

**Results from FDA Underage E-Cig Sales Enforcement 2019
Data for the State of Maryland ONLY**

1. Convenient Stores, Walmarts, Gas Stations, and Beer & Wine Stores were all found to be **the biggest offenders of underage selling of e cigarettes in MARYLAND & across the USA.** The FDA did a sting operation across the country in 2019, and in the state of Maryland there were 136 violations of underage selling of e cigarettes.

Of those 136 Underage Selling Violations Sited

-- NOT A SINGLE VIOLATION WAS A VAPOR STORE IN MARYLAND --

Instead every single violation was related to a 7-11, A beer and wine store, a convenience store, gas Stations, even a Walmart and they were only stores selling big tobacco E cigarettes products like JUUL and My Blu to our kids.

NOTE: At Vapor Worldwide in Gaithersburg, MD since 2014 and many other vapor stores in the state, **we do NOT sell JUUL products or My Blu, or Logic, or Vuse; because they are made with way more nicotine than you need (Roughly 250% more nicotine than what we sell in our vape shops) and are marketed and pushed by big tobacco companies not vapor stores that are small family owned businesses in the state.** In our shop for the last two years and as featured on Fox News, CBS, ABC and others; **we give adult vapors a 15% discount to turn in their JUUL device, and switch off of the high nicotine, high-cost products like JUUL that are marketed by big tobacco to our children.**

Common Sense Vapor Regulations for Adults and to Protect Kids

1. Raising the sales tax on vapor is only going to keep adults smoking tobacco cigarettes. You are playing into the hands of big tobacco by taxing vapor like tobacco. Vapor gets adults off of deadly tobacco, and it works. Instead, adult only vapor stores should be opened and no more selling of tobacco or vapor products in gas stations, convenient stores. Why do you allow tobacco and vape to be sold in a convenient store? It should not ever happen in Maryland.

Vapor Worldwide has been in Gaithersburg since 2014, serving the adult vapor community without selling it to any minors. We have been suggesting these commonsense measures for years. The house and senate have ignored this advice since 2019. These are the ways to eliminate youth vaping and save adults from the grips of tobacco addiction and of course tobacco death. Only sell vapor products in age gated specific vapor stores Allow these adults only vapor stores to continue to sell flavored e-liquids to adult vapors over 21. **Almost 90% of vapor flavors sold to adults are NOT tobacco and menthol.** An immediate flavor ban will put hundreds of small businesses in the state out of business overnight, leading to the loss of jobs and loss of significant sales tax revenue and E-Cig excise tax revenue for the state. Also, the retail space Vapor Worldwide is in was empty for more than 2 years before we leased it and started generating county and state tax revenue ever since. We are now in our 9th year of operation, like many of the other state vapor shops.

