

This is a corrected version of the CBC article: The road to vaping. We have used their text and some of their graphics. We have added text and new graphics to correct the biased anti-harm reduction message continuously published by CBC.

The road to vaping

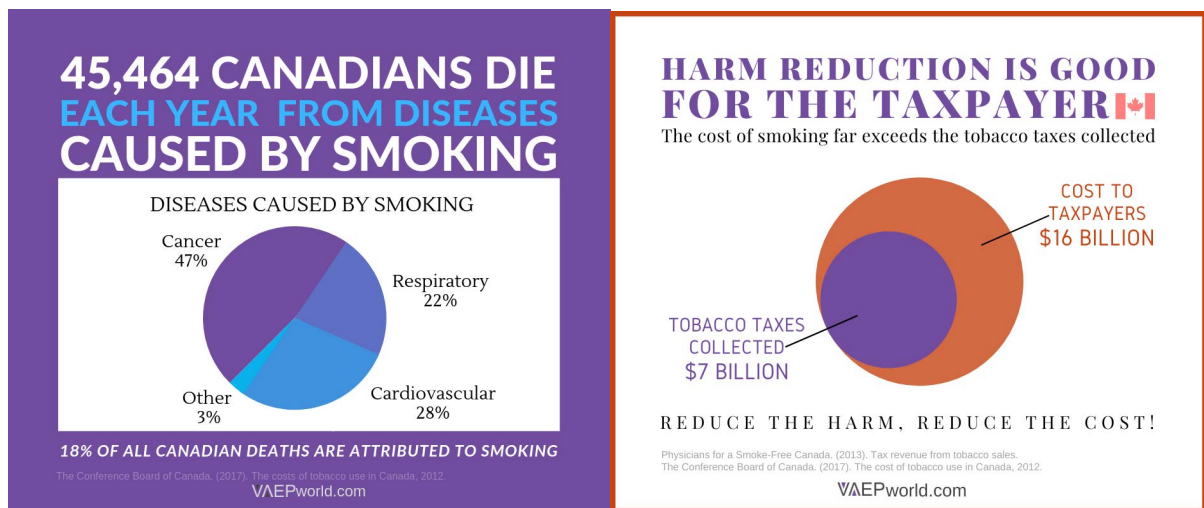
Less than two years ago, the federal government officially welcomed the vaping industry to Canada. The belief among policy-makers and public health experts was that e-cigarettes were safer than combustible cigarettes and would help smokers kick their habit. ~~That's not what happened.~~ **That's not what CBC reports**

By Kelly Crowe **Corrected by Kellie Ann**
December 2, 2019 **December 4, 2019**

This story is part of Vape Fail, a CBC News series examining some of the policy failures that led to the adoption of vaping as a smoking alternative and the resulting consequences.

Most Canadians don't smoke. **Most Canadians care about someone that smokes and can't quit.**

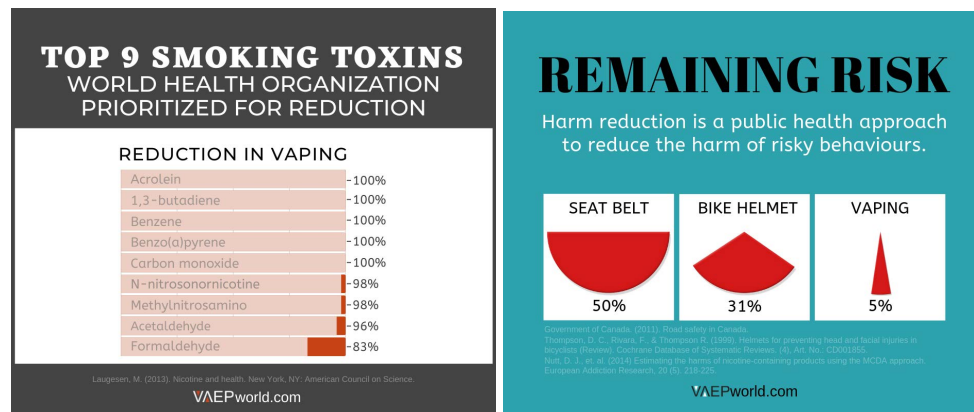
Yet Canada has chosen to implement a nationwide smoking-cessation strategy to make nicotine vaping devices as accessible as possible **to adult smokers.**



It was an unusual public health decision for regulators to deliberately craft a law to encourage the sale of an addictive product. **tobacco harm reduction for the most preventable cause of disease and death in Canada, smoking.**

The federal government's goal was "to strike a balance between protecting youth from inducement to nicotine and tobacco use, while allowing adult smokers to legally access vaping products," Health Minister Jane Philpott told a Senate committee on April 12, 2017, as the legislation was being debated before final approval.

The resulting law, which came into effect in May 2018, means vaping devices have fewer restrictions than tobacco and cannabis under Canada's Tobacco and Vaping Products Act. **to encourage smokers to switch to a much safer alternative.**



Unlike cannabis, vaping devices can be sold anywhere, and unlike tobacco, there are no warning signs on packages and the sale of fruit flavours is allowed.

To ensure smokers find a flavour they like and replace the taste of a cigarette that they have become accustomed to.

