Vaping Cessation Resources on North American Quitline Consortium Websites During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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BACKGROUND

- Vaping among youth has reached epidemic proportions.[1]
- The use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) has erased the progress made in reducing overall tobacco use among youth.[1]
- The variety of flavors provided for ENDS products play a major role in youth vaping appeal.[2]
- In the United States, vaping has suddenly turned deadly with over 2000 cases of E-Cigarette or Vaping Product Use Associated Lung Injury (EVALI) and 39 deaths.[3]
- Regulations on the sale of tobacco products have resulted in unintended consequences for youth seeking cessation therapies.[4]
- Resources for vaping cessation are needed to combat this newer epidemic among youth.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Do US Smokers' Quitline's "Quitsites" provide enough information and resources to be supportive of vaping cessation?

METHODS

- North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC) and other web-based sources were used to locate state-level Quitline associated "Quitsites".
- Independent raters examined Quitsites and completed checklists for the presence or absence of information supportive of "vaping cessation".
- The research team met iteratively to refine the checklist results, re-review selected state websites, and refine final categories for inclusion (Table 1, 2).

Table 1: United States Quitsites' Vaping Information and Cessation Resources

State	Dedicated Page On Vaping	Harms of Vaping	Flavors Are Harmful	Cessation Resources	Speak to Healthcare Provider	News And Information	Covid 19
Alabama							
Alaska							
Arizona							
California							
Colorado							
Connecticut							
Florida							
Georgia							
Hawaii							
Illinois							
Indiana							
Iowa							
Kansas							
Kentucky							
Louisiana							
Maine							
Maryland							
Massachusetts							
Minnesota							
Montana							
Nebraska							
New Hampshire							
New Jersey							
Nevada							
New York							
North Carolina							
Ohio							
Oklahoma							
Pennsylvania							
Rhode Island							
South Carolina							
South Dakota							
Utah							
Vermont							
Washington D.C.							
Wisconsin							

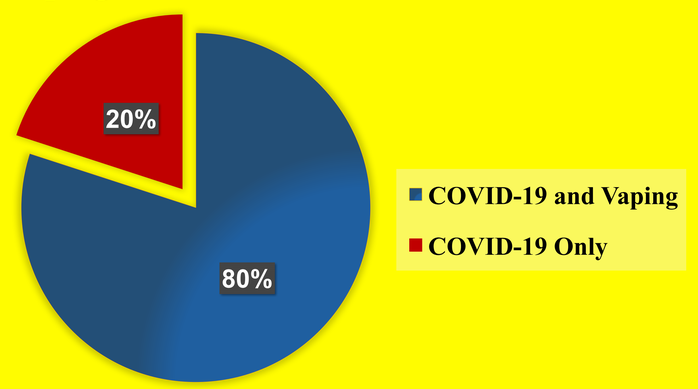
* States not listed either had no information on vaping (N=13), or had broking links (n=4)

Table 2: Canadian Quitsites' Vaping Information and Cessation Resources

Province	Dedicated Page On Vaping	Harms of Vaping	Flavors Are Harmful	Cessation Resources	Speak to Healthcare Provider	News And Information	Covid19/ Vaping
Alberta							
British Columbia							
Manitoba							
New Brunswick							
Nova Scotia							
Ontario							
Prince E. Island							
Saskatchewan							
Yukon							
Newfoundland							
Quebec							

* States not listed had no information on vaping (N=2)

Table 3: Percentages of Quitsites that Present Information Pertaining to COVID-19 and Vaping



RESULTS

- Only 27 of 66 (40.9%) of North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC) Quitsites had webpages dedicated to vaping.
- Although 45 of 66 (68.2%) quitsites presented information on the harms of vaping, only 15 sites (22.7%) messaged that Flavors are harmful.
- More than ½ of the quitsites (57.6%) had cessation resources, while 25 quitsites (37.9%) recommended speaking to a Health Care Provider.
- 35 quitsites included information pertaining to Covid-19, however some were not in reference to vaping (n=7, see Table 3) .

DISCUSSION

- Information on vaping and the harms of vaping has increased (from 31.8%) across the quitsites since our previous study.[5]
- Although the number of quitsites that mention the harms of flavors have also increased (from 18.2%), it is still insufficient given the role flavors play in attracting youth.
- It is important to note that 80% of the quitsites that share information about COVID-19, also link it to vaping.
- Next Steps: Continually conduct observational analyses such as the present study.

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Supported by National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the (FDA) # U54CA228110.
The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH or the FDA.