E-CIGARETTES ARE A WAY TO INHALE NICOTINE AND MARIJUANA. The aerosol emitted can also contain other harmful substances, including heavy metals such as lead, volatile organic compounds, and cancer-causing agents.¹

E-CIGARETTES COME IN MANY SHAPES AND SIZES. Some resemble pens, USB sticks, and other everyday items. Larger devices such as tank systems, or “mods,” do not resemble other tobacco products.

E-CIGARETTE USE HARMs THE DEVELOPING BRAIN. E-cigarettes typically deliver nicotine, a harmful drug to the youth brain and body. Teens are particularly vulnerable to the effects of nicotine since the brain is still developing during these years and through young adulthood.² People who use marijuana in an e-cigarette may experience the same side effects as they would if they smoked marijuana—all of which can be heightened if the person uses marijuana with another substance, such as alcohol.³

THE BOTTOM LINE:
E-cigarettes are unsafe for young people. Whether a young person uses nicotine or marijuana in an e-cigarette, there can be dangerous health consequences.

LEARN MORE:
Get the latest information on how drugs affect the brain and body at teens.drugabuse.gov.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT E-CIGARETTES, CONTACT:
SAMHSA
1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)
(English and Español)
TTY 1-800-487-4889
www.samhsa.gov
store.samhsa.gov
KNOW THE LAW. People ages 18 and older are allowed to buy e-cigarettes in most states—other states have an age requirement of 19 or 21. However, just because e-cigarettes are legal for adults to purchase doesn’t mean they are safe, especially for young people.¹

KNOW THE RISKS. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm the developing adolescent brain. The nicotine in e-cigarettes and other tobacco products can also prime young brains for addiction to other drugs, such as cocaine and methamphetamine.²

LOOK AROUND YOU. E-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco product among youth. However, four out of five U.S. students overestimate peer e-cigarette use. If you’ve never smoked or used other tobacco products or e-cigarettes, don’t start.³

BE A FRIEND. Encourage your friend to stop using or seek help from a parent, teacher, or other caring adult.

For 24/7 free and confidential information and referrals in English and Spanish, call SAMHSA’s National Helpline at:


or visit the SAMHSA Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator at:

findtreatment.samhsa.gov

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