

Most adults surveyed don't know e-cigarette use deposits nicotine on indoor surfaces

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Most U.S. adults surveyed in 2015 agree that e-cigarette use should not be allowed in places where smoking is prohibited. Yet one-third of respondents allow use of the devices within their home, and fewer than half said they knew that exhaled e-cigarette vapors contain nicotine that deposits on indoor surfaces.

The abstract, "Household rules about e-cigarette use and beliefs about harms to children," will be presented at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2016 National Conference & Exhibition in San Francisco on Oct. 22. The study analyzed data from the 2015 Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control. Of the 3,070 adults responding to this survey, 68 percent said e-cigarette use was not allowed inside their homes, and 77 percent prohibit use in the car. Most [respondents](#) (84 percent) also said they believe that e-cigarette use should not be allowed in places that prohibit [smoking](#), and that it is not acceptable for parents to use e-cigarettes in front of children (74 percent).

However, according to abstract author Robert McMillen, PhD, an associate professor of psychology at Mississippi State University, many adults were uncertain about the potential harms of e-cigarettes. While more than a third of adults (37 percent) believe that exhaled e-cigarette vapor contains nicotine, and that using e-cigarettes indoors deposits nicotine on surfaces (37 percent), more than half have responded "don't know." In addition, roughly the same percentage of adults said that using e-cigarettes around children exposes them to nicotine (44 percent) as said "don't know" (46 percent).

Further analysis showed that smokers, e-cigarette users, males, and younger adults between the ages of 18 and 24, adults with lower levels of education, and adults without children in the household were less likely to have household rules against e-cigarette use, and less likely to support use restrictions. Smokers, e-cigarette users, and adults with lower levels of education tended to be less likely to believe that these products posed harms for children, while older adults and adults with children in the household tended to have higher levels of uncertainty about potential harms.

McMillen said the findings suggest an opportunity to educate parents about toxic exposure risks from e-cigarette aerosols and to advise parents to keep their homes and vehicles free from both tobacco smoke and e-cigarette emissions.

"E-cigarettes primarily emit a toxic aerosol, not harmless water vapor. Unfortunately, many parents are unaware of the risk that exposure poses for their children and do not implement household rules to protect their children," Dr. McMillen said.

More information: McMillen will present the abstract, "Household rules about e-cigarette use and beliefs about harms to children," at 4 p.m. PT on Saturday, Oct. 22 in Moscone West room Room 2022/2024.

Provided by American Academy of Pediatrics

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