Unlike cigarettes, vaping products aren't subject to packaging rules that try to discourage sales. (Adrian Wyld/The Canadian Press)

The Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, the federal law which came into effect in May 2018, requires that liquid containing nicotine have required warnings prominently displayed on the label

Canada's vaping approach was based on a hypothesis — that the minority of

Canadians who still smoked might switch to vaping. **if the 5.7 million Canadians that smoke would switch to vaping, it would reduce the number of Canadians that suffer with smoking-related diseases. Currently 1.1 million citizens suffer with chronic disease caused from smoking.**

Federal health officials knew when they drafted the law that ~~they did not have~~ **there has been** definitive evidence that e-cigarettes were effective at helping people quit smoking. **since at least 2014.**

And today it's becoming clear that the utopian post-tobacco vision is not materializing the way it was imagined. **for most of the decade, due to the chronic misinformation by spread media, "health"-related non profits; health authorities and governments.**

"The majority of smokers do not switch," said Dr. Charlotta Pisinger, a leading researcher on tobacco prevention at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

"It was wishful thinking. The smokers didn't do as we wanted them to do." with the cig-a-likes back which 2012 which have the same smoking cessation rates as patches or gums, 6% - 8% at 6 months.

Instead of abandoning cigarettes, many smokers have added vaping to their nicotine habits, becoming dual-users. **(phase 1) then they just vape (phase 2) then they start to lower the amount of nicotine in their eliquid (phase 3) and wean off nicotine (phase 4)**

And even though the law tried to protect teens, through advertising and age restrictions, it hasn't worked. The latest statistics show that about a quarter of high school students across Canada are vaping. **have tried vaping and about a quarter have tried tobacco cigarettes. It is normal adolescent behaviour to experiment with adult taboos for instance 65% of this age group drink alcohol and 78% have watched pornography.**

0.1% of never smokers ~~Many of the people who have taken up the habit of vaping are teenagers who were never cigarette-smokers.~~ **avoided becoming cigarette smokers.** (Tony Dejak/The Associated Press)

illegal THC cartridges causing

Add to that a mysterious and deadly vaping illness, along with new research showing ~~vaping poses unique risks for organ damage and chronic disease, and~~ **human cell dysfunction in a petri dish full of eliquid; vaping causes heart attacks that happened 10 years before they vaped; and exsmokers who now vape have damage to their lungs from smoking.**

some of the same health advocates who promoted vaping are now calling for a course correction in Health Canada's policy.

"We opened it up too wide," said David Hammond, a professor of public health at the University of Waterloo who researches tobacco-control policies. "We still have very few regulations on e-cigarettes."

As they drafted the new vaping laws, health officials also appeared unconcerned about the looming spectre of Big Tobacco — with its devastating history of death and disease — moving prominently into the vaping sphere. **tainting the reputation of the 100's of Canadian local vape shops opened by exsmokers wanting to bring harm reduction to their communities.**

"It was kind of like the standard public health precautionary principles got thrown out the window," said Andrew Pipe, a heart specialist and smoking cessation physician in Ottawa.

"It's perplexing because otherwise sentient, thoughtful people allowed this to happen."

Everything is safer than a cigarette but before vaping only 2.5% of smokers managed to quit in a year. In 2016 and 2017, 54% of smokers who quit used a vape. Studies show long term success to be 3 times the success of patches, gum, etc.

The evolution of Canada's vaping policies was based on a **theory of relativity. hundreds of published articles that clearly indicate vaping is a fraction the harm of smoking.**

The battery-operated heating devices were novel consumer products that deliver

nicotine and other unknown compounds into the lungs. In 2014, over 9000 observations on the constituents of vapor were compared to universally recognized workplace exposure standards, and all (except 2 were less than 5%) were less than 1% of Threshold Limit Values.

But instead of being judged in isolation, e-cigarettes have always been measured

in relative terms — how safe they are compared to combustible cigarettes. **which is the whole point.**

And because almost every other consumer product is safer than a cigarette, vaping devices came on the market already bearing a healthy halo.

"It is the wrong way to look at it," said Pisinger, who realized early on the risks of comparing vaping to cigarette smoking.

"We have been so focused on smokers and how to make it easy for smokers to quit, or reduce their harm, that we have forgotten to take care of the rest of the population."

The emergence of e-cigarettes should not have caught tobacco-control experts by surprise. The tobacco industry has been working on a novel way to offer nicotine to their cigarette customers for decades.

Industry documents released through the courts show tobacco executives imagining an invention that would "act as an acceptable alternative to both cigarettes and quitting."



The tobacco industry had been looking for a novel way to deliver nicotine for years. (Michaela Rehle/Reuters)

"Perhaps we could develop cigarettes that would not have to be lighted with a flame ... that would burn without smoke ... and that would not leave butts. Ridiculous? Perhaps," an industry executive wrote in 1976. **In 2004, vaping was patented by a pharmacist who couldn't quit smoking and understood what is safe to inhale.**

All of the early industry prototypes failed in the market. But by 2006, a new version of Chinese-made "nicotine inhalers" began to be **imported** and sold in the U.S. They simulated the look and feel of a cigarette, but used a battery to create a nicotine vapour.

When those first e-cigarettes appeared in Canada in 2009, Health Canada's instinct was to slam the door shut.

