



Tobacco and Vaping Harm Reduction in the Latinx Community Using a Macro Social Work Perspective.

**By Luci Staudacher MSW, LCSW &
Aaliyah Torres BSW**

Agenda

01 Introductions

03 WHLTPN Programs

05 Resources

02 Macro Social Work

04 Statistics & Zoning
Ordinance

06 Questions

Introductions

Luci Staudacher, MSW LCSW

Luci is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Alverno College.

She serves as the BSW Practicum Director. She is currently the Interim Social Work Department Chair. She has worked in clinical social work for the past 30 years.

Aaliyah Torres, BSW

Aaliyah is a Tobacco Prevention Coordinator at United Migrant Opportunity Services. She runs a coalition called the Wisconsin Hispanic/Latinx Tobacco Prevention Network. She has been in her position for the past 2 years.

Macro Social Work

Problem 1

Statistics from 2008 show that Macro Social work has become "a marginalized subfield of Social Work"

Problem 2

Statistics from 2013 show that considerable faculty resistance to the integration of Macro Social Work along with a general lack of interest from students in Macro Social Work

Problem 3

Now is the time! The need to discuss Macro Social Work is critical at this point if the Social Work profession is to realize the goal of Social Justice.

Macro Social Work Contd.

Solution 1

Dedicate an entire
BSW course to Macro
Social Work



Solution 2

Bring in Guest
Speakers and
Highlight the
importance of Macro
Social Work in their
career. Increase BSW
Student Practicums
focused on Macro
Social Work

Solution 3

Gather students on
an informal basis -
student club - to
discuss Macro Social
Work and the
profession's goal of
Social Justice



What is the role of a Social Worker in Harm Reduction?

Harm reduction is strengths-based and client-centered.

- On a macro level, social workers use harm reduction as a tool to understand what strengths and limitation the client has, what his or her needs are and identify goals with reducing an unwanted behavior. Harm reduction and prevention are often used in conjunction with other models.

WHLTPN Programs

01 The Wisconsin Hispanic/Latinx
Tobacco Prevention Network Coalition

02 Vaping Basics

03 Hooking a New Generation

04 Why the Concern?

05 Community Initiatives

06 Zoning Ordinance & Resources

Who We Are

- United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc. (UMOS) houses the Wisconsin Hispanic/Latinx Tobacco Prevention Network (WHLTPN) which is funded by the State of Wisconsin Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.
- This network serves as a public health advocate for the Hispanic/LatinX community by addressing health equity and inequity of tobacco-related issues.

Our Vision

- To reduce tobacco-related health disparities in the Hispanic/LatinX community through education, advocacy, and empowerment.

Our Mission

- A healthier Hispanic/LatinX community free from commercial tobacco & nicotine.

Vaping Basics

What is Vaping?

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as “vapor,” produced by an e-cigarette or similar device.

WHAT YOU INHALE?

- ACETONE**
Found in nail polish remover
- BENZENE, CADMIUM**
Found in car batteries and gasoline
- INSECTICIDE**
Found in repellants that kill bugs
- FORMALDEHYDE**
Chemical used to preserve dead bodies for burial, as well as animals for dissection

DO YOU KNOW?

WHAT YOU RISK?

- HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE**
Which can increase your risk of a heart attack
- POOR MENTAL HEALTH**
And, one vape has the same amount of nicotine as a whole pack of cigarettes (making you more addicted)
- LOSS OF CONNECTION**
Youth who vape are less likely to feel a sense of identity and belonging at school or home
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISK**
Youth who vape are more likely to drink alcohol and use other drugs

The infographic features a central illustration of a vape pen with smoke rising from it. The text is arranged around this central image, with dotted lines connecting the chemical names to the central cloud of smoke and the risks to the right. Each chemical and risk is accompanied by a small icon: a bottle for acetone, a car and gas pump for benzene and cadmium, a fly for insecticide, a frog for formaldehyde, a heart for high blood pressure, a brain for mental health, houses for loss of connection, and a pill for substance abuse risk.

Vaping Basics



Cig-a-Like	Variations	Vape Pens	Mods	Pod-Based
E-cigarettes came onto the market around 2007. Most delivered nicotine and were disposable.	Variations on the first e-cigarettes included products like e-hookah and rechargeable versions.	These have batteries that can reach higher temperatures, have refillable e-liquid cartridges and allow users to control how often they inhale.	Large size modifiable e-cigarettes allow for more aerosol, nicotine and other chemicals to be breathed into the lungs at a faster rate.	These e-cigarettes look like USBs and contain disposable pods with higher amounts of nicotine than previous generations.

Vaping Basics

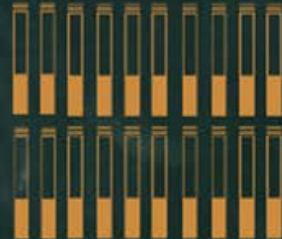
Vapes vs Cigarettes

Nicotine in E-cigarettes is Equal to...

1 Pack of Cigarettes
~59 mg/mL of nicotine



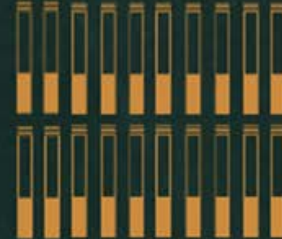
= 20
CIGARETTES



1 JUUL Pod
~59 mg/mL of nicotine



= 20
CIGARETTES



1 Puff Bar
~59 mg/mL of nicotine



= 20
CIGARETTES



Escobars are equal to 25 packs of cigarettes

5,000 puffs = 25 packs of cigarettes



Vaping Basics

What is being Vaped?

