



Institutional Position on Use of Tobacco Products by Youth

March 7, 2019

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States¹; and

WHEREAS, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), which include e-cigarettes and vaping devices fall under the definition of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, the definition of tobacco products also applies to smokeless tobacco otherwise known as chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, or dissolvable tobacco; and

WHEREAS, tobacco products are illegally sold to youth in sufficient quantities that by the age of 18, 90% of cigarette smokers in the United States have tried smoking, and almost 99% of all smokers have begun to smoke before the age of 26²; and

WHEREAS, exposure of youth-oriented tobacco advertisements has shown an increased interest in using tobacco products by adolescents³; and

WHEREAS, youth use of ENDS has been markedly increasing to the point that by 12th grade 37% of adolescents have used ENDS, with 25% of 12th graders perceiving that they were inhaling “just flavoring”⁴; and

WHEREAS, many of the ingredients in ENDS are the same ingredients in traditional cigarettes and are defined as toxic and other compounds, such as flavoring solvents, are known to be harmful or have unknown long-term health effects⁵; and

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General](#). Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2019 Jan 16].

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General](#). Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2012 [accessed 2019 Jan 16]³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention. “Smoking & Tobacco Use.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4 May 2018, [Accessed 2019 on Feb 6]

⁴ NIDA. (2018, December 17). Teens using vaping devices in record numbers. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2018/12/teens-using-vaping-devices-in-record-numbers>, [accessed 2019 on Jan 22].

⁵ American Association of Poison Control Centers. January 31, 2016. [Electronic Cigarettes and Liquid Nicotine Data](#). Accessed January 9, 2019.



WHEREAS, nicotine in tobacco products is addictive, thus making cessation after starting the habit difficult, if not impossible, to achieve².

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago supports efforts to reduce use of tobacco by youth through: (i) prevention education programming for youth and parents/caregivers; (ii) training providers on proper tobacco use screening, brief therapeutic interventions, and treatment options; (iii) prohibiting deceptive marketing tactics, advertising and other promotion of tobacco, including ENDS, especially towards children, adolescents, and young adults before use starts; and (iv) supporting effective policies and enforcement regulating the availability of tobacco to youth.