The agency issued a public warning to Canadians "not to purchase or use electronic smoking products, as these products may pose health risks and have not been fully evaluated for safety, quality and efficacy by Health Canada." In the beginning, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also tried to crack down by blocking imports of e-cigarettes, calling them "unapproved drug/device combinations" that would need special health approval and licensing.

But when two U.S. companies sued the government, a **district court in D.C.** ruled the FDA did not have jurisdiction to regulate e-cigarettes because they were not being marketed as a treatment for nicotine addiction. Instead, the judge determined the marketing was aimed at "encouraging nicotine use."

The FDA decided not to appeal, and instead drafted legislation to regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products that need FDA approval. That **regulation** processes still unfolding. **This approval process will cost small businesses \$1million dollars for each flavour and nicotine strength which will shut down legal vaping and drive it underground.**

HOW THE FDA PLANS TO END TOBACCO HARM REDUCTION
Pre-market approval applications due May 12, 2020

Each eliquid flavor (2years)	\$131,643
Each eliquid flavor (3-20 years)	\$117,486
Total	\$249,129
For each nicotine strength (0, 3, 6, 9)	X4
Grand total per eliquid flavor	\$996,516

Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, (2016) Docket No. FDA-2014-N-0169
VAEPworld.com

IT'S BIG CORPORATIONS THAT ARE SELLING VAPES TO YOUTH:
MOBIL, SHELL, CHEVRON, WALMART, CASH'S GENERAL STORE, 7-ELEVEN, FAMILY DOLLAR, KROGER, WALLGREENS, MARATHON, EXXON, SUNOCO, BP, CITGO, CIRCLE K
If eliquid flavors are banned these big corporations will be the only ones left

SAVE YOUR LOCAL MOM & POP VAPE SHOPS
❤️
THEY CARE ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITIES!

FDA (2019) Statement from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., on proposed regulations focused on youth access to e-cigarettes as part of FDA's Youth Tobacco Prevention Plan
VAEPworld.com

unregulated

Although nicotine e-cigarettes remained technically ~~illegal~~ in Canada, small vape shops selling flavoured vaping juices began popping up across the country. Canadians were also able to buy e-cigarettes online.

The first e-cigarettes were advertised in magazines and online as a way for smokers to keep smoking with greater freedom — on airplanes, in bars and other places where cigarettes were banned.

An e-cigarette **advertisement published in 2011** asks, "Why Quit?" and urges smokers to use the e-cigarette to "take back your freedom to smoke when and where you want without ash or smell

When tobacco prevention researcher Charlotta Pisinger saw that ad she had a flashback to the tobacco industry's campaign several decades earlier promoting the benefits of switching to "light" cigarettes.

"Suddenly I could see it in the historical perspective," the researcher said. "And we knew from light cigarettes that it was a public health disaster because they undermined smokers' wish to quit completely."

Andrew Pipe, the heart specialist in Ottawa, used the "Why quit?" ad in seminars at medical conferences five years ago to warn about the ways tobacco companies could use e-cigarettes to promote smoking. He told his audiences it would be an opportunity for the tobacco industry to push back against the social forces that had made smoking increasingly unacceptable in public.

"There was a disinclination to thoughtfully regulate these products," he said. The Blu brand, featured in the ad, is now owned by Imperial Brands, which acquired it in 2014, as part of a merger. A spokesperson for Fontem Ventures, a subsidiary of Imperial, said the company can't speak to the motivations of ads created before the acquisition.

"In regards to this specific advertisement and messaging, this is not the type of language that we would use."

Specialty Vape Shops are not Big Tobacco. The majority refuse to carry any products produced by Big Tobacco.

No proof, but plenty of faith

From the start, vaping companies were given a free pass on the health effects of their products. The industry was never pressured to prove that e-cigarettes were

anything more than recreational devices, because the science had already established the significant reduction in harm compared to smoking.

And, in an odd reversal of marketing roles, public health officials began

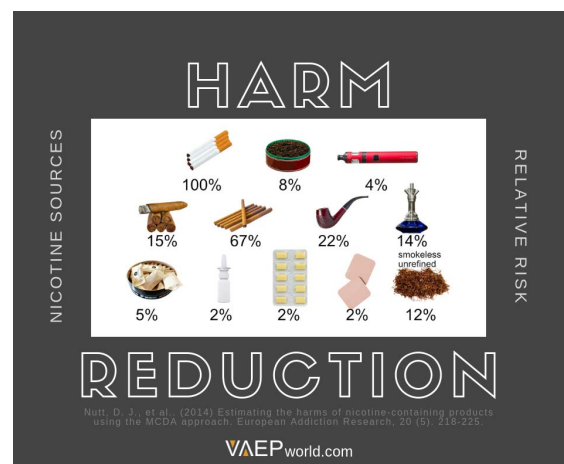
promoting the health benefits of vaping, because they have an ethical responsibility to promote harm reduction and improve population health outcomes.

In 2015, Public Health England famously **announced** that e-cigarettes were "95 per cent safer than cigarettes" based on a review of the evidence. That endorsement was reported in headlines around the world. **because this group of experts used the standard method of assessing harm from drug use, the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis.**

But the "95 per cent safer" claim was immediately criticized in an editorial in *The Lancet* as having an "extraordinarily flimsy foundation," which was largely based on "the opinions of a small group of individuals with no prespecified expertise in tobacco control."