- Flavored liquids including chemicals like glycerin and propylene glycol
- Flavored liquids with varying levels of nicotine
- Flavored liquids with vitamins and essential oils
- Leaf marijuana, THC oil/wax



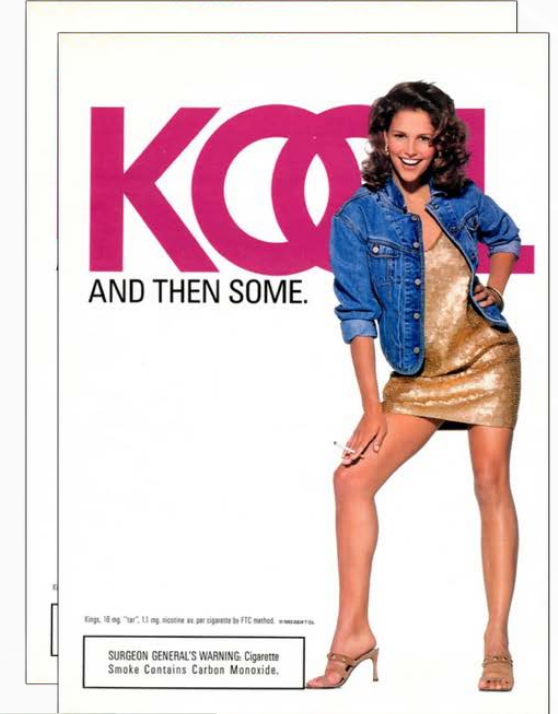
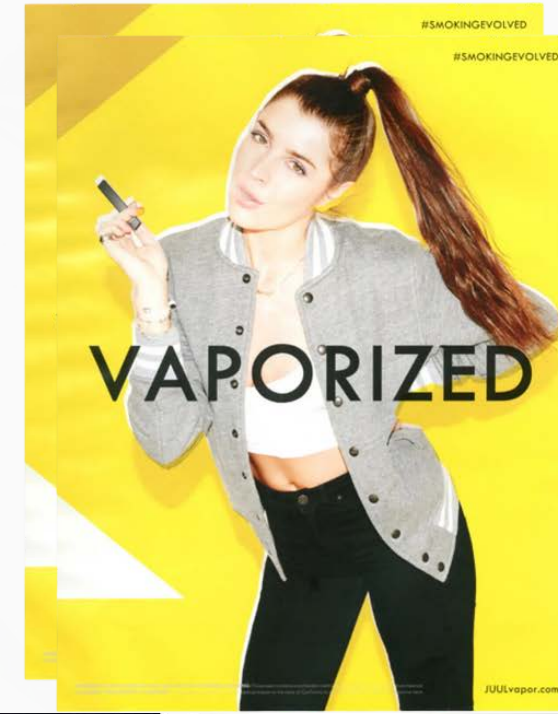
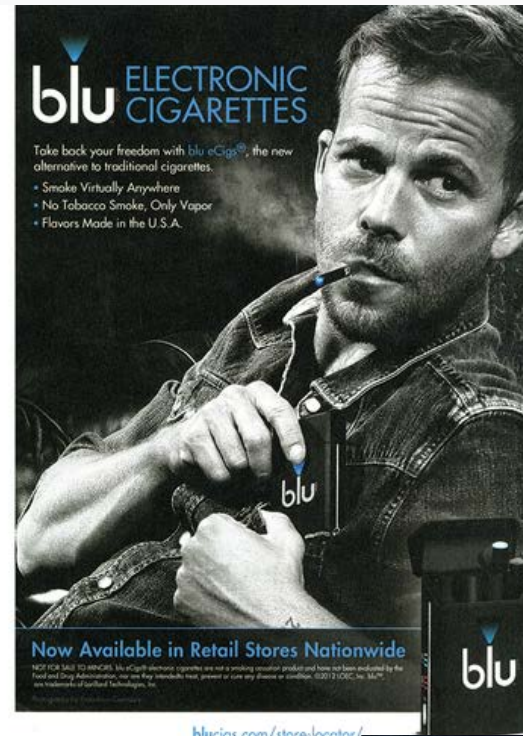
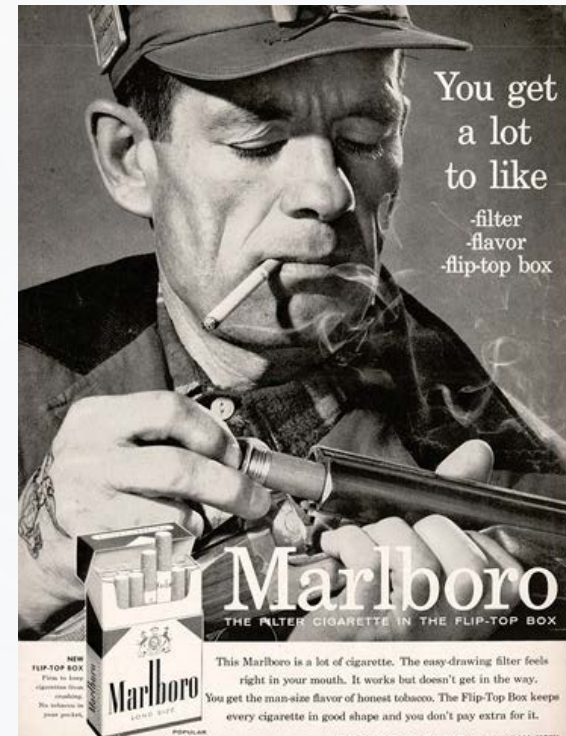
Hooking a New Generation

