



ILLINOIS HIGHER
EDUCATION
C E N T E R

for alcohol, other drug
& violence prevention

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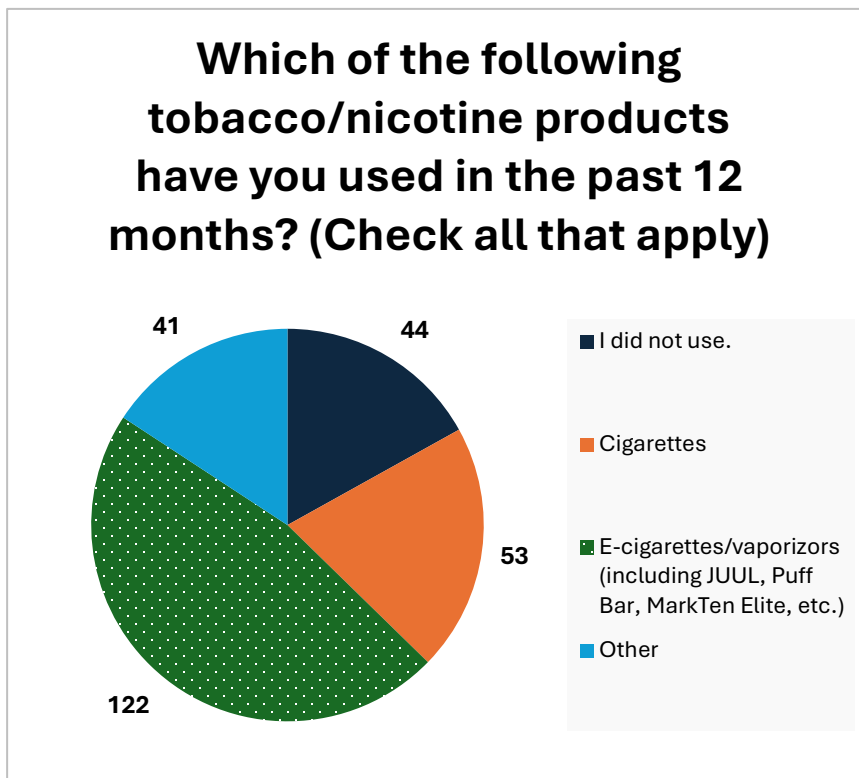
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2024 IACSUB Survey Findings on Tobacco & Nicotine Use in Higher Education

The Illinois Assessment of College Substance Use Behaviors (IACSUB) survey drew information from 705 participants spanning six colleges and universities across the State of Illinois. The purpose of the survey was to identify substance use behaviors among college students, such as frequency, location, and reasons for use. In this way stakeholders will be more able to identify substance use challenges in higher education and their related communities. Students were asked questions pertaining to alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco, as well as other drugs.

This brief will address the use of tobacco & nicotine by college students from what ways college students are consuming tobacco and nicotine and how frequently they are using to the reasons they consider quitting. This brief also looks at the effects of this drug on the lives of the students.

Figure 3.1



Which of the following tobacco/nicotine products did students use in the past 12 months?

Participants could check that they used any combination of cigarettes, E-cigarettes/vaporizers, and other if each applied to them. The feedback for this question totaled 260 responses. The collected findings for how students consumed tobacco/nicotine were 46.9% ($n=122$) E-cigarette/vaporizer use, 20.4% cigarette use ($n=53$), and 15.8% use of other products ($n=41$). The remaining 16.9% of participants ($n=44$) answered that they had not used any tobacco/nicotine products.

How often did students use tobacco/nicotine products in the past 12 months?

Of the 216 participants who disclosed using tobacco/nicotine products in the past 12 months, 34.5% of participants ($n=59$) said that they used E-cigarettes/vaporizers every day.

