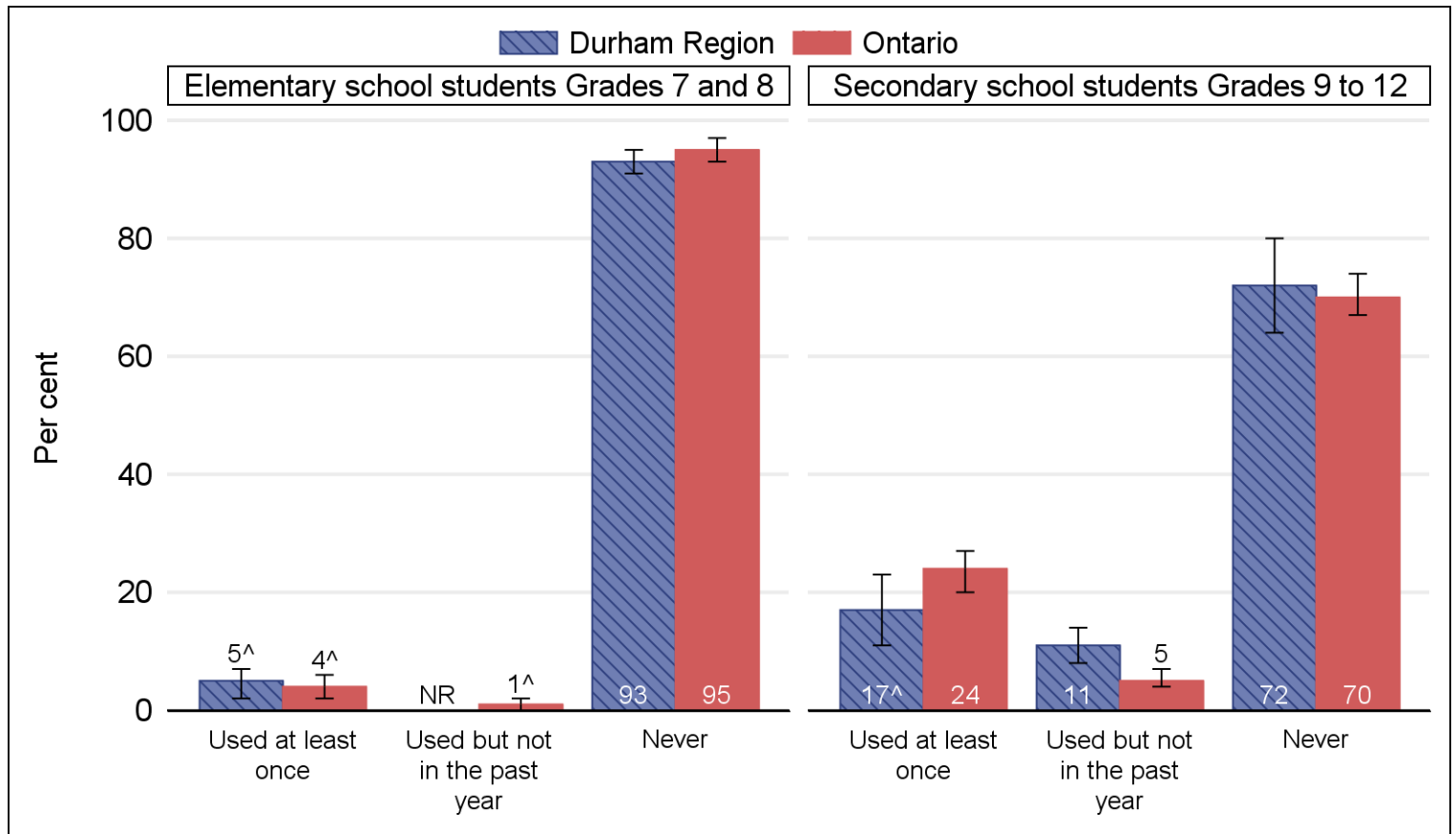


Students' use of e-cigarettes in the past year, 2016-2017



Release date: December 2018



Notes

Results were weighted and sex-by-grade adjusted to the Ontario 2014-2015 student enrollment.

Error bars represent the 95 per cent confidence intervals around the percentage. The true or actual percentage falls within the range of values, 95 out of 100 times. Categories may not sum to 100 per cent as item non-response is not presented in the results above.

Source: Public Health Monitoring of Risk Factors in Ontario – Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS), 2016-2017.

Summary

In Durham Region, 5% of elementary school students and 17% of secondary school students smoked electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in the past year. These results were similar to Ontario.