Big Tobacco Behind Popular Vaping Products



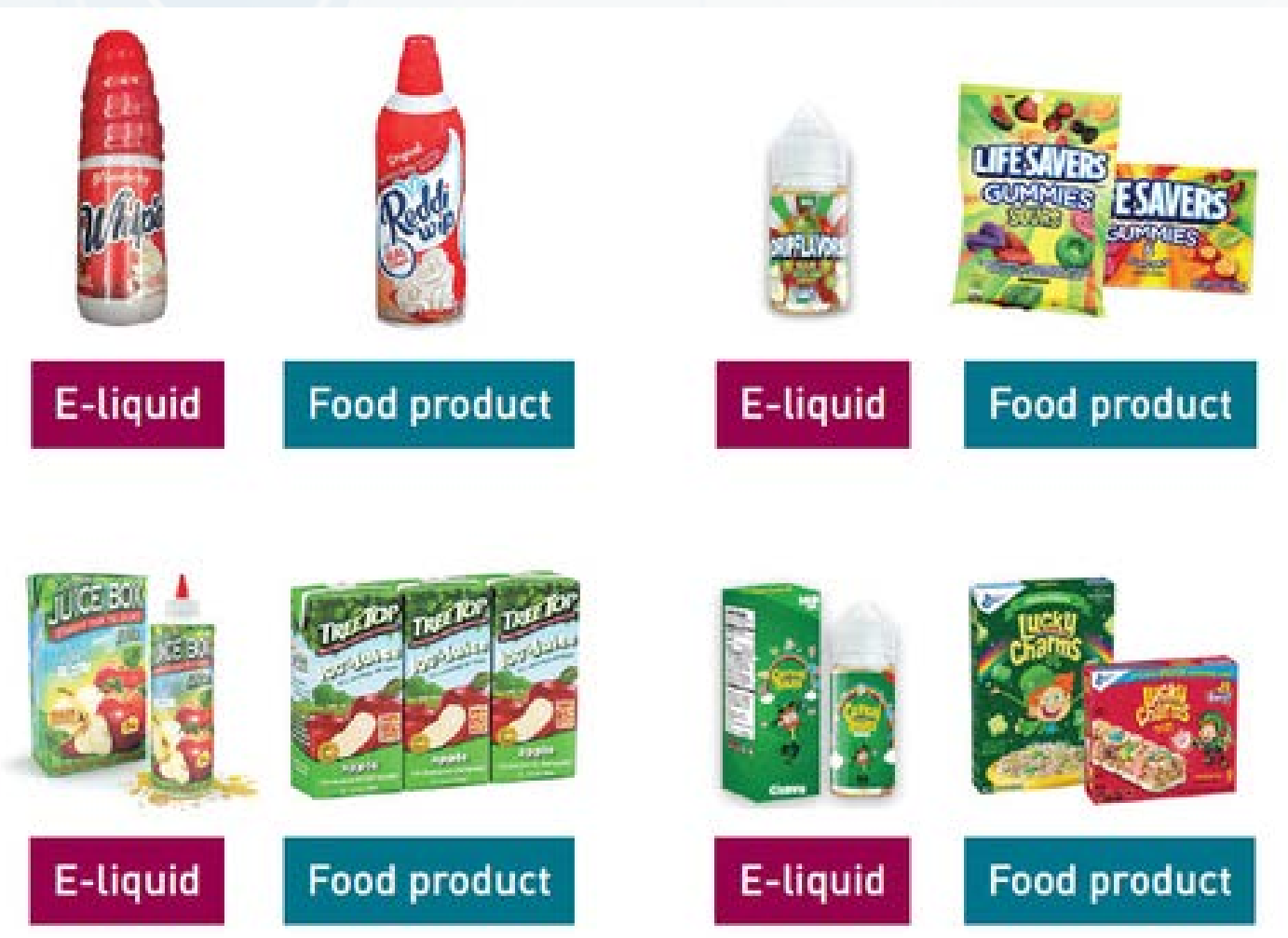
Hooking a New Generation

Tobacco & E-Cigarette: Advertising



Hooking a New Generation

Youth-Friendly Designs & Flavors



4 out of 5 kids who have used tobacco products started with a flavored product.



Why the Concern

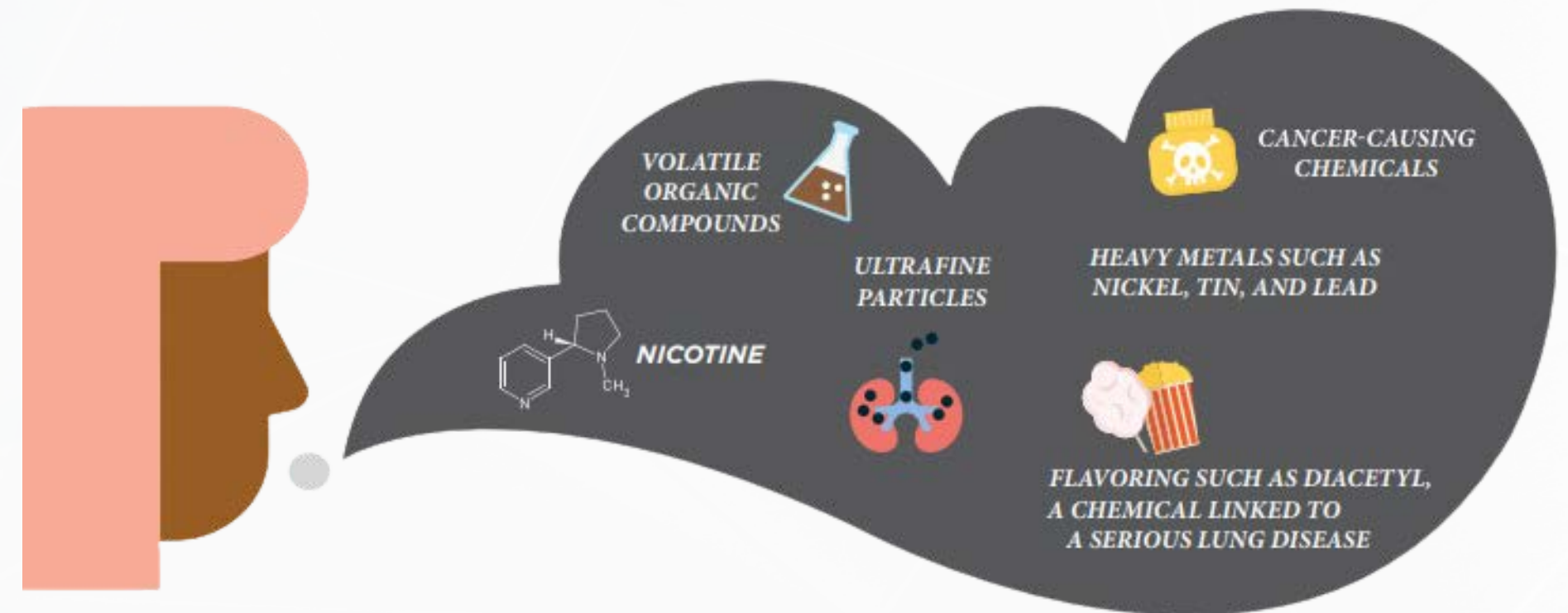
Harmful Chemicals: Cigarettes vs. Vapes

Cigarette smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals, including known cancer-causing (carcinogenic) compounds and hundreds of other toxins



The aerosol created when vaping contains harmful ingredients:

- Nicotine
- Ultrafine particles
- Flavorings
- Volatile organic compounds (e.g., benzene, found in car exhaust)
- Heavy metals (e.g., nickel, tin, lead)



Why the Concern

So Why the Concern?