Even though the study estimating the harms of nicotine containing products using the MCDA approach was conducted by 12 experts in tobacco control.

The editorial also points out that some authors had potential conflicts of interest with the ecigarette industry.



Many public health experts put faith in the idea that e-cigarettes could be the key to getting smokers to quit. (Rich Pedroncelli/The Associated Press)



"It's as if this was scientifically established. It's not," said Richard Stanwick, the chief medical health officer for Island Health in Victoria. "It's just opinion."

Still, the U.K. pronouncement became one of the main pieces of evidence cited by public health officials to support a pro-vaping stance. "It went all over the world, and it confused many public health people," said Pisinger, who was doing her own research on the health effects of vaping.

A year earlier, Pisinger published the first [systematic review](#) of the studies into [72 selected studies including analysis of eliquid reports on adverse events and human and animal experimental studies](#).

the health effects of e-cigarettes and concluded the evidence was so weak and marred by severe conflicts of interest that no firm conclusions could be made

about safety. [Their review found that the amounts of harmful chemicals were "some in high but most in low/trace concentrations."](#)

She [updated that review](#) for the World Health Organization in 2015, stepping up the warning by concluding: "Even though no firm conclusions can be drawn on the safety of e-cigarettes, there is an increasing body of evidence indicating harm."

"I felt a great responsibility on drawing these conclusions," she said. "But I felt I had to focus on the public health and not only on smokers."

But she was a lonely voice amid the rising chorus of experts trumpeting the end of cigarette smoking through e-cigarettes.

"I felt very much isolated."

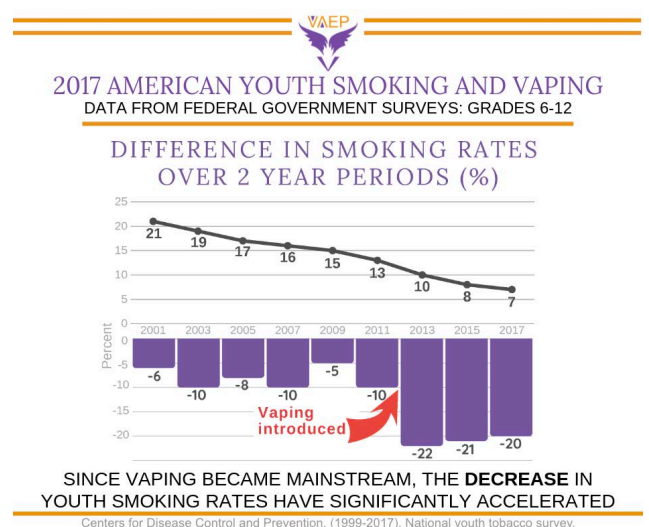
Early signs of youth vaping

As the pro-vaping forces gathered steam, there was evidence from all over the world that young people were experimenting with e-cigarettes.

In 2013, the CDC [reported](#) "e-cigarette experimentation and recent use doubled" among middle and high school students during 2011-2012. [not surprising since teens](#)

[experiment with adult products and vaping is a new adult product](#). Two years later, the CDC [reported](#) a 900 per cent increase in teen

[ecigarette use trying an e-cigarette](#) prompting the U.S. surgeon general to [announce](#) that it had become "a major public health concern." [as youth smoking rates plummeted; more than doubling previous years](#).



The same pattern was emerging in France, Poland and Canada, where a 2014 survey showed 16 per cent of young people reported trying e-cigarettes. And the majority of them were "never smokers." [just like youth never smokers try smoking.](#)

By 2015, Dr. Richard Stanwick in Victoria was so concerned about youth vaping that he wrote an urgent position paper for the [Canadian Paediatric Society](#) urging Ottawa and the provinces to create regulations that would restrict the sale and marketing of e-cigarettes.

He said he felt dismissed as a "nervous Nellie."

At the time, e-cigarettes with nicotine were still illegal in Canada. But

enforcement was weak. [Vaping is legal in Canada and regulated by the federal government.](#)

“THE INGREDIENTS TYPICALLY FOUND IN VAPING LIQUIDS ARE ALSO FOUND IN THE VAPOUR. THESE INCLUDE:

- glycerol
- flavours
- propylene glycol
- nicotine (possibly)”

-Health Canada

Cigarette smoke contains over 7000 chemicals

Government of Canada. (2018). Vaping. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/smoking-tobacco/vaping.html> / American Lung Association. (2019). What's in a cigarette? Retrieved from <http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/about-smoking/facts-fiction>

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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
Direct quote:

EXCEPT FOR NICOTINE, VAPING PRODUCTS TYPICALLY ONLY CONTAIN A FRACTION OF THE 7,000 CHEMICALS FOUND IN TOBACCO OR TOBACCO SMOKE, AND AT LOWER LEVELS.

