

Perceptions of Harm to Children Exposed to Secondhand Aerosol From Electronic Vapor Products, Styles Survey, 2015

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KEY MESSAGES

- The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded secondhand aerosol that is emitted by e-cigarettes is not harmless. It can contain harmful and potentially harmful constituents, including nicotine, ultrafine particles, heavy metals, and volatile organic compounds.
- Youth are particularly vulnerable to secondhand aerosol exposure, which can be inhaled deep into the developing lungs.
- These findings indicate that 5% of US adults believe children’s exposure to secondhand aerosol from e-cigarette products causes no harm, two out of every five adults believe it causes some or little harm, and one in three don’t know if it causes harm.
- Current and former adult cigarette smokers and e-cigarette product users had greater odds of perceiving that secondhand aerosol exposure poses no harm to children.
- Efforts are warranted to educate the public about the health risks of secondhand e-cigarette aerosol exposure, and to protect non-users, particularly children, from this preventable health hazard.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

- 42.4% of men and 37.6% of women believe children’s exposure to secondhand aerosol from e-cigarette products causes some or little harm.
- 33.5% of men and 33% of women don’t know if children’s exposure to secondhand aerosol from e-cigarette products causes harm.
- 40.1% of whites, 37.2% of blacks, 38.8% of Hispanics, and 44.2% of other races/ethnicities believe children’s exposure to secondhand aerosol from e-cigarette products causes some or little harm.
- 36.0% of whites, 34.0% of blacks, 27.7% of Hispanics, and 20.1% of other races/ethnicities don’t know if children’s exposure to secondhand aerosol from e-cigarette products causes harm.