

E-Cigarette Use Among Adolescents in Northeast England: Perceptions, Patterns and Public Health Implications

Expression of Interest

Study Title:	E-Cigarette Use Among Adolescents in Northeast England: Perceptions, Patterns and Public Health Implications
Lead Researcher:	Xueming Zhang
Study Sponsor:	Newcastle University

Study Synopsis:	This research is organised by Newcastle University and carried out as part of a PhD research project within the school of Population Health Sciences. It is about understanding e-cigarette (vaping) use, beliefs, and social influences among young people, as well as exploring associated respiratory symptoms. This research is important because vaping among young people is increasing, and we need better evidence to understand its health and social impacts. This study involves students completing an anonymous questionnaire that takes about 15 minutes to complete. The questionnaire includes questions about vaping and e-cigarette use, beliefs and opinions about vaping, social influences, and associated respiratory (breathing) symptoms. All data will be stored securely in accordance with Newcastle University data protection policies. Only the research team will have access to the data. The data will be used for research purposes only and may be included in a PhD thesis, academic publications, or conference presentations. Individual participants or schools/colleges will not be identified in any reports or publications.
Inclusion Criteria:	The researcher would like to recruit Year 10-13 students(GCSE and A-level or equivalent) from schools and colleges in Tyne and Wear and Northumberland.
Exclusion Criteria	This study will be conducted within mainstream school and college settings only.

Expectations from participating organisations?	Your school/college's role is limited to communication and facilitation. Specifically your school/college would be asked to; • Distribute parent/guardian information sheets and opt-out forms and manage the opt-out process locally – all materials are provided by the researcher. Parental consent is not needed for young people in Years 12-13. • Circulate survey invitations to be completed by registered participants. • Where possible facilitate in-school survey completion opportunities. The total staff time required across the full study is approximately 2-3 hours. No personal data are shared by the school with the research team. Students register directly with the research team via a secure platform, and all data are handled exclusively by the research team in accordance with UK GDPR All data will be stored securely and used only for research purposes.
What are the benefits of taking part?	Participant involvement could help researchers and schools better understand vaping among young people and how it influences respiratory health. This may also help improve education about e-cigarettes and inform future policies on their use.
Study timeframe:	Data collection will run until 31 December 2027, with the thesis scheduled for submission in January 2029.

To express an interest in being involved or any queries please contact;
NIHR.RSS.PublicHealthDelivery@newcastle.ac.uk

This study has received ethical approval from Newcastle University's Ethics Committee
(Ethics Reference: 73199)