Youth Tobacco Use Rises for First Time in 17 Years

Over 26 percent of high-school students surveyed reported using tobacco products in past 30 days

OVER

What's Driving This Trend?

Explosion of E-Cigarette Use

- Nearly one in five high-school students used e-cigarettes in past 30 days
- Nearly a 50 percent increase since 2014
- E-cigarettes have disrupted a 17-year downward trend in youth tobacco use

Why the Rise?

Flavors Appeal to Kids

• Over 60 percent of students who use tobacco reported using menthol or other flavored products

Easy Access

Nearly a third

of high school e-cigarette users report they got their e-cigarettes from retail outlets, about one in five got them from vape shops

Aggressive Marketing

 Most students (88 percent) have seen ads for e-cigarettes – of those who are heavily exposed on social media, nearly
 40 percent use e-cigarettes

Changing Landscape

• One in three high-school e-cigarette users reported they had used an e-cigarette to vape marijuana or THC oil/wax

The Good News: Less Youth Smoking

Fewer than 10 percent of high-school students now report smoking cigarettes

 a 70 percent decrease since 2000. Due to high cigarette prices and decades of tobacco prevention efforts, youth cigarette smoking is at an all-time low – but that progress is threatened by the changing tobacco industry.

SINCE 2000

Proven Strategies to Decrease Tobacco Use:

- Increase the price of tobacco products
- Increase prevention and cessation funding
- Restrict the sale of flavored and menthol tobacco products
- Raise the minimum legal sale age for tobacco products to 21

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH