

Assessment of E-Cigarette Use and Vaping in Clatsop County Schools:

Summary of Major Findings

May 2019



Clatsop County Public Health Department assessed student use of e-cigarettes in Clatsop County schools in response to the high level of concern conveyed from schools. In an effort to gain insight on the scope of the issue and strategize a plan, an assessment was created and school leaders were asked to participate in interviews. Interviews were comprised of a series of questions regarding awareness, prevalence, level of concern, current tactics being used to address e-cigarette use, barriers, and needs. Below are major findings from this assessment:

- The top concern among school leaders was students' perception that e-cigarettes are not risky and pose little harm.
- Another main concern for educators was student's ease of use due to the small and concealable size of devices and the fact that they do not emit a strong odor, if any, like combustible cigarettes do.
- School leaders overall reported being "moderately to extremely familiar" with the prevalence of e-cigarettes and vaping use and the health implications, but were less familiar overall with the nicotine concentration and cannabinoid delivery potential of these products.
- Oregon Schools are required by law to have a basic Tobacco Free Schools policy. The schools' individual policy language and disciplinary actions for breaking policy is inconsistent and differs with each district.
- School leaders are alarmed at the rate of increase of e-cigarette use and feel that they have inadequate information and resources to deal with the problem.

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