

Awareness and use of e-cigarettes and vaping behaviors among Korean adult smokers: ITC 2016 Korean study

Lim, J., Lee, J.A., Fong, G.T., Yan, M., Driezen, P., Seo, H.G., & Cho, H-J.

Abstract

Background: This paper aimed to present proportion of awareness and use of e-cigarettes and vaping behaviors among adult smokers in South Korea.

Methods: We used data of current adult smokers participating in the International Tobacco Control (ITC) survey Korea in 2016. The frequency analysis and cross analysis were used to present the proportion of awareness, experience, current use, reasons for use and vaping behaviors of e-cigarettes, and logistic regression analysis was used to present factors associated with awareness, experience, and current e-cigarette use. All data were submitted to complex sample survey data analysis using SPSS version 23.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) and weighted to represent the Korean population.

Results: Out of 2000 adult smokers, the proportion of awareness, experience, and current use e-cigarettes were 93.8%, 33.8%, and 5.5%, respectively. In multivariable logistic regression analysis, younger age groups were associated with increased odds ratios (ORs) for awareness, higher consumption of tobacco and no past quit attempt were associated with increased ORs for experience, and higher income groups were associated with increased ORs for current use of e-cigarettes. The common reasons for using e-cigarettes were because of thinking that using e-cigarettes were more acceptable than smoking and less harmful to other people, and makes it easier to cut down on smoking. Most e-cigarette users vaped nicotine-contained e-cigarettes and bought them at e-cigarettes shop.

Conclusion: E-cigarette awareness and use increased among Korean smokers especially among higher income groups. Careful monitoring of behavior of using e-cigarettes is needed.

Recommended Citation

Lim, J., Lee, J.A., Fong, G.T., Yan, M., Driezen, P., Seo, H.G., Cho, H-J. (2018). Awareness and use of e-cigarettes and vaping behaviors among Korean adult smokers: ITC 2016 Korean study. *Korean Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Supplement*, 9(Suppl 1), S11-S21.

Link To PDF: <http://www.jksrnt.org/journal/view.html?doi=10.25055/JKSRNT.2018.9.S1.S11>