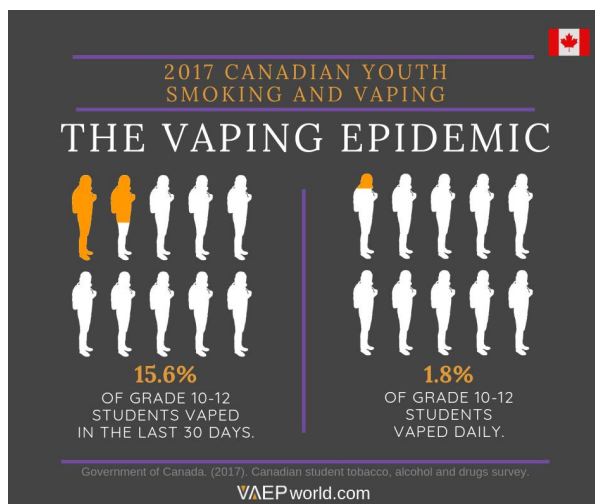
Government of Canada. (2019). Vaping. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/smoking-tobacco/vaping/smokers.html>

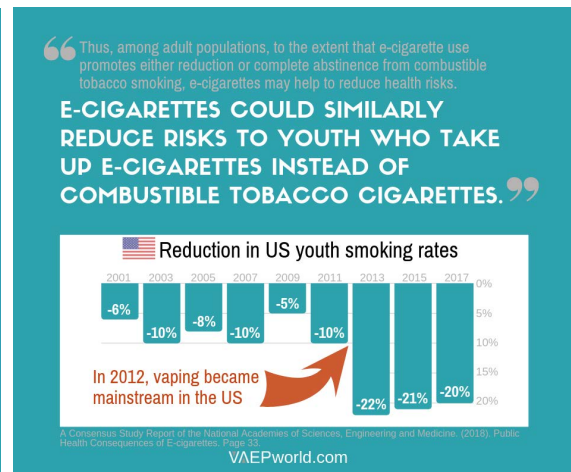
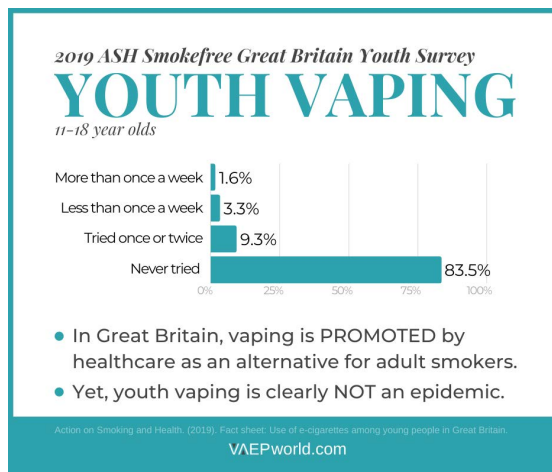
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"We know that youth are using these products," Hillary Geller, an assistant deputy minister at Health Canada, [told the Commons health committee](#) in October 2014.

"In some cases, marketing appears to be targeted at youth and young adults through the use of flavours and certain promotional techniques that glamorize their use."





Big Tobacco is also Big Vape but not vape shops

As they designed a policy to bring electronic cigarettes into the marketplace, the policy-makers ignored the signs that Big Tobacco had become Big Vape.

Beginning in 2010, the major international tobacco companies entered the e-cigarette industry by acquiring smaller companies and developing their own devices.

It's almost evangelical in this movement that the vape industry is the one that's going to solve the cigarette problem

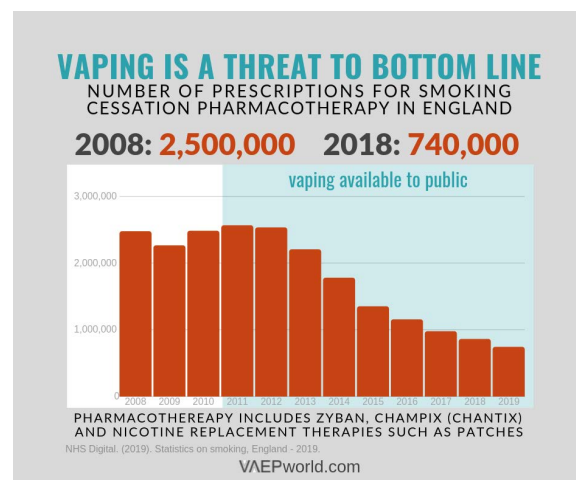
The vaping industry is comprised of thousands of local mom & pop vape shops opened by exsmokers that were finally able to quit smoking thanks to tobacco harm reduction (vaping). These brave citizens quit their careers and put their life savings on the line to help other smokers in their communities.

They have been attacked daily by health authorities and media. Yet, they are driven by the understanding of how helpless smokers are with their addiction. They have helped thousands of Canadians and millions of Americans quit smoking without one dime of tax dollars. However, millions of tax dollars have been spent and continue to be spent oppressing tobacco harm reduction. Further, media refuse to report the truth and continue to repeat a false narrative. The question is: who is dictating this narrative?

By 2018, they dominated the market, a development tracked by Annalise Mathers at the University of Toronto.

"I think they were just kind of lying in wait in terms of when to start to acquire these products, kind of slowly and silently," she said.

"The TTCs [transnational tobacco companies] really wanted another opportunity to establish their legitimacy, to establish their place at the table in terms of policy



Smoking makes people very sick and sick people are very profitable for industries that treat smoking-related diseases.

and regulation moving forward. So I think this has to be viewed in terms of a very long-term business strategy."

The World Health Organization warned countries that the increasing involvement of the global tobacco giants in the marketing of e-cigarettes "is a major threat to tobacco control."

In Victoria, Richard Stanwick watched the involvement of Big Tobacco with growing concern, even though other smoking-cessation experts still believed that vaping could end tobacco smoking.

