



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL



Christian Orrell,

TOPIC

What will it take to help students prosper by preventing students from using vapes or carts during school?

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

There are too many cases of teens using vaping products for smoking cigarettes in schools during classtime. This prevents them from learning from the time they have in class, as well as hurting them mentally and physically.

RESULT

It is intended that the use of marijuana products in schools will decrease drastically or no longer be in use by students so they can allocate time into learning in classrooms.

SIGNIFICANCE

The possible causes for constant use of marijuana products could be depression amongst youth, using them as a coping mechanism. It could also be the results of trends being popular among young people. The city has set up seminars and events to address the issue to both middle school and high school students, as well as setting up programs for students who have been using e-cigarettes to help them from further usage of the product.

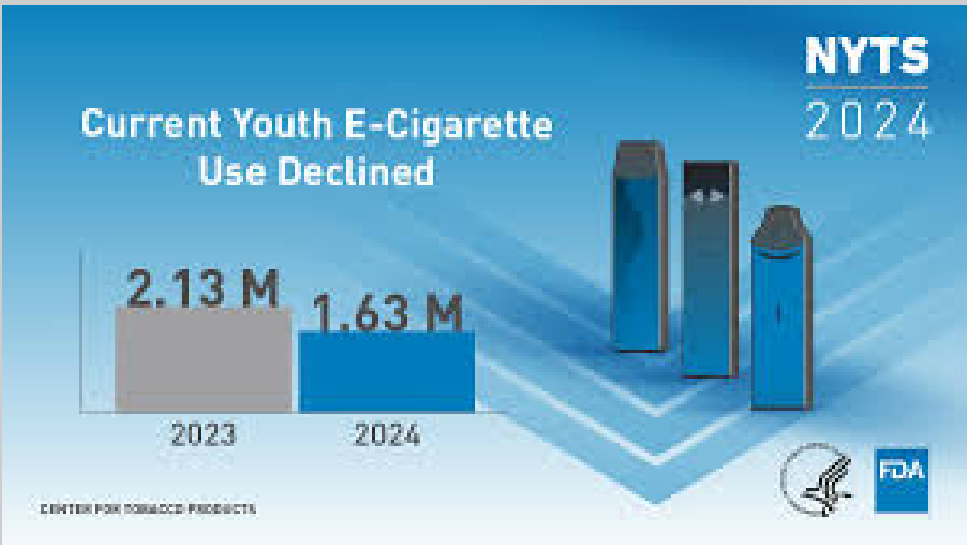
CYCP GOAL AND STRATEGIC AREA

CYPC Goal: All Children, Youth, and Families will be Physically Safe and Healthy

Strategic Area: Prevention

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- 5.9% of US students were reported to have used e-cigarettes, with 3.5% of middle school students and 7.8% of high school students being involved.
- ACPS had formed a vaping work group to address this issue and provided seminars to inform and help to prevent further usage of vaping products.



IMPLEMENTATION

We have to enact new prevention measures because the ones already in place aren't enough. Prevention measures should be giving security more power to go into bathrooms when vape detectors go off, and don't have them do any more work besides that because more work will make it so prevention measures become tedious to them. If we don't enact new prevention measures then the issue will just continue to get worse and more and more people will become addicted and destroy their lives.

PARTNERSHIPS



PERFORMANCE EFFORT

ACPS had formed a vaping work group to address this issue, held a seminar for Red Ribbon Week, educated lawmakers of Tobacco 21 (a law to increase age in which tobacco can be purchased), and presented to students about the dangers of substance abuse in general.

PERFORMANCE EFFECT

The percentage of e-cigarette usage seems to be decreasing according to studies, most likely because of laws being put in place (Tobacco 21 for example), or simply that it is no longer considered interesting among youth. According to studies and surveys, there seems to be a positive decline in e-cigarette usage in youth in the US, with a decline of 7.7% in 2023 to 5.9% in 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We have to enact new prevention measures because the ones already in place aren't enough. If we don't enact new prevention measures then the issue will just continue to get worse and more and more people will become addicted and destroy their lives. Prevention measures should be giving security more power to go into bathrooms when vape detectors go off, and don't have them do any more work besides that because more work will make it so prevention measures become tedious to them. Our community needs to communicate the problems around vaping more and spread the word of the consequences of vaping during school. It really should be the schools taking responsibility for solving the problem because vaping is so widely spread throughout the school and is how a lot of people get into vaping. Them not having enough prevention measures is enabling kids to vape during school time. Parents could use more prevention measures but there's only so much they can do once they get to school and outside of school. When kids are in school it is up to the school to enact these prevention measures.

ONLINE

- Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria
 - They are an organization that specializes in preventing substance abuse in youth by collaborating with the community.
- Virginia Cannabis Control Authority
 - They are a group that helps to prevent drug usage by through regulations, policies, and education.

IN PERSON

- ACHS Teen Wellness Center
 - The TWC provides health education and mental health/substance use screening and referrals.
- Alexandria Health Department
 - They provide services for those who suffer from substance abuse, for both adolescents and adults.

CITATIONS

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