

As proud Oregon residents who value the health, wellness, and happiness of our communities, we understand the impulse to proactively regulate the burgeoning vaporizer industry. We are concerned, however, with the aggressiveness with which certain measures are being pushed, and we feel that some bills would do damage not only to our industry, but to the state.

The immediate passage of HB 754, which proposes raising the smoking age to 21, would harm many Oregonians, such as current industry employees who are younger than 21, as well as the 18- to 20-year-olds who are currently addicted to tobacco and attempting to use vaporizers as a safe alternative to cigarettes. We ask that a 3-year exemption be granted while data is collected from our state and from states that have recently passed such smoking bans.

Perhaps our most pressing concern at this time, however, is one that directly impacts the fiscal health of the state. This industry is already providing a great deal of revenue Oregon, and rushing legislation into place without very careful consideration and data collection could have long-standing fiscal consequences.

HB 2037 and HB 2056 proposes “increases rate of taxation on cigarettes and tobacco products. At the proposed rates of 81.25% and 90% respectively, many Oregon businesses will not be able to meet that exorbitant rate and will close.

HB 2056 also proposes a retail tax on liquid nicotine “at the rate of 0.05 cents per milligram per milliliter of nicotine.” That relates to a \$4.5 increase to a 30 milliliter bottle of 3 milligram per milliliter (mg/ml), which is a lower strength and an \$18 increase to the same size bottle but in a 12 mg/ml.

There are more than 180 vape shops in Oregon at this time. Employees generally earn \$10 an hour, which amounts to an annual full-time income of \$19,200. The state income tax imposed would generally amount to \$1,056 per employee. With 8 employees per store, that amounts to \$1,520,640 paid to the state.

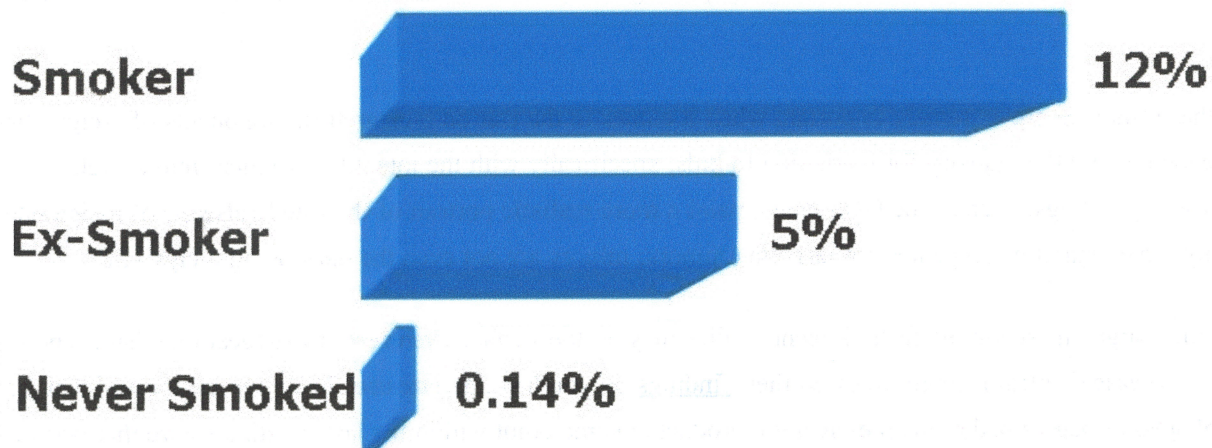
The average business income tax is \$28,800 annually or \$7,200 quarterly (based on Northwest Freedom Vape, LLC). For 180 vape shops, this amounts to \$5,184,000.

As evidenced by these calculations, this industry is extremely profitable and stands to bolster the fiscal health of the state of Oregon, but the current bill proposals will drive consumers out of state, greatly jeopardizing the many small local businesses that have recently sprung up. Affordable and carefully crafted regulations will bring an end to inferior e-liquids. We value the integrity of our industry and support such regulations. But we urge you to carefully consider the consequences of the current proposed measures and the effects that they will have on the physical and financial well-being of the residents of this state.

New Study Shows E-cigarettes are Not Attracting New Users

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Percentage of E-Cigarette Users, by Smoking Status



Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey - Office for National Statistics

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A recent [study](#) by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in Great Britain is showing some enlightening facts about who really is using e-cigarettes. The data from the ONS showed, among other interesting facts, that in 2014 only 0.1% of people who had never smoked before were smokers of e-cigarettes. Researchers are suggesting that this indicates that e-cigarettes truly do not attract people who never smoked before to use them.