"It's almost evangelical in this movement that the vape industry is the one that's going to solve the cigarette problem," Stanwick said. "The rest of us really see the big engagement of Big Tobacco."

Canada's Tobacco and Vaping Products Act came into effect in May 2018, just three months before the arrival of JUUL, a radical innovation in e-cigarettes. Representatives from the vaping giant made a [courtesy call](#) to Health Canada in August to introduce the new devices the company was about to launch in Canada.

The sleek JUUL device could be easily hidden from parents and teachers. And the tiny cartridge filled with flavoured nicotine salts gave users a hit of nicotine that rivaled a traditional cigarette.

JUUL contain 'nic salts'. Nic salts mimic the delivery of nicotine absorption more like a cigarette than pure nicotine and help heavy smokers transition to vaping. They come in varying concentrations to wean down.

In September 2018, the JUUL juggernaut landed with force.

Hooked: How JUUL took over the vaping world

Teenage vaping surged to the point where some schools took the doors off bathrooms, and teachers were seizing devices from students.

"I think this is what is most frustrating," said Stanwick. "We had a chance to get ahead of this product."

Big Tobacco owns most of the the small closed system pods found in convenience stores. They dominate this market. However, there are a wide variety of vaping products such as adjustable batteries, thousands of eliquid flavours and refillable tanks that allow the adult smoker to find what works for them. These are products are produced by entrepreneurs that cannot compete with Big Tobacco's massive resources. These entrepreneurs employ 160,000 people on the USA alone.

It would be a grave injustice to shut down all of the harm reduction businesses because Big Tobacco can afford to acquisition smaller companies that make closed pod systems and because people wrongly believe that the vaping industry is Big Tobacco. Driving the thousands of mom & pop vape shops out of business through rampant misinformation, will leave Big Tobacco as the only supplier of vaping products.

They will then own the entire tobacco harm reduction industry and smoking is more addictive and therefore profitable. What then will happen to the efficacy of tobacco harm reduction when left to those who engineered the most addictive cigarette possible?

Health Canada helps market e-cigarettes

Meanwhile, Health Canada officials were working on ways to promote vaping to smokers by developing a series of health claims the industry could use to market the products.

In early September 2018, Health Canada sent a letter inviting industry officials and tobacco-control advocates to comment on seven statements, all variations on the claim that vaping is safer than smoking.

The consultations were not made public. But the federal government did make an [announcement](#) at a World Trade Organization committee meeting last year that it is developing regulations "to allow for certain statements to be used in the promotion of vaping products that compare the health effects of vaping to smoking."

(Health Canada told CBC News in an email this week that the proposal for comparative health statements is still under consideration.)

"It floored me, and got me busy writing comments," Neil Collishaw, research director with Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada, said of his reaction to learning about the consultations.

He wrote a [detailed response](#) to Health Canada, concluding: "Rather than seeking to create a series of ill-advised comparative risk statements, Health Canada is encouraged to take effective action to mitigate serious public health problems associated with e-cigarette use."

If vaping is permitted to solve the smoking problem there will be no need for Physicians for a Smoke Free Canada. Further, many health-related nonprofits will lose funding if smoking rates fall and smoking-related diseases decline.

THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY WANTS HARM REDUCTION TO BE UNATTRACTIVE TO SMOKERS:

"The federal gov't should adopt restrictions on the use of flavours in vaping products."

Cancer caused from smoking generates

\$790,000,000

a year for the Canadian cancer industry.

Canadian Cancer Society (2019). Smokers' health: The impact of smoking on health. Board of Canada (2017). The health of Canadians in Canada. VAEPworld.com

"VAPING"

INCLUDES A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE DRUG, NICOTINE, WHICH

COULD LEAD TO ADDICTION TO REGULAR CIGARETTES."

Terry Dean, Canadian Lung Assoc.

THE FACTS:

SINCE CANADIAN TEENS BEGAN VAPING, TEEN SMOKING RATES HAVE DECLINED BY 19%.

THE HIGHEST DECLINE SINCE 2003!

Government of Canada, 2017

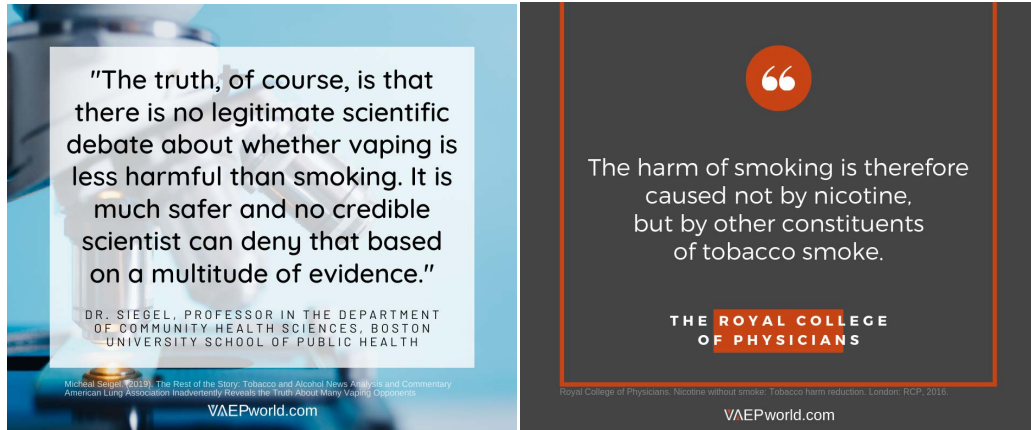
Canadian Lung Association. (2019) Vaping: The time to act is now. Government of Canada. (2015, 2016, 2017). Canadian student tobacco, alcohol and drugs survey. / (2015). Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey: overview of historical data, 1999 to 2012.

