

The prevalence of vaping and smoking as modes of delivery for nicotine and cannabis among youth in Canada, England and the United States

Fataar, F., & Hammond, D.

Abstract

Background: Vaping has become an increasingly common mode of administration for both nicotine and cannabis, with overlap among users, devices, as well as nicotine and cannabis companies. There is a need to understand patterns of use among youth, including the way nicotine and cannabis are administered. **Methods:** Data are from Wave 2 of the ITC Youth Tobacco and Vaping survey, an online survey conducted in 2018 among 16-19 year-olds recruited from commercial panels in Canada ($n = 3757$), England ($n = 3819$), and the U.S. ($n = 3961$). The prevalence of past 30-day vaping nicotine, non-nicotine and cannabis substances, as well as cannabis modes of use was examined. Logistic regression models examined between country differences in prevalence. **Results:** Past 30-day cannabis use was highest among Canadian youth (16.6%), followed by youth in the U.S. (13.8%) and England (9.0%). Vaping e-cigarettes was substantially more prevalent than vaping cannabis in all three countries. All forms of cannabis use were higher among Canadian and U.S. youth compared to England ($p < 0.001$ for all). Past 30-day cannabis users in the U.S. were more likely to report vaping cannabis oil (30.1%), and consuming solid concentrates such as wax and shatter (30.2%), compared to cannabis users in Canada (18.6% and 22.9%) and England (14.3% and 11.0%; $p < 0.001$ for all). **Conclusions:** Youth are administering cannabis and nicotine using a wide diversity of modes. Cannabis users in the U.S.-where an increasing number of states have legalized medical and non-medical cannabis-reported notably higher use of more potent cannabis products, including cannabis oils and extracts.

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