A spokesperson for ONS said to [BBC News](#): “E-cigarettes are almost exclusively used by smokers and ex-smokers. Almost none of those who had never smoked cigarettes were [e-cigarette](#) users.” The data comes as no shock to the hundreds and thousands of e-cigarettes users, who were once tobacco smokers. As a cessation method, users are experiencing great success with e-cigarettes, devices that are helping people the world over kick the dangerous habit of smoking.

The ONS data also showed that in general there has been a decline in the number of people smoking in Great Britain going from 20% to 19% between 2012 and 2013. The numbers in the USA are also down, and in both of these countries



likes of with very few industries have ever seen.

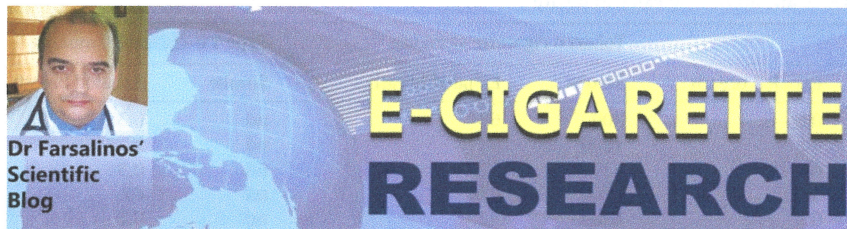
The survey also produced some interesting information on why people are switching over from their cigarettes to the [popular vaping devices](#). The ONS study showed that over half of e-cigarette users said that their main reason for using e-cigarettes was to stop smoking. In addition, another one in five said the main reason for their use was because e-cigarettes are thought to be [less harmful than the traditional cigarettes](#) they used to smoke. With almost 70% of users attributing their cigarette usage to health reasons, it shows that not only are e-cigarettes considered by their users to be a healthier choice, but they are not often chosen as a first introduction to nicotine and “smoking”. This is in direct opposition to some critics’ opinion that e-cigarettes are becoming a popular gateway for teens and adolescents to enter the world of “smoking”.

It is why these findings are extremely important when it comes to the war on e-cigarettes. Opponents of e-cigarettes often criticize vaping and the industry for marketing to kids, specifically with the intent to lure them into a lifelong addiction. However findings, such as the ONS study, paint a more realistic portrait of the true landscape of e-cigarette use. Not only are e-cigarette companies not targeting minors; minors are not even the ones using e-cigarettes.

Again, critics may argue these simple facts. Recent studies may on the surface even seem to suggest they have a point. The Center for Disease Control recently released their [findings](#) on youth e-cigarette use. Their survey showed that 4.5% of high school aged teenagers had used an e-cigarette product at some point within the last month a figure that was up from 1.5% in 2011. These findings, however, are just part of the larger picture of a new societal trend taking effect. The trends of the teenage population are simply mimicking that of the general population around us. With sales of e-cigarettes growing approximately 25% each year, use is bound to be up across the board. These type of increases are to be expected when the popularity and accessibility of a product has grown at such an enormous rate. The accessibility youth, and all consumers, had to e-cigarettes was far different in 2011, a fact that should also be taken into consideration when examining the increased percentage in youth use.

Dr. Penny Woods, Chief Executive of the British Lung Foundation, seems to disagree with the gateway theory when attributed to e-cigarettes. She stated in response to the ONS survey that: “These data should again alleviate the fears expressed by some over an e-cigarette gateway effect – people [trying e-cigarettes](#) before moving on to the much more harmful practice of smoking. However, this is something we’ll need to keep a watchful eye on, as the situation may well change as e-cigarettes continue to become more commonplace.” While cigarettes are becoming replaced with e-cigarettes their accessibility will grow, and this fact should be well monitored to keep e-cigarettes exactly what they are, a healthier choice, rather than a gateway to addiction.

The ONS survey gives us important insight on the users of e-cigarettes, which can only help in the long run. Knowing not only who is using e-cigarettes, primarily smokers and ex smokers, but also why, will hopefully help opponents of e-cigarettes [understand the benefits](#) and let them outshine the negatives. While e-cigarette users already know who they are and why they vape, studies that show these simple facts will help e-cigarettes maintain their foothold as a benefit to society, rather than a detriment.



