Survey finds use of vapor products up among Indiana teens

Perception of use among peers is much higher than reality, according to Indiana Youth Survey

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BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Nearly 30 percent of 12th grade in Indiana report using electronic vapor products in the last month, according to the 28th annual Indiana Youth Survey. This is an increase of 46 percent over the 2015 results. The survey – administered in early 2018 by the Institute for Research on Addictive Behavior, part of the IU School of Public Health-Bloomington — asked questions about starting and rapid increase in the numbers of youth using vapor products and e-cigarettes.

Results from the last survey included 15,000 respondents. For the first time this year, the survey questioned students about their perception of colleagues’ use of drugs and alcohol. The main findings include:

Perception of drug use among peers is much higher than reality, according to survey results.

More than 45 percent of students believed their peers were using vapor products and e-cigarettes, according to the survey. Researchers observed that perception of peer drug use and perception of harm continues to be a public health issue.

The Indiana Youth Survey is administered to nearly 100,000 students in grade 6 to 12 in 407 Indiana schools. Students are asked about their use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, their gambling behaviors, and risk of alcohol use.

Parents deployed or incarcerated

In addition to electronic vapor products, the survey found 7 percent of students in seventh through 12th grade were using cigarettes in the past 30 days, 3 percent used smokeless tobacco, 2.5 percent used regular cigars, and 2.5 percent used a pipe.

Riding in an automobile with someone under the influence.

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