

Vaping among French adolescents aged 17: results from the ESCAPAD 2017 survey (n = 39 115)

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CONTEXT

E-cigarette use has spread in France since 2010. Among French adults aged 18-75, 41.7 % declared having tried it at least once while 3.8 % declared that they are current users in 2017 [1]. Used mainly by smokers or former smokers, ENDS is considered less harmful than tobacco smoking. However, its intrinsic health effects, especially long-term, are still being investigated. For adolescents, a period of tobacco initiation, e-cigarettes seems to be gaining in popularity; however, much research still needs to be undertaken to better understand the role and motivations behind its use in this population. Results from the ESCAPAD survey describe e-cigarette use and its associated factors among French adolescents aged 17.

KEY FINDINGS

- At 17, many adolescents have already tried e-cigarettes
 - Only 1/6 of French adolescents declare currently using e-cigarettes
 - E-cigarette use is mainly associated with tobacco smoking: 3/5 of current vapers smoke daily, more than 9/10 have ever smoked
 - Other products (alcohol, cannabis, hookah) are highly associated with current e-cigarette use, as well as being male and repeating a grade.
- More research is needed to determine if e-cigarettes represent another new product with which to experiment or if it can impact smoking behaviours.

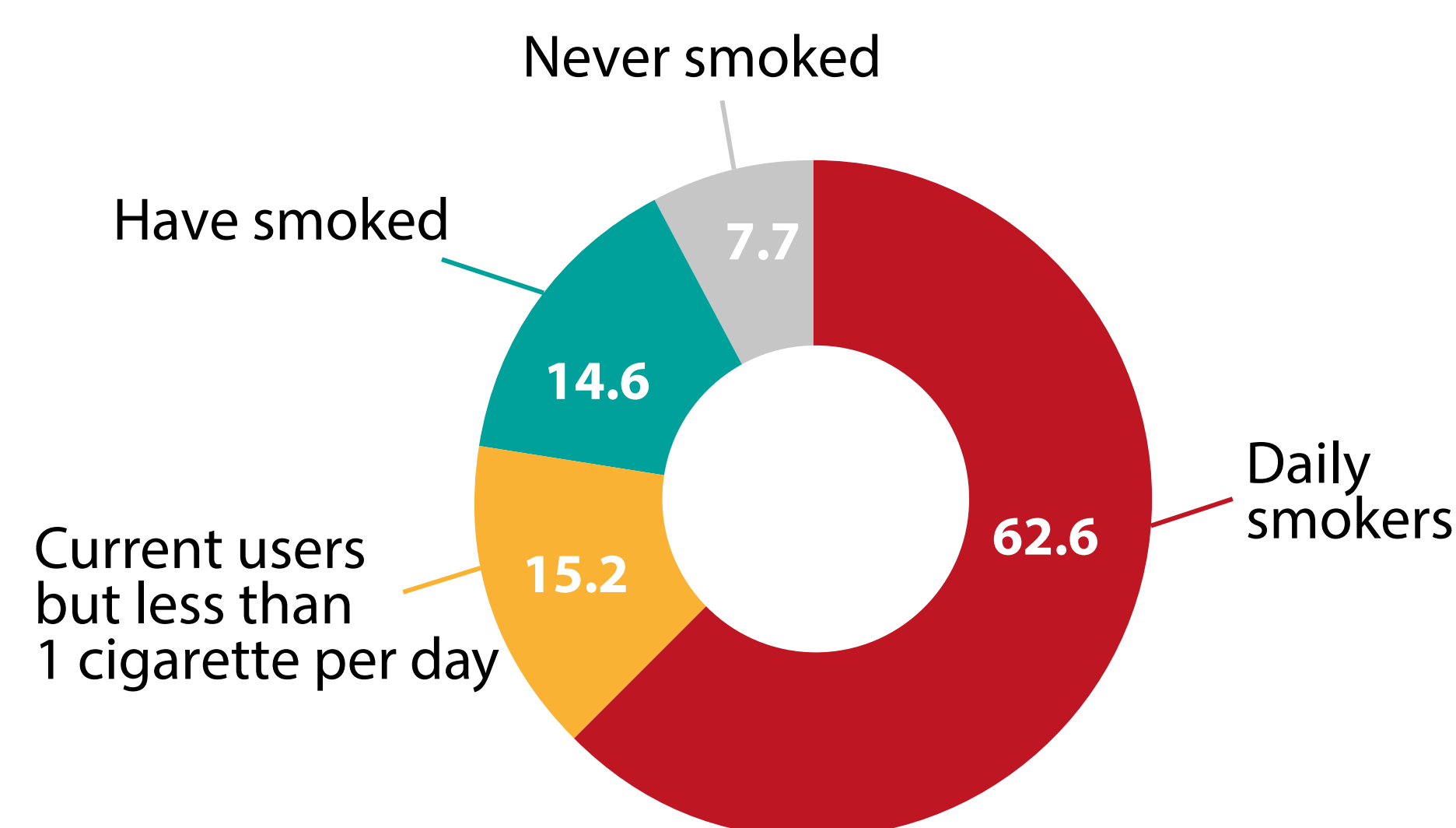
RESULTS

Most current users (at least once in the past month) are also daily smokers (62.6 %). Only 7.7 % have never used tobacco. Boys use e-cigarettes more than girls.

E-CIGARETTE USE (%)

	Total	Boys	Girls	p-value
Ever use	52.4	56.5	48.1	***
Current use	18.6	20.7	12.7	***
Daily use	1.9	2.8	1.0	***

SMOKING STATUS OF CURRENT VAPERS (%)



FACTORS LINKED WITH A CURRENT USE OF E-CIGARETTE (PREVALENCE RATIOS)



Being male (1.39), grade repetition (1.24)

Declaring a daily smoking habit (2.74), ever using a hookah (2.34), cannabis use in the past year (1.59), regular use of alcohol (10 times in the past month) (1.21), having tried another illicit product (1.13)



Being out of the school system (0.77), living in an urban area of more than 200 000 inhabitants (0.94)



Socio-professional category of the parents, having tried more than one other illicit substance

COMPARISON OF CURRENT VAPERS DEPENDING ON THEIR DAILY SMOKING STATUS. Vapers who are not daily smokers are more often boys and living in urban areas. They declare fewer grade repetitions, are less often apprentices or out of the school system and declare less licit or illicit drug use.

METHOD

Data come from the 2017 wave of the ESCAPAD survey, a nationally representative cross-sectional survey which regularly takes place during a 1-day session of civic and military information compulsory for all French nationals around 17 (39 115 respondents). Descriptive analyses and multivariate regressions (Poisson with robust variance and multinomial logistic regression) were undertaken to describe the recent use of ENDS at 17 and its associated factors. These studied risk factors were gender, school situation, familial structure, socio-professional category of the parents, size of urban area, grade repetition, daily smoking, regular use of alcohol (10 times in the past month), cannabis use in the past year, ever using a hookah, number of other illicit substances used.

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Conflict of interest

None to declare. This project is part of the PETAL program on adolescent smoking, funded by the French Cancer League.

References

[1] Pasquereau A, Andler A, Guignard G, Richard JB, Arwidson P, Nguyen-Thanh V ; le groupe Baromètre santé 2017. La consommation de tabac en France : premiers résultats du Baromètre santé 2017. Bull Epidemiol Hebd. 2018;(14-15):265-73.