- Nicotine itself is harmful
- The chemicals in the aerosol are harmful
- Risk of progressing to cigarette smoking
- Dual use – both vaping and smoking – is common
- Risk of addiction
- Link to other substance use and addiction
- Link to mental health disorders
- Recent spate of illnesses and deaths



Why the Concern

Nicotine Itself is Harmful

- Extremely addictive, especially for kids
- Addiction sets in quickly
- Structurally changes the developing brain
- Increases risk of addiction to other drugs
- Affects attention, learning, mood, impulse control
- Increases blood pressure, respiration, heart rate
- Harms nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, and reproductive systems
- Increases risk of developing diabetes



Why the Concern

Nicotine's Impact on Teens

- Teen brain reacts differently to nicotine
- Chronic nicotine exposure can, among other things, reduce attention span and increase reckless behavior
- Effects are less intense and long-lasting in adults

Adolescent

Enhances locomotor activity

More sensitive to rewarding effects

Display blunted withdrawal symptoms

Well tolerated; lowers aversion to high doses later in life

Enhances acquisition of cocaine, meth and alcohol

Acute Nicotine

Sensitivity

Nicotine Withdrawal

High Dose of Nicotine

Nicotine Pretreatment

Adult

Decreases locomotor activity

More sensitive to aversive effects

Display more severe withdrawal symptoms

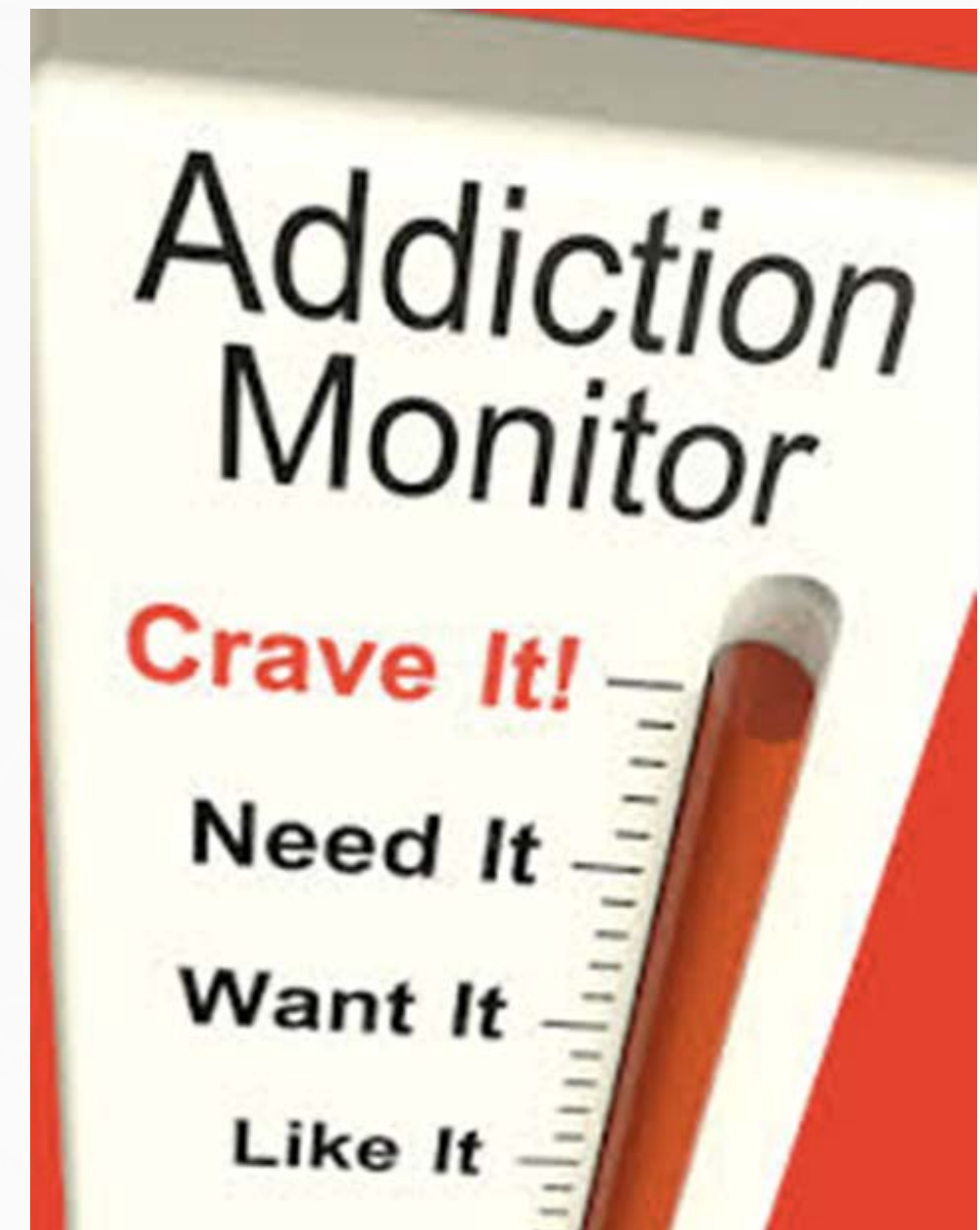
Aversive

No effects on psychostimulant or alcohol self-administration

Why the Concern

Risk of Nicotine Addiction

- Because of high nicotine content, many who vape can't stop – nicotine is a highly addictive drug
- Vaping is more addictive than cigarette smoking
- Nicotine, like all drugs, changes the structure and function of the brain
- Addiction risk increases for those with family history or mental health problems
- Intense withdrawal symptoms – strong cravings, fatigue, irritability, difficulty concentrating