Related analysis about e-cigarette use in Durham Region students showed that:

- 11% of students in grades 7 to 12 smoked e-cigarettes without nicotine
- 9% students in grades 7 to 12 reported they got their most recent e-cigarette from a friend or borrowed one. A further 3% reported buying their most recent e-cigarette at a convenience store or small grocery store.
- 4% of elementary school students and 16% of secondary school students reported that they smoked their first e-cigarette within the past year
- 13% of elementary school students and 9% of secondary school students felt that was no risk of people harming themselves physically or in other ways if they smoked e-cigarettes regularly

Related analysis about alternative smoking device use in Durham Region secondary school students showed that:

- 4% of secondary school students used chewing tobacco at least once in the past year
- 15% of secondary school students smoked a waterpipe at least once in the past year. One-in-ten (8%) usually smoked cannabis in the waterpipe.

Questions

Electronic cigarettes (E-CIGARETTES) are battery-operated devices that look like cigarettes and create a mist which the user inhales. Some e-cigarettes contain nicotine and some do not. Other names for e-cigarettes include “vape pipes”, “hookah pens” and “e-hookahs”. In the last 12 months, how often did you smoke e-cigarettes?

- Smoked only once in the last 12 months (a few puffs to a whole e-cigarette); a few times in the last 12 months; at least once a month; at least once a week; a few times a week but not every day; 1 or 2 times a day; 3 to 5 times a day; 6-10 times a day; 11 or more times a day
- Smoked an e-cigarette but not in the last 12 months
- Never smoked an e-cigarette in lifetime; don't know what an e-cigarette is

If you smoked e-cigarettes in the last 12 months, were they usually the types with nicotine in them?

- Usually smoked e-cigarettes with nicotine
- Usually smoked e-cigarettes without nicotine; usually smoked both types; not sure which type I smoked
- Smoke an e-cigarette but not in the last 12 months; never smoked any e-cigarette in lifetime; don't know what an e-cigarette is

Thinking about the last time you smoked any type of e-cigarette in the last 12 months, where did you get it from?

- Tried a friend's/borrowed one
- Bought it at a convenience store, small grocery store or supermarket
- Bought it at a gas station; bought in at a pharmacy; bought it at a vape shop/lounge; bought it over the Internet; bought it off a friend or someone else; gave money to someone else to buy it for me; got it as a gift or free sample; took it from a family member; got it from another source not listed; don't remember
- Did not smoke an e-cigarette in the last 12 months

In the last 12 months, have you smoked any type of electronic cigarette for the very first time (even just a few puffs)?

- Yes; no; never smoked an electronic cigarette in lifetime

We would like to know your opinions on the effects of using certain drugs. How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically or in other ways if they smoke electronic cigarettes regularly?

- No risk; slight risk; medium risk; great risk; don't know

In the last 12 months, how often did you use smokeless tobacco (also known as chewing tobacco, snuff, plug, dipping tobacco)?

- Once in the last 12 months; a few times; at least once a month; at least once a week; a few times a week but not every day; 1 or 2 times a day; 3 to 5 times a day; 6 to 10 times a day; 11 or more times a day
- Used but not in the last 12 months
- Never used in lifetime' don't know what smokeless tobacco is

In the last 12 months, how often did you smoke a waterpipe (also known as hookah, shisha, gouza, narghile)?

- Smoked only a few puffs in the last 12 months; a few times; at least once a month; at least once a week; a few times a week but not every day; 1 or 2 times a day; 3 or more times a day
- Smoked from a waterpipe but not in the last 12 months
- Never used in lifetime; don't know what a waterpipe is

Survey methods

The Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) targets students, Grades 7 to 12, enrolled in the public and catholic regular school system. The OSDUHS uses a two-stage (school, class) stratified (region and school type) cluster sample design, and oversampling in PMO-participating public health units. The survey is self-administered in the classroom, taking, on average, 35 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary and anonymous. Students 17 years old and younger absent or without signed consent forms on the day of the survey do not participate.

This survey excluded groups, such as street youth and dropouts, in which health behaviours such as healthy eating, physical activity, drug use, etc. may be underestimated. In addition, self-reporting may result in under-reporting whether from social desirability or recall bias.

For a detailed description of the OSDUHS, visit the [CAMH website](#).

Data analysis

Data were analyzed using SAS 9.4. For 2016-2017, the analysis was based on a design of 17 strata (7 geographical strata for elementary schools and 10 for secondary schools), 214 schools, 764 classes and 11,435 students. Variables accounting for the probability of selection, stratification and clustering were used when analyzing the data. The final sampling weight was based on each regional stratum's sex-by-grade structure according to the provincial population structure.

Differences in two percentages may be clinically important. However, when error bars overlap, the difference cannot necessarily be interpreted as real or statistically significant.

Acknowledgement

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For more information, contact Durham Region Health Department at 1-800-841-2729, by fax at 905-666-6241 or by visiting the [Durham Region website](#).