

Tobacco Control News Hello TIS teams!



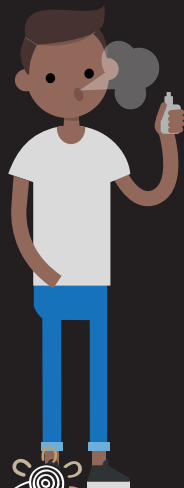
Research Roundup March 2023

You might not have seen me at the National TIS Workers Workshop last week, but I was listening carefully to what you all had to say, especially around the topic of vaping (e-cigarette use). It was fantastic to hear about all the amazing work you are all doing to prevent the uptake of vaping by youth in the Nation-to-Nation Café.

Some of you were also keen to know more about vaping prevalence rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. At the moment the information we have nationally and locally is quite limited, but what information we do have is available on the TIS website on the [Facts about vaping \(e-cigarettes\)](#) page. This information comes from two main evidence sources:

- Data on vaping by adults aged 18 years and over comes from the 2018-19 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS). Data collection for the next NATSIHS update is currently underway as part of the [Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study](#).
- Data on vaping by youth aged 12-17 years comes from the 2017 Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) Survey. The latest survey was carried out in 2022, with data expected to be released in 2024.

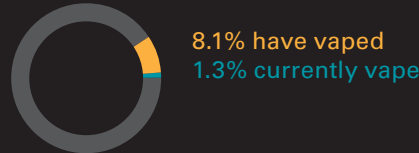
Here is a brief reminder of what the current published evidence says.



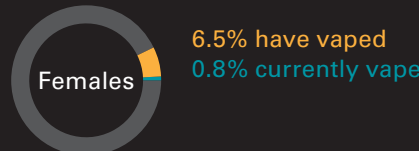
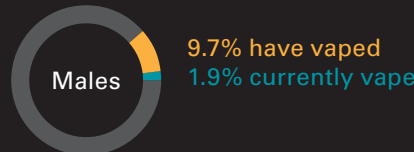
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According to the 2018-19 NATSIHS:

Less than one in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults had ever vaped

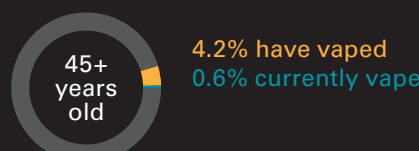
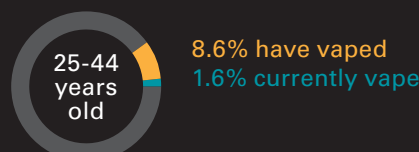
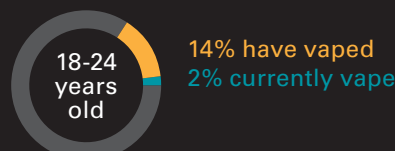


Ever use and current use of vapes was slightly higher for males than females



Ever use was less than one in ten for both males and females. Current use was less than one in 50 for males and less than one in 100 for females.

Younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were more likely to be current or ever vape users than older adults



Vaping was reported to be three to four times higher in major cities

10% major cities
8.7% regional areas
2.6% remote areas



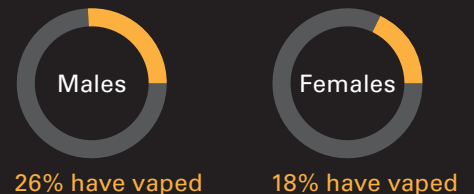
Responses to the 2017 ASSAD survey suggest:

Vaping by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged 12-17 years is higher than vaping by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults:

Around one in five youths reported having ever vaped



Just over a quarter of males had vaped compared with less than one in five females.



Other research to keep an eye on comes from the [Generation Vape study](#) run by Cancer Council New South Wales. Now a national study, this research began by collecting data in NSW. At the moment only data from NSW has been published. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific study is also underway, but data from this study has not yet been published. Check out my first ever update on vaping in youth from last November where I describe what this study adds to the evidence base: <https://tacklingsmoking.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/11/Tobacco-Control-News-3.pdf>

The following publications on the TISRIC also provide more details about this topic:

Thurber, K. A., Walker, J., Maddox, R., Marmor, A., Heris, C., Banks, E., & Lovett, R. (2020). [A review of evidence on the prevalence of and trends in cigarette and e-cigarette use by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and adults](#).

Canberra: National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health.

Heris, C., Scully, M., Chamberlain, C., & White, V. (2022). [E-cigarette use and the relationship to smoking among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australian secondary students, 2017](#).

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health.