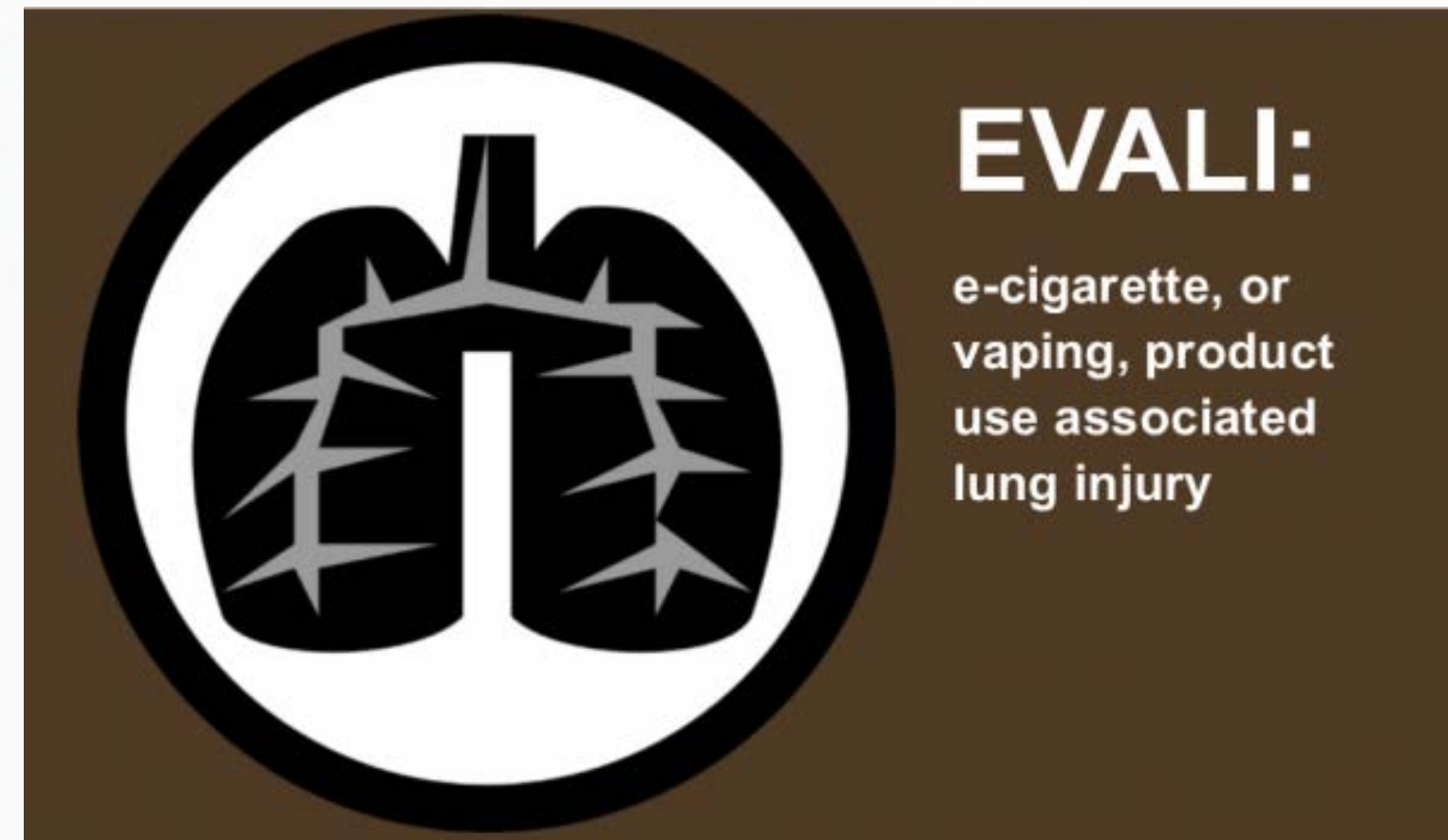


Why the Concern

Vaping-Related Illnesses

- Shortness of breath, weight loss, fatigue, gastrointestinal problems and lung failure
- As of February 2020
 - Nearly 70 deaths; 2,800 illnesses
 - Across 50 states, DC and U.S. territories