Figure 3.2

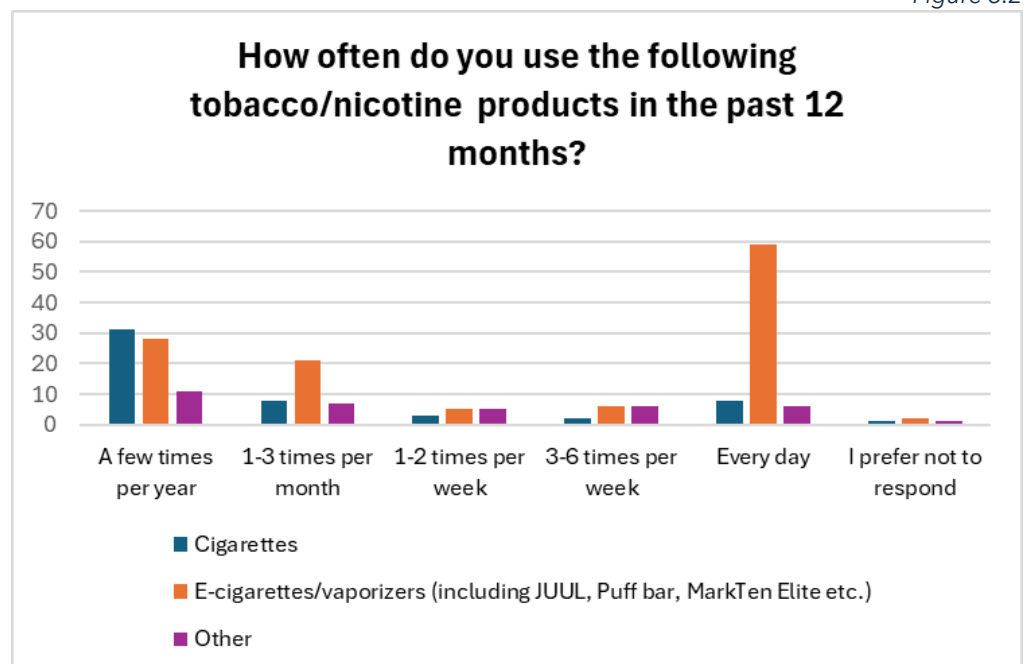
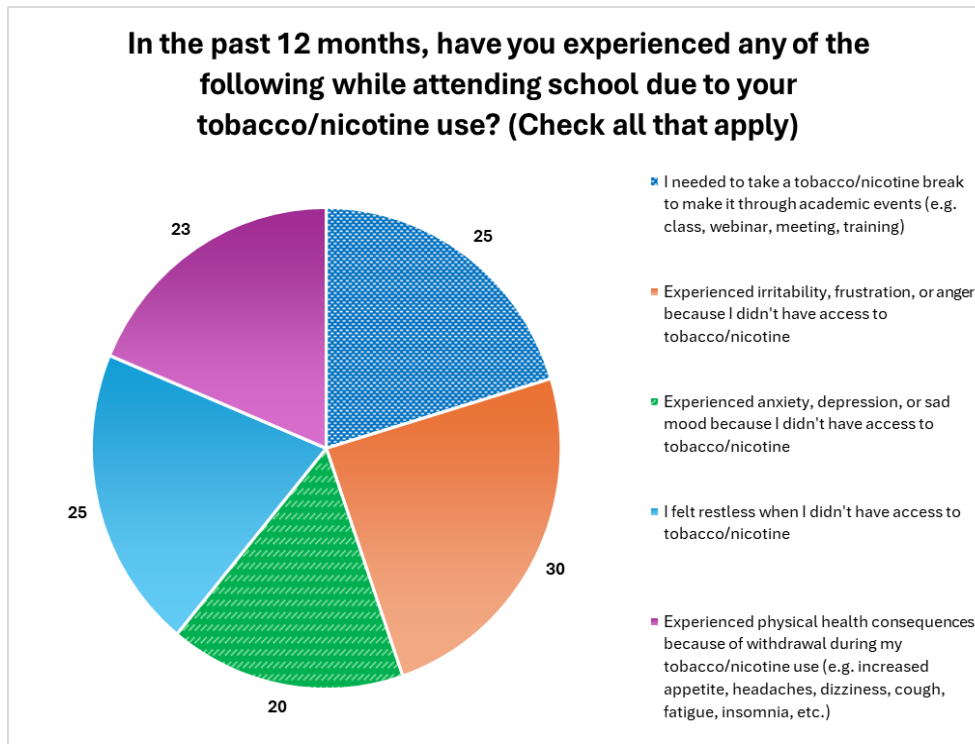


Figure 3.3



What experiences are students having at school due to their tobacco/ nicotine use?

The most common experience students had at school because of their tobacco/nicotine use were feelings of irritability, frustration, or anger at not having access to this drug. This experience was selected by 30 respondents. Not featured in figure 3.3 are the 96 responses indicating they had not experienced any of the selections listed.

Are students trying to quit using tobacco/nicotine?

There was a total of 200 participants who gave an answer to this survey question. Of the 200 students, 33% ($n=65$) said they had quit using tobacco/nicotine products since entering college. Another 24% of students ($n=49$) said they had not considered/attempted to quit.

