

# INSIGHTS IN YOUR INBOX

Thought-provoking findings from KDHC's analysis of original data with new reports shared bi-weekly. Today's findings are from the VAYPS (Vaping Attitudes Youth Perspectives Survey) dataset.



## QUESTION

How do youth acquire vapes?

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Most youth obtain vapes by borrowing a friend's vape or giving someone else money to purchase vapes.

## QUICK FINDINGS

Using a sample of survey data collected in May 2020 from 1,100 youth, aged 13 to 17, across the United States, we found that the most common ways that youth obtain vapes are by borrowing someone else's vapes (54.4% overall) or by asking someone else to purchase the vape for them (32.4% overall).

- Regular-users (61.3%) are significantly more likely to obtain vapes by giving someone money to purchase it for them than light-users (37.1%).
- Light-users (60.2%) are significantly more likely to obtain vapes by borrowing from a friend than regular-users (37.1%).
- Regular-users (29.0%) were more likely to buy vapes online compared to light-users (9.4%), but this is the least popular way for youth to obtain vapes.
- While not as popular, regular-users (33.9%) and light-users (10.4%) sometimes purchase vapes in stores.

## ABOUT KDH RESEARCH & COMMUNICATION

KDH Research & Communication provides timely dissemination of new research in public health and social services fields. Our mission is to produce and disseminate creative, science-based programs that improve the health and well-being of the nation's youth, family, and communities.

To learn more about the methodology behind the VAYPS project, please review the title page found [here](#). For more information about methodology or findings, contact our data analyst Andrew Simkus at [asimkus@kdhc.com](mailto:asimkus@kdhc.com). To read other findings, go to <https://www.kdhrc.com/news>.

## REFERENCES

1. Baker HM, Kowitt SD, Meernik C, et al. Youth source of acquisition for E-Cigarettes. *Prev Med Rep.* 2019;16:101011. Published 2019 Oct 25. doi:10.1016/j.pmedr.2019.101011
2. Kong G, Morean ME, Cavallo DA, Camenga DR, Krishnan-Sarin S. Sources of electronic cigarette acquisition among adolescents in Connecticut. *Tob Regul Sci.* 2017;3(1):10-16. doi:10.18001/TRS.3.1.2

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Identifying the ways that underage youth obtain vapes is critical to preventing vape use among this vulnerable demographic. While parents may believe that their children obtain vapes through online and in-store purchases, common sources of vape acquisition include their peer group, siblings, and older family members.<sup>1,2</sup> It is imperative that parents actively monitor those in their child's peer group to gain insight into their child's potential vape habits.

Because light-users have often just started to vape, they are less familiar with obtaining vapes and usually rely on borrowing vapes from friends and others in their peer group. In contrast, regular-users may be experiencing addiction and need direct access to vapes to address their withdrawal symptoms and cravings. Most regular-users in this study give others money to buy their vapes or purchase vapes directly from retailers, either in-person or online. Parents should foster a home environment where vape users cannot get them from members of the household. Additionally, parents should monitor their children's spending habits to ensure they are not using allowance or money from their job to buy vapes.

### WAYS THAT YOUTH ACQUIRE VAPES