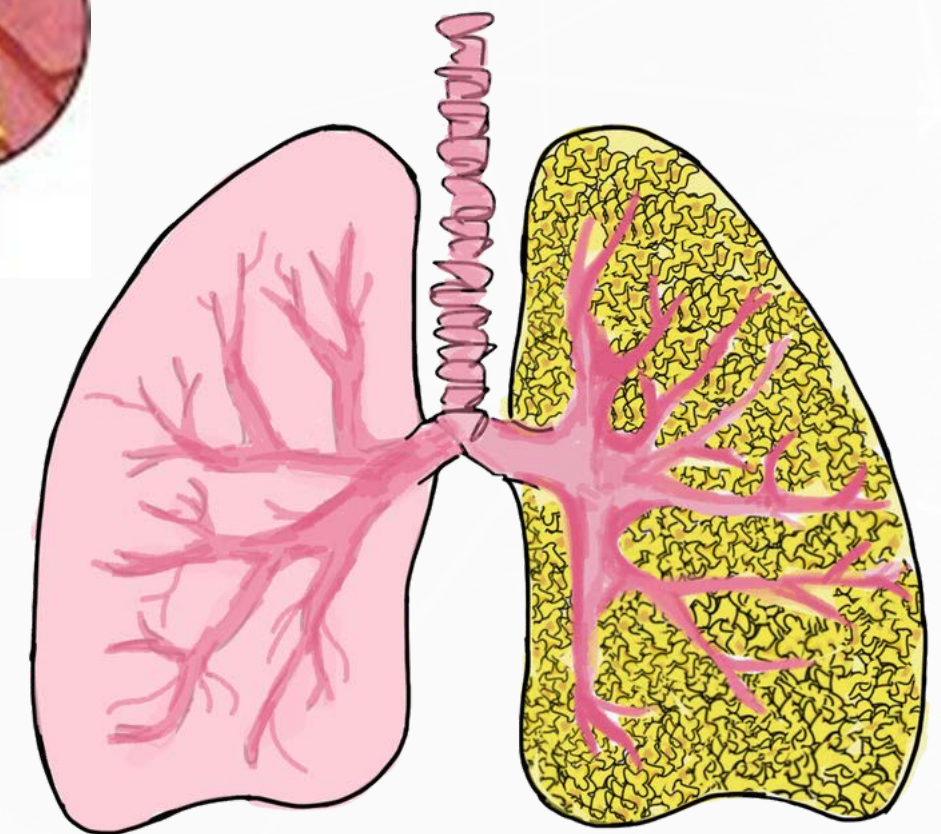
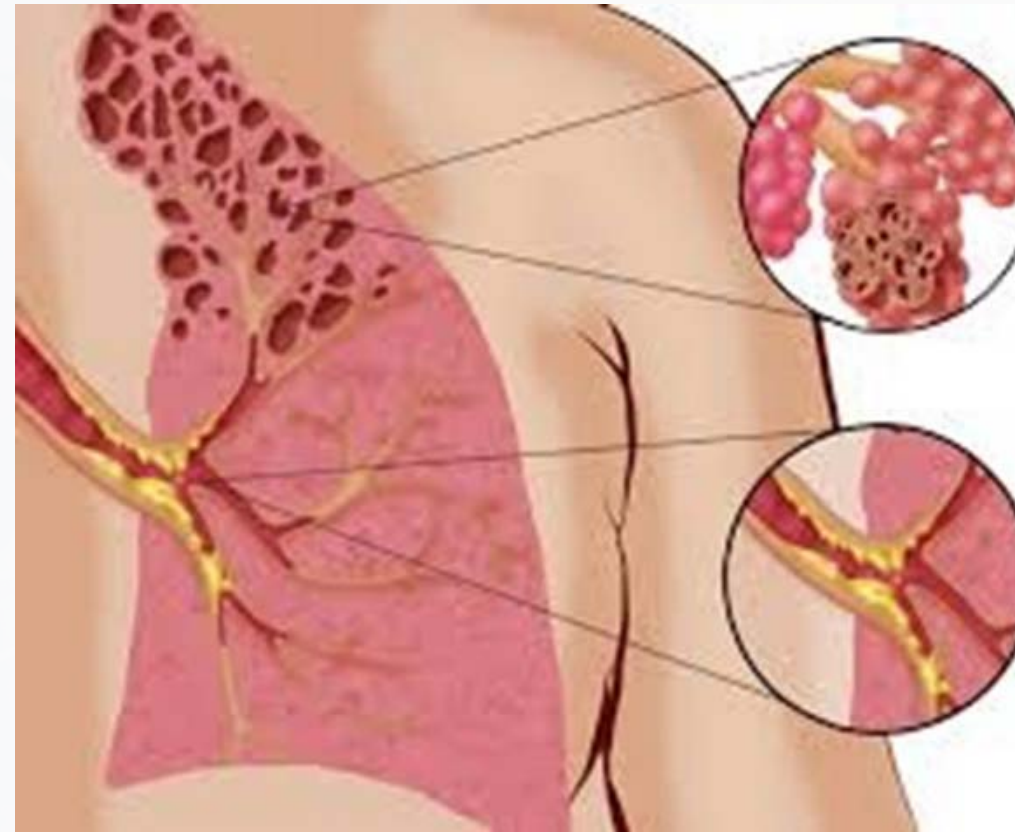
On the black market, vitamin E acetate is sometimes added as a cutting agent, decreasing the amount of THC in vape cartridges. It is linked to most cases of EVALI, but not all.



Why the Concern

Bronchiolitis Obliterans

- Diacetyl, found in the majority of e-liquids, linked to “popcorn lung”
- Popcorn lung: inhaled chemicals scar tissue in the lungs, making it difficult to breathe
- First known case in teen who vaped for five months



Community Initiatives



- The statewide WI Wins campaign uses a science-based strategy to decrease youth access to tobacco products and help retailers avoid fines.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services contracts with local partners to conduct investigations, retailer education and training, media outreach, and community education.
- WI Wins uses positive reinforcement to create healthier communities by congratulating clerks who don't sell tobacco to youth and educating those who do.