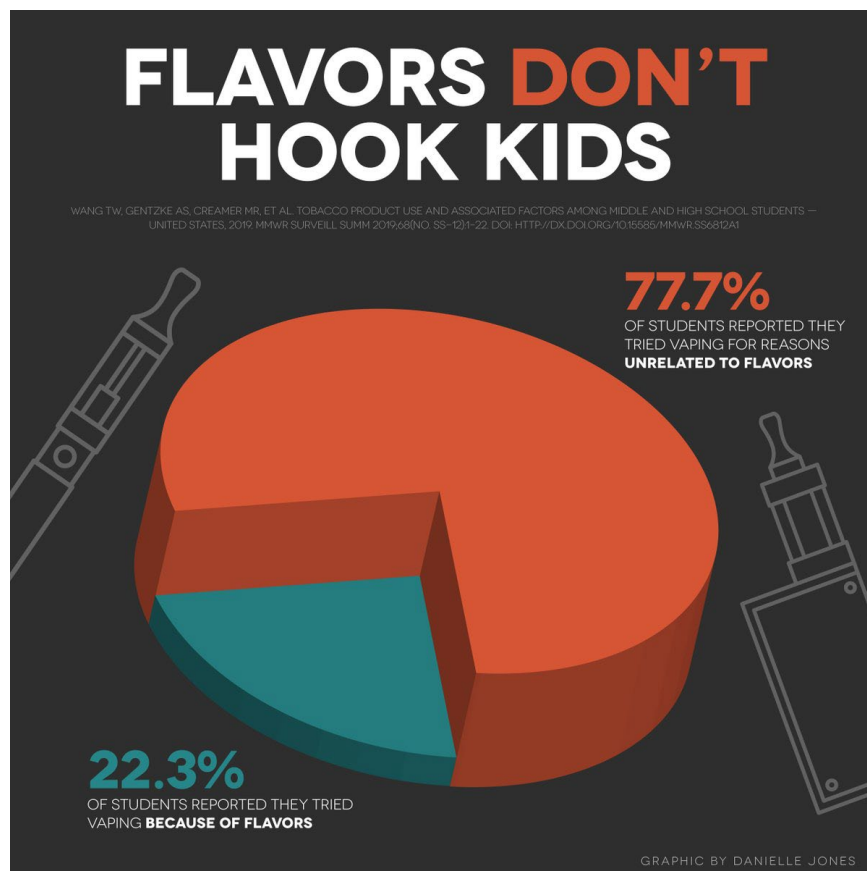
2. Stop the sale of all closed pod systems and other vapor products that have flavors other than Tobacco and Menthol from any convenient stores, gas stations in the state. **The Federal Gov't announced on January 3, 2020, that they will ban the sale of all closed pod systems (like JUUL) that have flavors, except tobacco and menthol, in all retail establishments except they will ALLOW ONLY vapor stores to continue to sell flavored e-liquids and "Open" vapor systems, like we do today.**

3. Finally, we propose that all vapor shops in the state will voluntarily agree to only sell Zero mg nicotine to 36mg nicotine flavored e-liquids. Our state vapor store owners would welcome the state to randomly inspect our shops for compliance any time. Any shop found in violation more than once would lose their exemption to sell flavored liquids in the state within 30 days. **As found in the CDC 2019 Youth Survey, many kids are buying JUUL and other closed systems at their local convenient stores with 50mg nicotine or above to get a Nicotine Buzz. 36mg nicotine and below will not provide the "BUZZ" the kids are looking for.**

Please legislators, know the facts about vaping and how it saves adult lives and how we can protect children from vaping easily with common sense rules and enforcement. We should have stores for adults only that are vaping only. Just like in Montgomery County, MD we have county run liquor stores. Tobacco cigarettes and cigars should be treated the same way, along with adult only vapor stores.

If you really want to protect children, then restrict how and where the products are bought and don't ban them so adults suffer and die from tobacco cigarettes. Don't let vapor products and tobacco products be sold in gas stations and convenient stores. Stop the madness. See below actual FDA and CDC FACTS about youth vaping and the effectiveness of vapes for adults who currently smoke tobacco cigarettes.

Legislate on facts please that is what America is about, thank you



Facts about Youth Vaping 2016-2019

National Facts from the CDC & FDA Jointly Administered National Youth Tobacco Survey 2016 & 2019 Data Highlights

1. in 2016, the CDC's Comprehensive Youth Tobacco Survey found that **more than 41.1%** of kids vaped because of the flavors.

2. in 2019, the CDC Youth Tobacco Survey found that **only 22.3% of kids** vaped because of the flavors.

A Reduction of @ 20%

3. in 2019, CDC's Survey found that 77.7% of kids responded that they vaped for OTHER REASONS than Flavors.

4. in 2019, CDC Survey found a 28% Decline in tobacco cigarette smoking among kids – **The largest Decline EVER Recorded in a single year.** The survey has 10 plus years of data collected on youth tobacco use.

5. Furthermore, the 2019 CDC Youth Survey found that **ONLY 5.8% of High School Kids & 2.3% of Middle School Students Still Smoke Traditional Cigarettes.** So, the idea and evidence of kids vaping and then starting to smoke real cigarettes dose not exist according to the data collected by CDC & FDA in 2019.

