

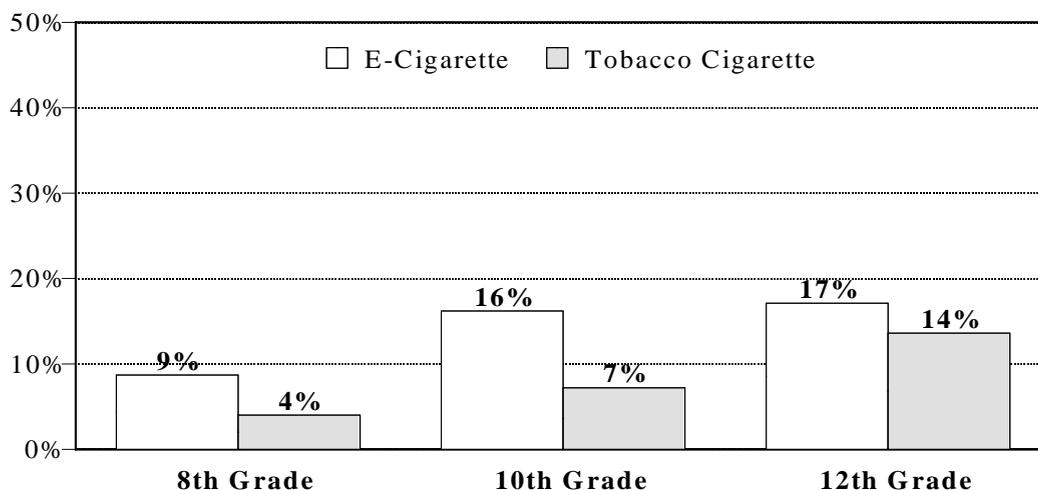
A Publication from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

## *U.S. 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students More Than Twice as Likely to Report Using E-Cigarettes as Tobacco Cigarettes in 2014*

The use of e-cigarettes surpassed the use of tobacco products of any kind among U.S. teens in 2014, according to data from the most recent Monitoring the Future survey. E-cigarettes, also known as vaporizers or pens, are battery-operated devices that create an inhalable vapor by heating a liquid solution. The solution may or may not contain nicotine, and is available in many different flavors that likely appeal to young users. More than twice the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders reported past month use of e-cigarettes compared to use of tobacco cigarettes (9% vs. 4% and 16% vs. 7%, respectively). Among 12<sup>th</sup> graders, the difference was smaller; 17% said they had used e-cigarettes in the past 30 days compared to 14% who reported using tobacco cigarettes. While tobacco cigarette use among these grades has been declining since 1997 (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 22, Issue 3), the increase in e-cigarette use raises concerns that “e-cigarettes may lead to tobacco cigarette smoking, and reverse this hard-won long-term decline” (p. 2). Between 4% and 7% of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who reported past 30-day e-cigarette use had never smoked a tobacco cigarette. According to the authors, “Whether youth who use e-cigarettes exclusively later go on to become tobacco cigarette smokers is yet to be determined by this study, and is of substantial concern to the public health community” (Press Release, p. 2).

**Percentage of U.S. 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders Reporting E-Cigarette and Tobacco Cigarette Use in the Past 30 Days, 2014**



SOURCES: Adapted by CESAR from Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan, *Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975–2014: Volume I, Secondary School Students*, 2015 and “E-cigarettes Surpass Tobacco Cigarettes Among Teens,” *Monitoring the Future Press Release*, December 16, 2014. Available online at <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.