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New study proves there is no second-hand vaping: e-cigarette aerosol contains less volatile compounds than normal exhaled breath (</research/index.php/whats-new/whatsnew-2015/226-sp>)

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Monday, 07 September 2015 21:09

By Dr Farsalinos

A new study was published today in *Journal of Chromatography A* (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26243705>). The study was performed by the Spanish Council of Scientific Research. They measured the levels of several volatile organic compounds (VOC, they measured 156 compounds) in indoor air, normal exhaled breath, smoke of tobacco cigarettes, exhaled breath of smokers after taking cigarette puffs, e-cigarette aerosol and exhaled breath of vapers after taking e-cigarette puffs.

First, let me clarify that VOCs are a large group of compounds, some (but not all) of which are toxic. The study has some methodological problems. In the Sampling section, they mention: “*People inspired and expired deeply three times, then retained the breath for 20 s and blew into the Bio-VOC body through a disposable cardboard mouthpiece at their highest capacity*”. Obviously, smokers or vapers do not hold their breath for 20 seconds before exhaling the breath. Thus, the study probably overestimated the absorption rate of VOCs present in cigarette smoke or e-cigarette aerosol. However, still the information is valuable because they also measured the smoke and e-cigarette content.

The results of the study basically showed that indoor air and normal exhaled breath contains more VOCs than the e-cigarette aerosol! I calculated 17 and 25 VOCs in the 2 e-cigarettes tested, 36 VOCs in indoor air and 42 in normal (non-smoking, non-vaping) exhaled breath. Tobacco cigarette smoke contained 86 VOCs, and exhaled breath after smoking similarly contained a large number of VOCs. As I said, not all VOCs are toxic but, interestingly, there were cases of toxic compounds present in the exhaled breath but not in the e-cigarette aerosol. For example, isoprene, which is listed as a carcinogenic compound in California Proposition 65 (I hope the CEH is reading this comment), is present ONLY in exhaled breath (even in normal exhaled breath), but not in e-cigarette aerosol.

The study did find nicotine in the exhaled breath after taking e-cigarette puffs, which is expected and compatible with findings from other studies. I have already presented in a previous comment (</research/index.php/whats-new/whatsnew-2014/184-passive-vape>) that the amount of nicotine in the environment is so low that it does not have any effect (not even a biological effect, let alone an adverse effect) on those environmentally-exposed.

The study adds to a previous publication (<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/11/11/11177/htm>) finding no carbonyls (aldehydes) exhaled after taking e-cigarette puffs. Moreover, it shows the absence of several toxic compounds not only in exhaled breath but also in the aerosol, which is relevant to the safety of e-cigarettes compared to the huge emissions in tobacco cigarette smoke. Below is a table from the study, showing selected VOCs (nd = not detected).

Table 3
Concentrations ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) of selected VOC in air, smoke and exhaled breath^a.


Compound	No smoking		Tobacco cigarette smoking		Type 1 e-cigarette smoking		Type 2 e-cigarette smoking	
	Indoor air	Exhaled breath	Smoke	Exhaled breath	Smoke	Exhaled breath	Smoke	Exhaled breath
Pent-1-ene	0.5	0.6	700	68	nd	0.3	nd	nd
n-Pentane	nd	nd	1200	63	nd	7	nd	nd
Pent-2-ene	nd	0.5	625	52	nd	0.3	nd	nd
Isoprene	0.4	87	2700	670	nd	47	nd	45
Pent-2-ene	nd	0.3	460	32	nd	0.2	nd	nd
n-Hexane	1	nd	975	14	nd	nd	nd	0.6
Benzene	0.6	4	1100	49	0.6	0.8	nd	0.5
Isooctane	0.4	0.2	nd	nd	nd	0.2	nd	1.5
n-Heptane	0.2	0.4	890	26	nd	0.3	1	2.1
Toluene	5	11	1400	60	nd	3	4	6.4
n-Octane	nd	0.2	560	3	nd	nd	nd	nd
Ethylbenzene	0.2	0.6	660	6	1	0.2	nd	0.3
m-Xylene	0.2	0.5	980	7	nd	0.2	nd	0.2
p-Xylene	0.1	0.2	420	2	0.6	0.1	nd	0.1
o-Xylene	0.1	0.2	590	2	0.4	0.1	nd	0.1
Naphthalene	0.05	0.1	240	3	nd	nd	nd	nd
Nicotine	nd	nd	1300	7	720	4	710	1

^a All compounds were quantified with authentic standards except nicotine that was quantified with naphthalene.