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Anti-harm reduction

Tobacco-control advocate Stanton Glantz, a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, [warned](#) Health Canada that the proposed health claims "could be misread by consumers and potential consumers as indicating that e-cigarettes are safe."

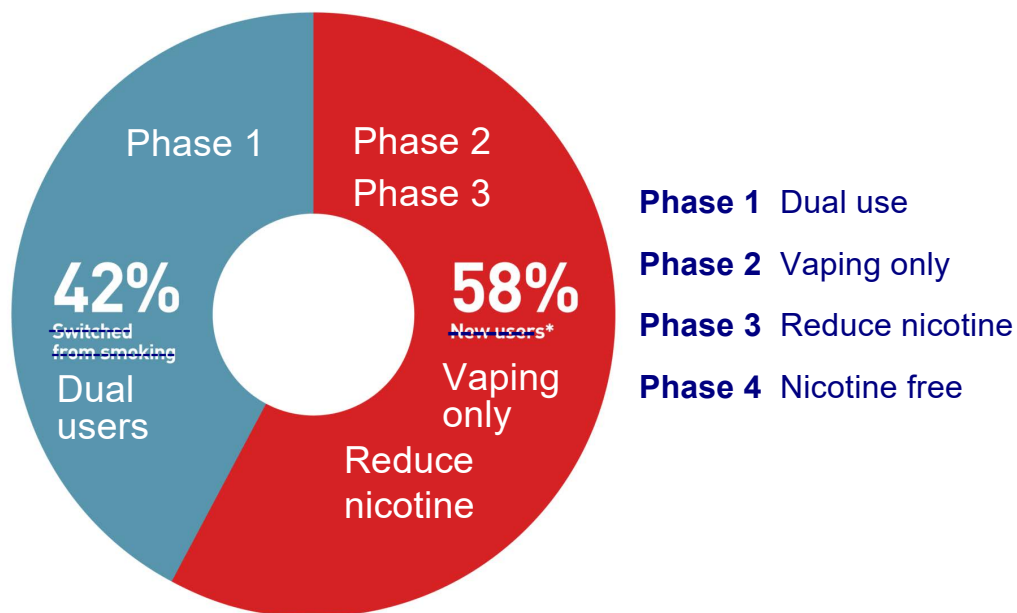
Professor Glantz does not have an education in health sciences. But that didn't stop him from releasing a study that claimed that vaping causes heart attacks. In review of the study the subjects were exsmokers who switched to vaping. Further, some of the heart attacks happened years before the subject started vaping; up to 10 years before! Smoking causes cardiovascular disease because of toxins such as hydrogen cyanide which is not found in vapour.



Dual users vs smokers that switched to vaping

Vaping: ~~converts vs. new users~~

(as of March 2019)



CBC NEWS

Source: British American Tobacco

The above refers to adult vapers 18 and older. *The new user category could include those who used to smoke in the past or who used other nicotine products.

It is important to note that the original British American Tobacco document references the 42% as "switching" (Dual use). CBC writes "switched". This is an EXCELLENT example of the integrity of this news agency funded by Canadians' hard earned tax dollars. Our citizens deserve UNBIASED news coverage.

Fontem Ventures, which markets the Blu vaping device, said in a submission that it "applauds" Health Canada for the initiative.

The company suggested several revisions and also advised Health Canada to replace the term "e-cigarette" with "vaping products."

"Although we suggested minor revisions to the wording of these statements, we strongly support the concept of public authorities making scientifically substantiated statements that allow adult smokers to make an informed choice about how they consume nicotine," Fontem Ventures spokesperson Ross Parker told CBC News in an email.

Big Tobacco at the policy table

So, in a stunning resurrection from the ashes of a public health disaster, Big Tobacco is back at the health policy table.

After decades of fierce legal and legislative battles, the tobacco industry and health policy-makers are now on the same side, promoting a nicotine product aimed at harm reduction.

Chris Proctor, chief scientific officer of British American Tobacco, left, and Jorge Araya, president and CEO of Imperial Tobacco Canada, a subsidiary of BAT, announcing a national roll-out of Vype vaping products in Toronto in May 2018. (Imperial Tobacco Canada/The Canadian Press)

Timothy Dewhirst, a marketing professor at the University of Guelph, said it's not harm reduction if vaping ends up drawing in new users to nicotine or if smokers add vaping to their cigarette habit and ultimately fail to quit.

Evidently, a marketing professor knows nothing about harm reduction. Here is a definition from the Canadian Nurses Association: "Harm reduction is a public health response aimed at reducing the negative consequences of actions that increase the risk of adverse health outcomes including substance use." In this case the substance is nicotine.

"I think there's overall a net harm," he said, pointing out that the goal of complete smoking cessation is not a good business strategy for the tobacco industry.

