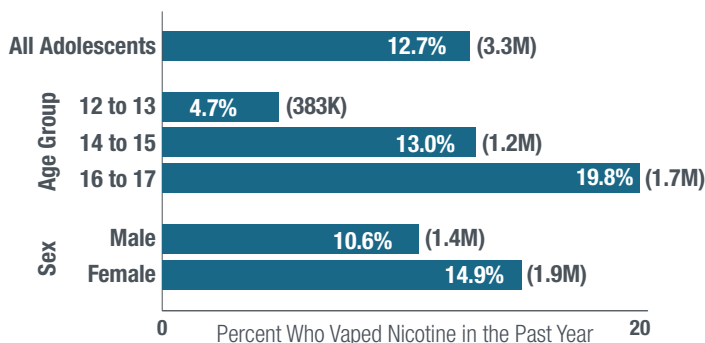


Nicotine Vaping and Initiation of Nicotine Vaping among Adolescents

Among adolescents in the United States, e-cigarettes to vape nicotine have been the most commonly used nicotine product since 2014.¹ Adolescents who vape nicotine are increasingly becoming frequent users and are having difficulty quitting, suggesting a heightened risk for addiction.² This spotlight presents estimates from NSDUH for nicotine vaping and initiation of nicotine vaping among adolescents aged 12 to 17. Estimates are annual averages based on pooled data from the 2022, 2023, and 2024 surveys.

Among adolescents aged 12 to 17 in 2022 to 2024, an annual average of about 1 in 8 (12.7%, or 3.3 million people) vaped nicotine in the past year. Percentages increased with age, with about 1 in 20 adolescents aged 12 to 13 (4.7%), about 1 in 8 adolescents aged 14 to 15 (13.0%), and about 1 in 5 adolescents aged 16 to 17 (19.8%) having vaped nicotine in the past year. Females were more likely than males to have vaped nicotine in the past year (14.9% vs. 10.6%).

Nicotine Vaping in the Past Year: Among Adolescents Aged 12 to 17, by Age Group and Sex, 2022-2024

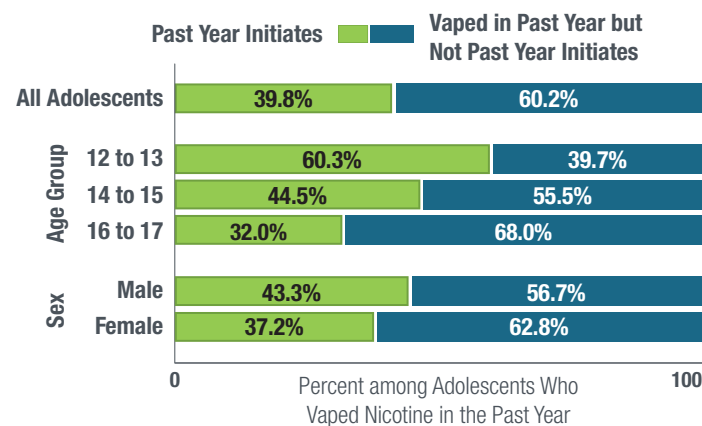


Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2022-2024.

About 1 in 20 adolescents aged 12 to 17 (5.0%, or 1.3 million people) initiated nicotine vaping in the past year. Among the 3.3 million adolescents who vaped nicotine in the past year, about 2 in 5 (39.8%) initiated nicotine vaping in the past year. Among adolescents who vaped nicotine in the past year, the percentage who initiated nicotine vaping in that period was higher among adolescents aged 12 to 13 (60.3%), followed by adolescents aged 14 to 15 (44.5%), then by adolescents aged 16 to 17 (32.0%). Adolescent males who vaped nicotine in the past year were more likely than their female counterparts to have initiated vaping in that period (43.3% vs. 37.2%).

These findings underscore the importance of evidence-based efforts to prevent initiation of nicotine vaping prior to and continuing through adolescence so that nicotine vaping among adolescents does not progress to frequent use or addiction.

Initiation of Nicotine Vaping in the Past Year: Among Adolescents Aged 12 to 17 Who Vaped Nicotine in the Past Year, by Age Group and Sex, 2022-2024



Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2022-2024.

Definitions

Nicotine vaping refers to the use of an e-cigarette or other vaping device to vaporize (i.e., vape) nicotine.

Initiation of nicotine vaping in the past year is based on data from NSDUH respondents who reported that they first vaped nicotine in the 12 months before the interview.

References

1. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, October 17). *Youth and tobacco use*. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/php/data-statistics/youth-data-tobacco/index.html>
2. Masonbrink, A. R., Bae, D., Cho, J., Miech, R. A., Dai, H. D., Harlow, A. F., Sussman, S., Han, D. H., Sanchez, L. M., Adjei, A., Meza, L. R., Li, M., & Leventhal, A. M. (2025). Trends in daily nicotine vaping and unsuccessful quit attempts in youths. *Network Open*, 8(11), e2541061. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.41061>

Data Source

The **National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)** is a household survey of people aged 12 or older. NSDUH collects information on substance use, mental health, and receipt of substance use and mental health treatment in the United States. NSDUH uses a complex sampling method. Interviews are conducted in person and via the web. Estimates presented are weighted to represent the noninstitutionalized, civilian U.S. population.