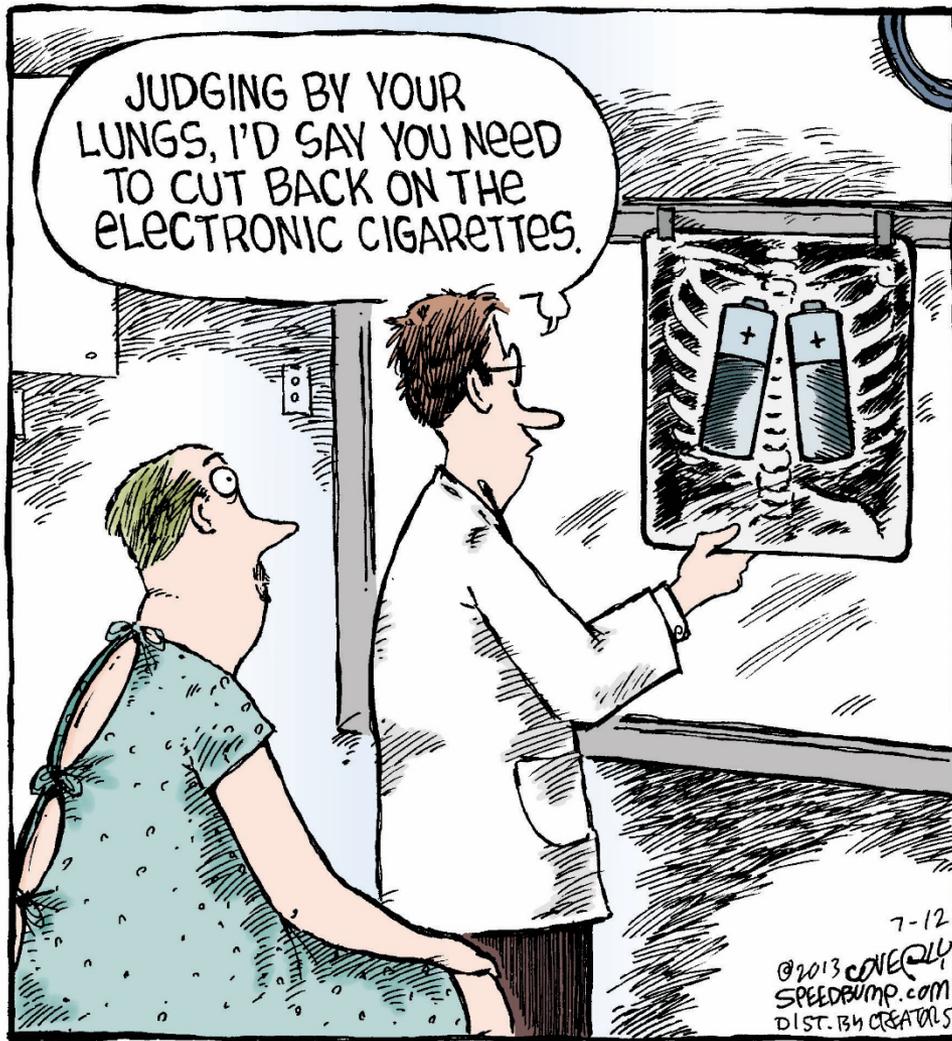
- Participants (N = 27; ages 17-21) vaping nicotine regularly across the US (2020- 2021)
- Randomized to DynamiCare Health's smartphone app for 4 weeks
  - Financial incentives (**contingency management**) were delivered contingent on abstinent cotinine samples vs. Control participants earned incentives for submitting cotinine, regardless of abstinence.
- CM participants submitted 112/220 (55%) abstinent cotinine samples vs. Monitoring group 4/50 (8%) negative samples.
  - There were no differences in abstinence between groups at end of treatment or follow-up.
- Pilot study demonstrated preliminary feasibility and acceptability.
- **CM for young adult vaping cessation is promising but requires powered trials to assess efficacy.**

# Reasonable Approach

- Assess use patterns – quantity, triggers, associations
- Estimate level of dependence – instrument or clinically
- Tailored treatment plan
  - Initial pharmacotherapy plan
    - Short acting NRT provides flexibility
    - Patch good for baseline
    - Varenicline and bupropion reasonable – consider age of ENDS user
  - Unique behavioral/trigger/social considerations for ENDS
  - Adjunct treatment components
    - Text, Web-based, Telehealth, ? Group treatment, Contingency management
  - Follow-up

# Conclusions

- Nicotine misperceptions are common and need to be corrected
- ENDS can deliver substantial levels of nicotine and produce significant dependence
- Long-term safety profile of ENDS is not yet established, but even if they are substantially less harmful than combusted tobacco, it is unlikely that their use is without health impact
- Limited data on most effective strategies for specifically treating ENDS use
- However, reasonable to apply the well-established, evidence-based methods for other tobacco products
  - Pharmacotherapy – NRT, ? Varenicline, ? Bupropion
  - Counseling/behavioral change
  - Support and follow-up



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# Q&A

- Submit questions via the **'Ask a Question' box**



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