"Their objectives are different than the public health community's objectives," he said. "It's not in their interest to have people successfully quit altogether."

'Bad news on all fronts'

At this point, tobacco industry projections still emphasize traditional cigarette sales as the core of their business.

"Cigarette sales around the world have been quite stable and I don't think that those will be going down anytime soon," said Annalise Mathers, of the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit at the University of Toronto.

Industry documents reveal that rather than switching completely to vaping, many smokers are using both e-cigarettes and combustible cigarettes. **being dual users (Phase 1)**

It's also becoming clear that many **(1%)** vapers are new to the nicotine habit.

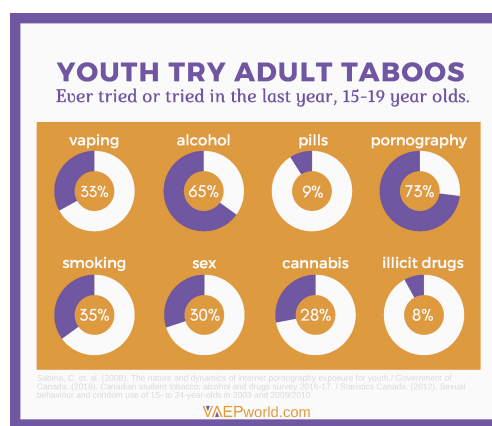


"E-cigarettes and reduced-risk products are kind of seen as a nice complement to maintain that core business, which is nicotine," Mathers said. "Keeping people addicted to nicotine."

At the same time, an entirely new generation of teenage nicotine addiction is taking hold. **1.8% of Canadian youth vape daily. They could have become smokers and explains the significant drop in youth smoking rates.**

Kid-friendly flavours such as mint and mango have been part of the appeal of vaping for teens. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

Considering that 4300 American youth died from alcohol last year and zero have died from nicotine eliquid, perhaps we should talk about banning flavours in alcohol.



University of Waterloo professor David Hammond tracks youth vaping trends through a survey of thousands of teenagers in Canada, the U.S. and U.K.


Last year, his research [picked up the first signs](#) of a vaping surge in Canada following JUUL's arrival. This year, the numbers have gone up again.

"Vaping has almost doubled again among youth," he said. "What we're seeing is more frequent vaping. We're seeing more and more ... that they feel they're addicted to vaping.

"So, essentially, it's bad news on all fronts in terms of youth."

“CIGARETTE SMOKING AMONG 16-19 YEAR OLDS...INCREASED BY 45%...”

THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY, (Hammond et al., 2019)



David Hammond, PhD

headed a research paper that claims youth smoking increased from 2017-2018 in Canada, the US and the UK.

Yet all 3 countries reported NO INCREASE in YOUTH or ADULT smoking in that time period.

Hammond, D. et al. (2019). Prevalence of vaping and smoking among adolescents in Canada, England, and the United States: repeat national cross sectional surveys. / Statistics Canada. (2019). Canadian Community Health Survey. / Smoking in England. (2019). Smoking toolkit study. / NHS Digital. (2019). Statistics on smoking. / National Health Information Survey. (2019). Sample adult core component. / CDC. (2017 & 2018) National Youth Tobacco Survey.

VAEPworld.com

Consider the source of the information.

Add to that the continued ~~lack of evidence that vaping helps smokers quit.~~
success of millions of smokers that have switched to vaping.

"There are three or four good review studies that show that these things are 85 to 95 per cent ineffective," said Andrew Pipe, the heart specialist in Ottawa. "And that's generally not appreciated."

CBC News asked Health Canada for a chance to interview the minister or a department official about the agency's vaping policy, but no interview was granted.

On Nov. 21, shortly after she was sworn in as Canada's new health minister, Patty Hajdu was asked by reporters what she planned to do about youth vaping.

"I will say, as the mother of two now grown boys, I can imagine the stress this is giving to parents all across Canada," she said.

"So, we have to do more. I'll be speaking with stakeholders. I'll be speaking with my colleagues about what stronger actions we can take to protect young people from the effects of vaping but also the effects of advertising that tries to convince them that this is a healthier choice."

Some public health experts fear that encouraging vaping might set back progress made in recent decades in reducing smoking rates (Gleb Garanich/Reuters)

The fear-provoking theory that vaping is a gateway to smoking is nonsense. As, youth vaping rates have risen, youth smoking rates are plummeting.

For decades scientists added chemicals to cigarettes and tested for addictive qualities making smoking the most addictive product in North America. Eliquid does not have these chemicals found in cigarettes, vaping is less addictive.



For Charlotta Pisinger, the Danish researcher, all of the commotion about vaping has obscured the fact that smokers already had the tools to help shed their nicotine dependency. Smoking rates have fallen dramatically over the past several decades.

In 1965, about half of the population smoked. Fifty years later, the smoking rate in Canada was down to about 15 per cent.

She is concerned that encouraging smokers to vape assumes that they can never be fully free of nicotine.

"Is risk reduction the aim? Isn't our aim to get smokers to breathe clean air?"

Pipe has some even darker fears.

"My biggest fear is that we are going to go back to a time where we see a significant, if not a majority of the population dependent on nicotine as was the case with cigarettes in the '50s and '60s," he said.

"Are we going to see history repeat itself?"