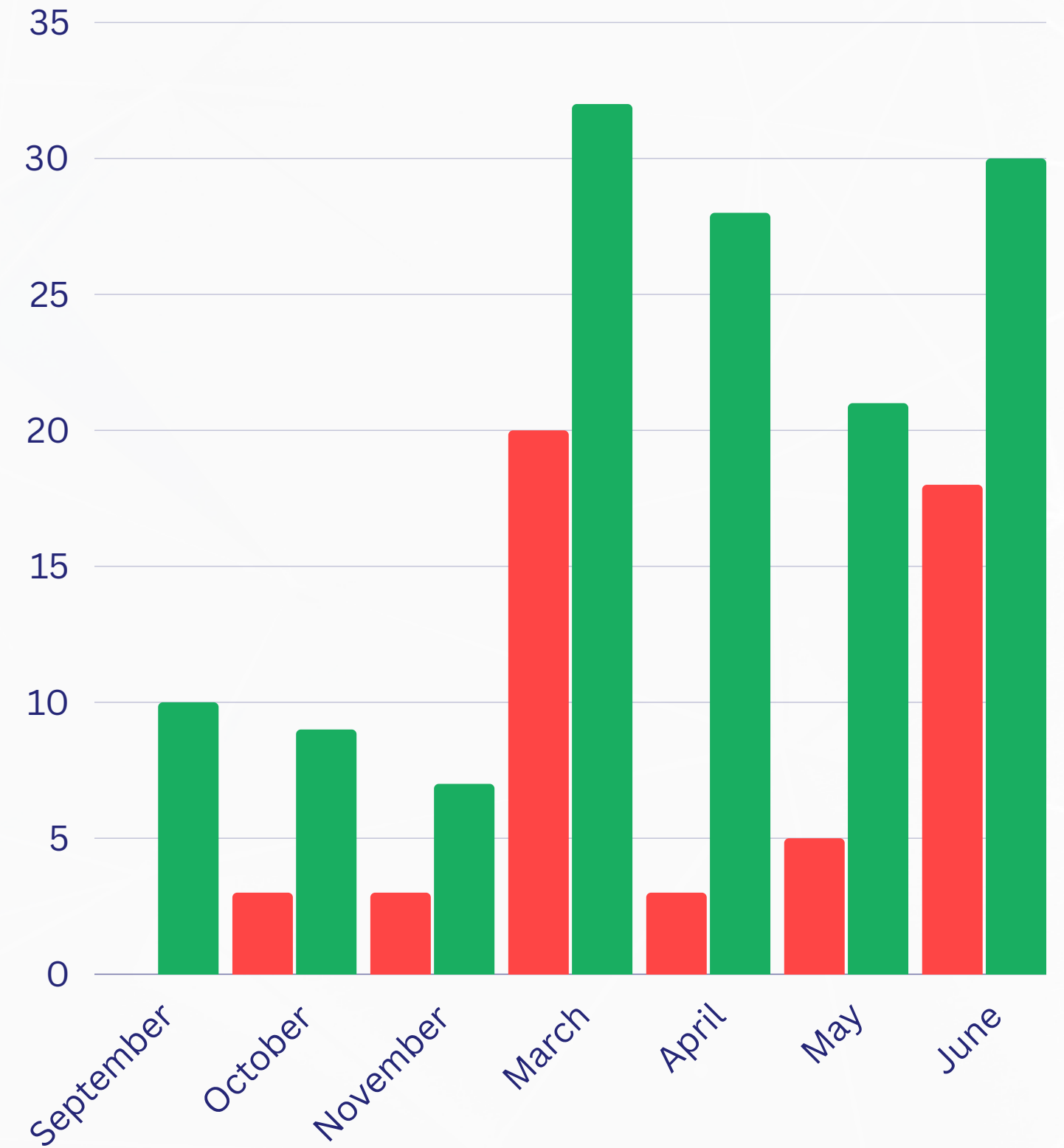


Community Initiatives



YTD: (2022)

- 189 compliance checks completed
- 52 retailers sold to youth

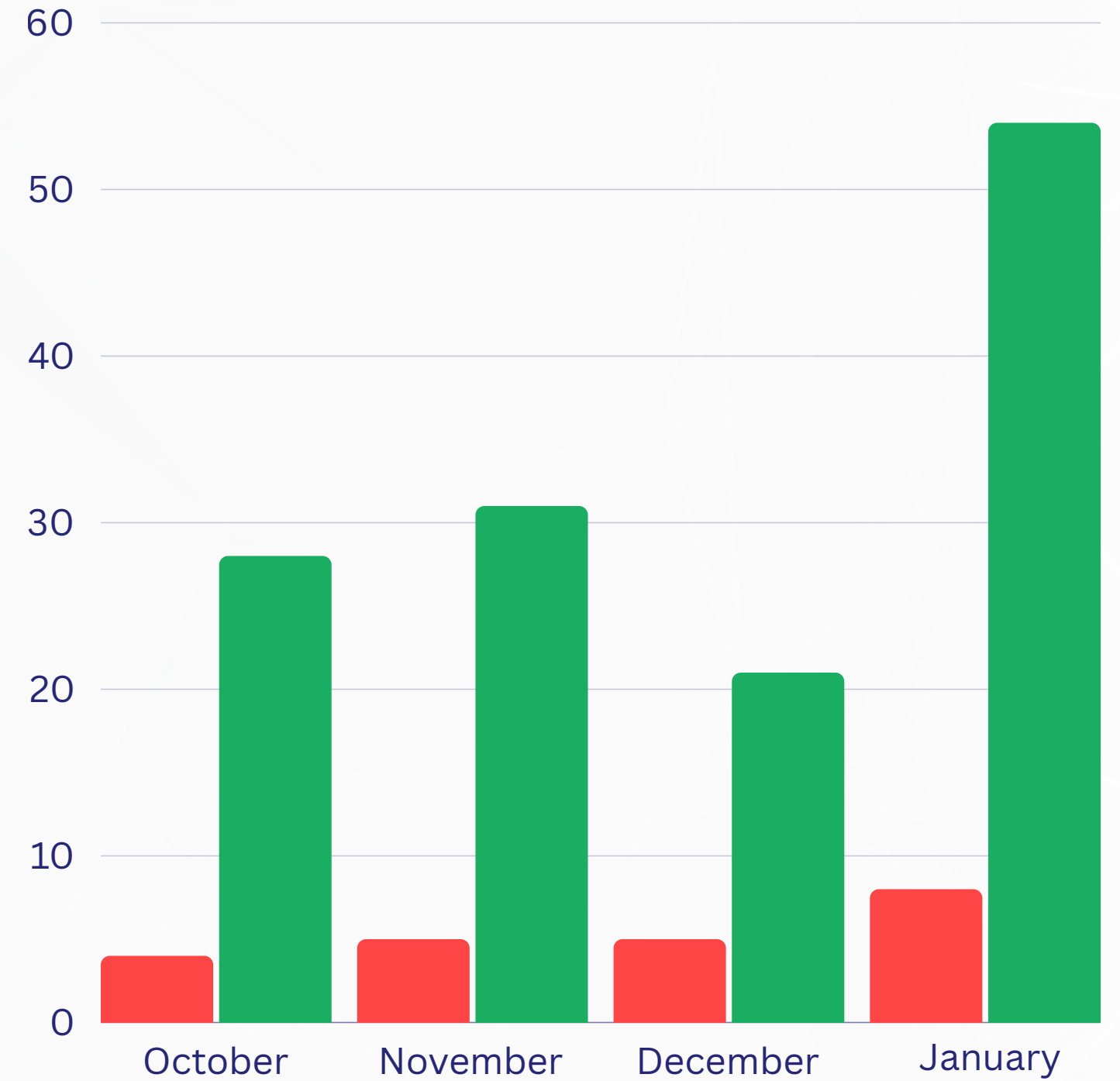


Community Initiatives



YTD: (2023)

