
More Than Just Pipes: Lessons from the Field About Safer Smoking Supplies Q&A Panel Responses:

Do individual's use vape pens for meth, heroin or fentanyl?

Answer: Yes – See

Andreas K. Breitbarth, Jody Morgan, Alison L. Jones, E-cigarettes—An unintended illicit drug delivery system, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, Volume 192, 2018, Pages 98-111, ISSN 0376-8716, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.07.031>.
(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0376871618305325>)

Abstract: Since the introduction of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in 2003, the technology has advanced allowing for greater user modifications, with users now able to control voltage, battery power, and constituents of the e-cigarette liquid. E-cigarettes have been the subject of a growing body of research with most research justifiably focused on the chemical makeup and risk analysis of chemicals, metals, and particulates found in e-cigarette liquids and vapor. Little research to date has focused on assessing the risks associated with the drug delivery unit itself and its potential for use as an illicit drug delivery system. In light of this, a range of illicit drugs was researched focusing on pharmacodynamics, usual method of administration, the dosage required for toxicity, toxic effects, and evidence of existing use in e-cigarettes in both literature and online illicit drug forums. A systematic literature search found evidence of current use of e-cigarettes to vape almost all illicit drug types analyzed. This presents both a potential population health risk and a management issue for clinicians. It also raises the issue of policing illicit drugs due to potential altered characteristic smells and storage within e-cigarette fluids. E-cigarettes are a viable illicit drug delivery system with evidence both inside and outside of the formal medical literature detailing their potential use for drug delivery of a wide range of illicit and legal drugs.

Keywords: E-cigarettes; Electronic nicotine delivery systems; Vaping; Recreational drugs; Toxicology

Did y'all experience any stigma and/or backlash from the community/board of supervisors when starting this process? If so, how did you deal with it?

Answer: No, but we didn't ask for permission. In a recent Seattle Times article regarding our initiative both the mayor and the Head of the local health department were supportive. See Tacoma's pioneering needle exchange now using smoking supplies to reach fentanyl, meth users -Seattle Times 04.19.2022. Daniel Beekman

Having recently read SAMSHA's NOFO recently for the HR grant, it still lists "safer smoking supplies" as an allowable grant activity. Even though they verbally walked it back, does that mean that grantees would not be able to use funds for safer smoking supplies?

Answer: From a recent discussion on this issue, I am told that unless it is expressly forbidden, any use of federal funds for smoking supplies depends on the discretion of the Project Officer. A fairly subjective standard.