

Reasons Supporting Regulation of E-Cigarettes

1. E-cigarette vapor is a new source of pollution and toxins being emitted into the environment.
 1. Research studies show that secondhand exposure does occur with some studies showing that e-cigarette emissions can contain nicotine levels comparable to secondhand tobacco smoke (1, 2, and 3). Secondhand exposure to nicotine is potentially particularly problematic for children, pregnant women and persons with cardiovascular conditions.
 2. E-cigarettes also emit volatile organic compounds, like benzene and toluene; heavy metals, like nickel and arsenic; tobacco specific carcinogens; and carbon compounds like formaldehyde and acrolein (4, 5). While the concentration of these chemicals are lower than in tobacco smoke and vary across brands, these vapors are a new source of ultrafine/ fine particles in the environment to which the public is exposed.
2. People using e-cigarettes in indoor and outdoor environments where smoking is restricted have the potential to undo decades of de-normalization of smoking in California, making it appear that smoking is acceptable.
3. E-cigarettes are an unregulated product. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved these products for the treatment of nicotine dependence nor are they currently subject to safe manufacturing and quality standards. The FDA continues to warn the public about the potential harms of e-cigarettes.
4. We do not know the long-term health effects of e-cigarette use and although the industry marketing of the product implies that these product are harmless, the vapor that e-cigarettes emit is not purely water vapor.
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 5. Williams M et al., Metal and Silicate Particles Including Nanoparticles Are Present in Electronic Cigarette Cartomizer Fluid and Aerosol, 2013 PLoS ONE 8(3): e57987. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0057987. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0057987>