6. in 2019, 56.1% of teens surveyed listed **"Curiosity"** as the **NUMBER 1 REASON** they tried E-cigarettes. Followed second by 23.9% said **"friend & family used them."** **"They come in flavors, such as Mint, Candy, or Fruit"**, came in third place with only 22.3%. Teens could pick multiple answers, which makes "flavors" showing in the 2019 survey even less impressive.

7. "it's obvious to almost everyone except the people lobbying for flavor bans that teenagers are trying vape on a lark or for a **NICOTINE BUZZ** [These teenagers] are least concerned with what it tastes like."

-- Jim McDonald Dec. 9th, 2019

Complete Article Here:

<https://vaping360.com/vape-news/87277/cdc-survey-flavors-arent-the-main-reason-kids-vape/>

CDC & FDA Facts about the Vaping Deaths of 2019

1. CDC announced in December: "We are of the belief that vitamin E-acetate caused the EVALI syndrome in the vast majority of cases." Anne Schuchat, PhD, Principle Deputy Director of the CDC

2. 2,506 hospitalizations and 52 deaths nationwide as of December 2019. In a study released in November by CDC, they found out of 29 lung samples from 10 different states. 82% had THC present, 61% had nicotine present. **But the only universal substance detected in ALL samples was vitamin E-acetate.**

[Tobacco Cigarettes will kill more than 75,000 Marylanders this year alone]

"These findings provide direct evidence of vitamin E-acetate at the primary site of the injury within the lungs and the samples reflect patients from states across the country to date."

-- Anne Schuchat, PhD, Principle Deputy Director of the CDC

3. The CDC report went on to say that "EVALI patients are two times more likely to report exclusive use of THC-containing products and **nine times more likely to obtain them from informal [Black Market] sources.**"

FLAVORS **DON'T** HOOK KIDS

WANG TW, GENTZKE AS, CREAMER MR, ET AL. TOBACCO PRODUCT USE AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS — UNITED STATES, 2019. MMWR SURVEILL SUMM 2019;68(NO. SS-12):1-22. DOI: HTTP://DX.DOI.ORG/10.15585/MMWR.SS6812A1

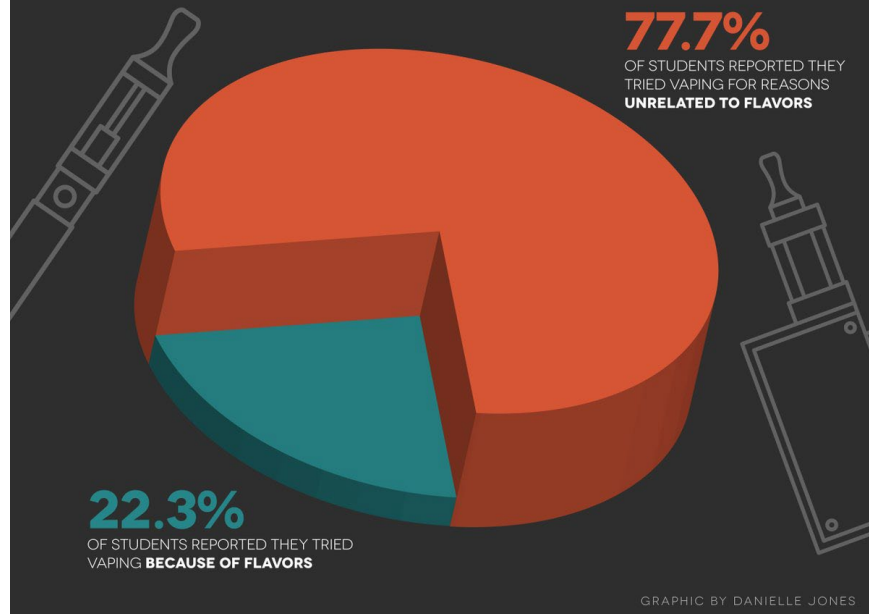


Photo: Data from CDC & FDA Joint National Youth Tobacco Survey 2019

Consider Facts,

Eric Frit

Vapor Worldwide

Gaithersburg, MD