Figure 3.4

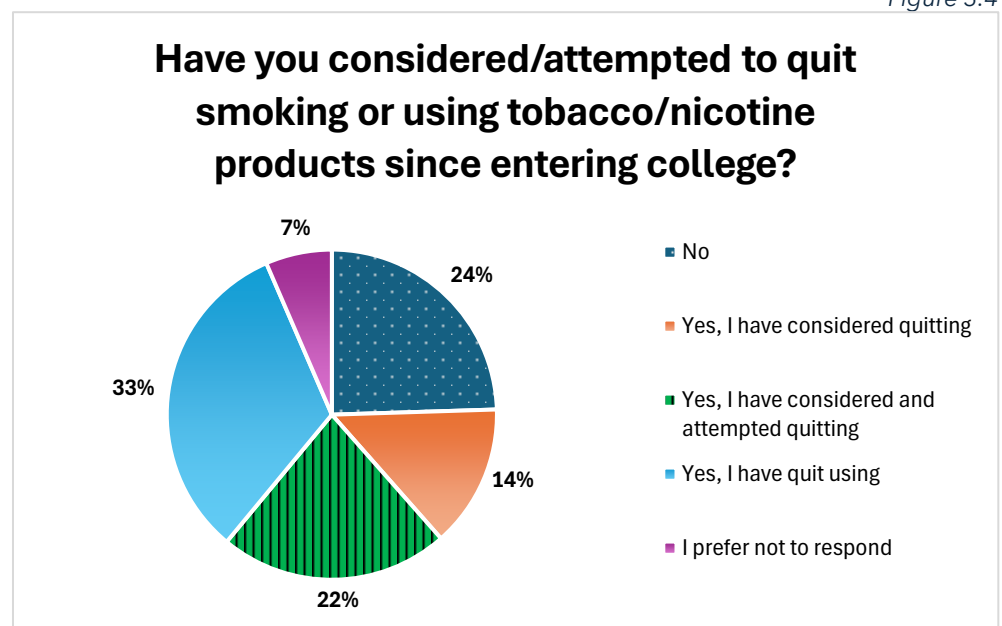
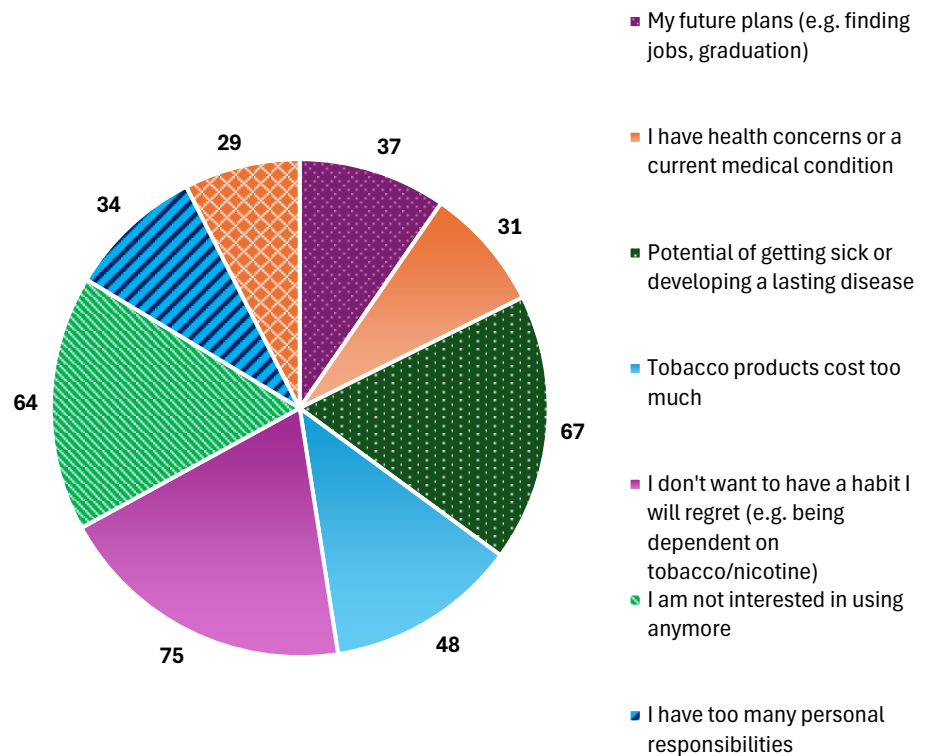


Figure 3.5

Why are students wanting to quit?

149 student participants submitted 385 responses as to why they wanted to quit using tobacco/nicotine products. These participants were given 8 possible reasons as to why they considered quitting and could pick as many as applied to them. The three most prevalent reasons were "I don't want to have a habit I will regret", "Potential of getting sick or developing a lasting disease", and "I am not interested in using anymore". These selections received 75, 67, and 64 responses respectively.

When considered to quitting using tobacco/nicotine products, which of the following reasons contributed to your decision? (Check all that apply)



Summary

The findings in this brief show that E-cigarette/vaporizer usage by college students constitutes a greater percentage of tobacco/nicotine product use when compared to cigarettes. Of total E-cigarette/vaporizer users, over 1/3 indicated daily use when looking at past 12 months. The most prevalent effect of tobacco/nicotine products on students when in the school setting was anger, irritability, and frustration directed towards their lack of access to these products. Of the total students who indicated using tobacco/nicotine products, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of them had considered quitting. When attempting to quit these products, the most common influencing factor was not wanting to have a habit they would later regret.

Resources

Illinois Higher Education Center (2024).
Reprint of IACSUB Survey. *Statewide AOD Survey*, 1-78.

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