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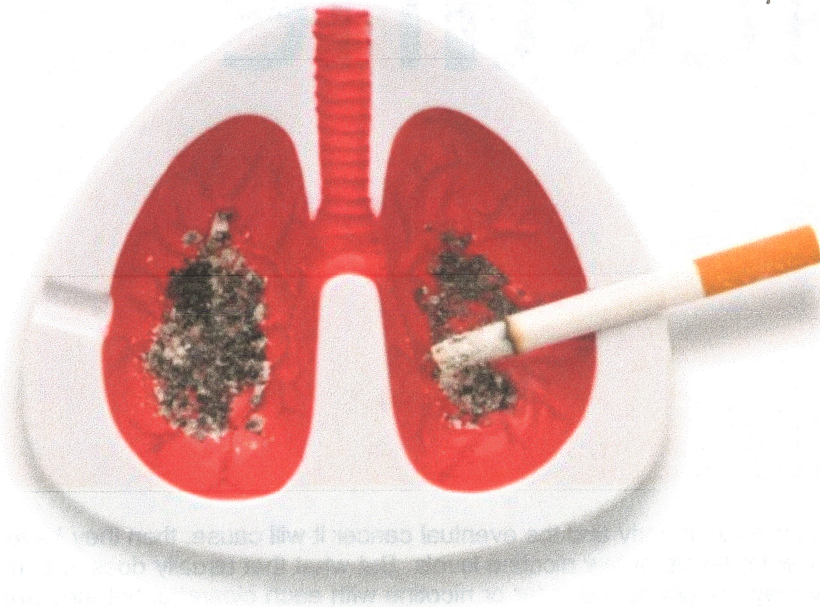
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Does Nicotine Cause Cancer?

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Pretty much everyone understands that smoking cigarettes leads to cancer. Most people also know that cigarettes contain nicotine. Numerous Surgeon general's warnings and "stop smoking" campaigns have made it clear that nicotine is dangerous and smoking causes cancer. But does nicotine cause cancer?

The answer is no, it does not.

Nicotine has an entirely different negative effect on the body and is not directly related to the cancer-causing properties of cigarettes. All that nicotine usually does is cause addiction. If there is too much nicotine in the body, an overdose may occur. Too little nicotine causes withdrawal symptoms. But it isn't actually responsible for cancer.

You can blame that on tar. This is the sticky, black substance in cigarettes that provides the bulk of the product's flavor. If cigarette manufacturers were to get rid of tar, their cigarettes would not taste as good, and people would be far less likely to buy that particular brand.

What this means is that any nicotine product without tar is not going to cause cancer. That includes nicotine patches, nicotine lozenges, nicotine sprays, e-liquid and others. There are still plenty of negative effects to be had from these, particularly when it comes to the addictive qualities of nicotine, but cancer is not one of them.



Nicotine

If someone is concerned about the effects of tar on their body and the eventual cancer it will cause, then they have a few options. They may be inclined to try a cigarette with low tar levels or low nicotine levels. But what that usually does is cause them to just smoke more than they normally would. They may not get as much tar or nicotine with each cigarette, but they are more likely to smoke additional cigarettes just to get their nicotine fix and to find a semblance of decent flavor.

They could also take up some sort of smoking cessation product. Patches, lozenges, sprays, gums and more make for plenty of options for those wanting to quit smoking and transition away from the habit slowly. These contain no tar, but they can contain more nicotine, and they are easier to overdose on.

Smokers can also use electronic cigarettes. These contain nicotine, so they are still addictive, but they contain no tar, so they are not as hazardous. Many people have successfully transitioned from smoking cigarettes to vaping eCigs.

The best option is for smokers to quit entirely. This is not always possible and is rarely easy, but it is the most effective way to escape all the negative effects that cigarettes can have. That is not to say that some of the effects of smoking won't have long-term consequences, as they very well could. The longer someone has been smoking, the greater their risk of experiencing the worst effects that smoking has to offer, even after they quit.

So while nicotine contains nothing that can cause cancer, it is often part of the cycle that leads to cancer. The addictive quality of this chemical causes smokers to consume more tar and to eventually succumb to cancer.

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