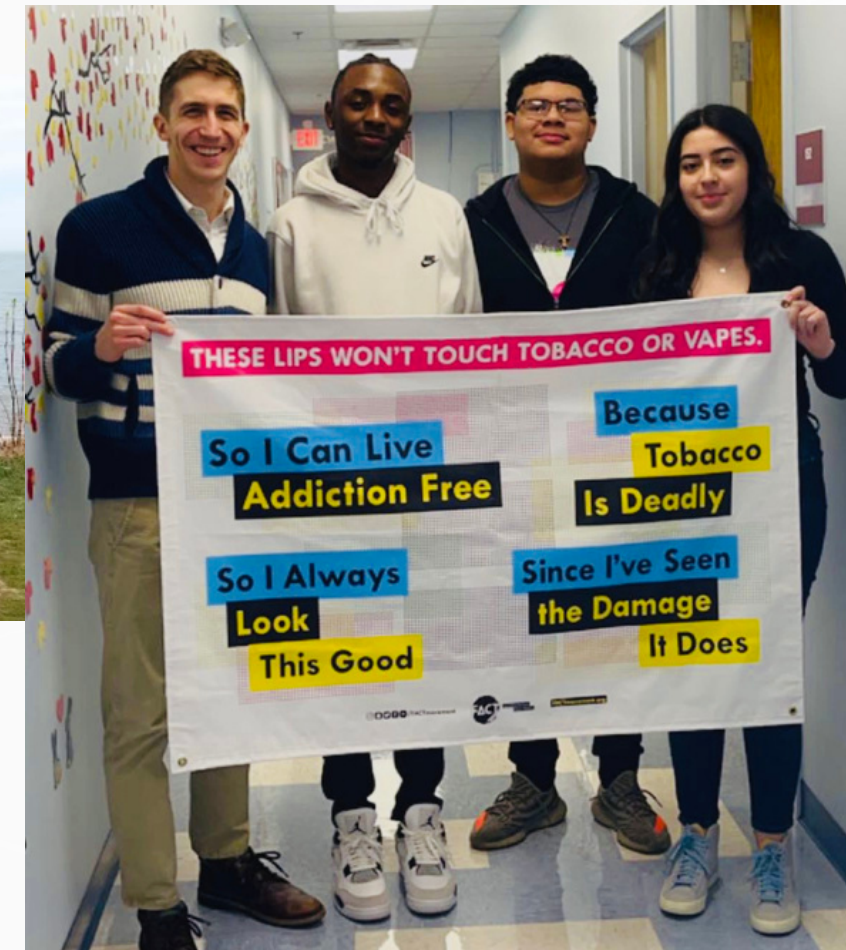
- 156 compliance checks completed
- 17 retailers sold to youth



Community Initiatives



- FACT is Wisconsin's youth tobacco prevention program; there are nearly 30 FACT groups at schools and community locations throughout our state.
- Members are in grades 7-12 and they don't just talk about change. They take action by spreading the truth about tobacco in their communities.
- Teens lead activism initiatives, peer-to-peer advocacy, media outreach, and meetings with state and local leaders.



Zoning Ordinance



The Milwaukee Common Council adopted an ordinance that will regulate the growth of smoke and vape shops in the city.

The new ordinance prohibits new vape and smoke shops from opening within 500 feet of an existing similar shop and prevents them from opening within 1,000 feet of a school.

The restrictions apply to shops where 10 percent or more of its gross public floor area or 10 percent of the stock in trade includes cigarettes, tobacco products, or e-cigarette products.

The ordinance also provides use classifications of tobacco or e-cigarette retailers.



Zoning Ordinance



FOX6 STUDIO
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COMMON COUNCIL TACKLES SEVERAL TOPICS

T BY ANOTHER CAR, LOST CONTROL AND HIT A TREE. NO OTHER INJURIES WER

HEADLINES

Resources

- 01** American Cancer Society (Quit for Life).
- 866-QUIT-4-LIFE (866-784-8454); 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and July 4)

- 02** American Lung Association (Lung HelpLine & Tobacco QuitLine).
- 800-LUNGUSA (800-586-4872)

- 03** National Cancer Institute (Smokefree.gov).
- NCI's telephone quitline: 877-44U-QUIT (877-448-7848); TTY 800-332-8615; 8 AM to 8 PM ET, Monday through Friday (English and Spanish)
 - LiveHelp, live online chat assistance, is available 8 AM to 11 PM ET, Monday through Friday (English only).

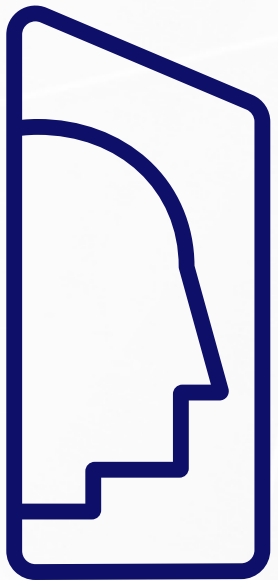
- 04** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (BeTobaccoFree).
- Local and state: 800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669)

Question and Answer...



Self Reflect

- **3 Take Aways**



Citations

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Thank You



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Needs

01 Aaliyah -is a newly graduated BSW student. She will share her experiences as a first generation college graduate, woman of color, a mother of young children, who is continuing to partner and collaborate with her Social Work program, which remains a source of support for her.

03 Be open and willing to give a freshly graduated student a chance

02 Flexibility with her children's needs and schedules.

04 Do not create assumptions based on age



Mentoring

01 Alverno College Social Work Program is student centered with over 85% of BSW students as students of color.

03 Purposefully meet with students individually and regularly to get to know their needs and problem solve solutions so that they can be successful in their new role.

02 As a newer faculty, how do I support and mentor newly graduated students who are new to the Social Work profession?

04 Aaliyah - Ways we continued to work together: She became a guest speaker in the Macro Social Work Course, is a newly trained Practicum Site Supervisor for BSW Students, and she attends all campus wellness and health events.