

AUSTIN

SAFE AND DRUG-FREE YOUTH



THE RISE OF YOUTH VAPING: HEALTH, ACCESS, & PREVENTION

The Issue

Vaping has become common among youth in Texas, moving quietly through schools and social circles. In Austin, products are available at gas stations, convenience stores, and smoke shops on nearly every corner - oftentimes right next to schools. They're easy to get and even easier to hide, which makes them seem harmless until use becomes routine. Easy access and little oversight have created a space where many young people start vaping without understanding the harms.

Rising Alarms: Teen Vaping-Related ER Visits (2022–2025)

Since 2022, 91 Travis County youth have been treated for vaping-related emergencies.

91%

of cases were among
youth ages 11–17

56%

of patients
were males

61%

of visits involved
white youth

59%

of visits were
Hispanic youth

25%

of visits were on
weekends (8pm to 12am)

Health Risks

Young people often start vaping without realizing the risks. Mixing vaping with alcohol or other drugs and using high potency disposable devices, where one pod can contain the nicotine of 13 to 30 cigarettes, increases those risks even more. The pull of vaping grows stronger over time, and harm can come quickly and continue into adulthood.

Vaping Can Lead to Health Problems Such As:

Nicotine addiction
and withdrawal



Lasting effects on brain
development and learning



Breathing problems
and chest pain



Trouble focusing or
increased anxiety



What Youth Are Using and Where It's Found

Most of the vaping-related ER cases were from Pflugerville, Tech Ridge, South Austin, and Del Valle, where vape shops are easy to find. These communities have numerous stores selling vape products, many of them near schools. The products are often in kid-friendly packaging and flavored, high-potency vapes mixed with nicotine or THC.



Products with bright colors and kid-friendly packaging found in Austin-area stores.

Recommended Strategies to Reduce Youth Vaping

Retail Enforcement

Prohibiting stores near schools, monitoring sales, and routine compliance checks help keep vapes out of kids' hands.



School & Community Engagement

Prevention works best when it starts early. Honest conversations and increased awareness help teens see past marketing and make informed choices.



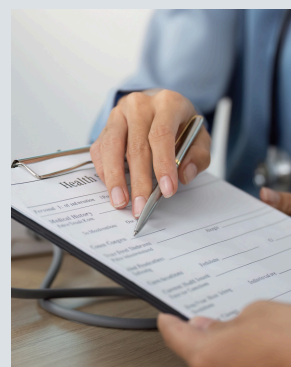
Advertising Restrictions

Local ordinances can restrict kid-targeted marketing, reduce exposure, and protect youth.



Health Monitoring

Tracking ER visits helps pinpoint youth risk and guide community action.



Reducing Access is Key to Prevention

As a community, we can reduce youth access and exposure by creating buffer zones that limit how close vape and tobacco shops can be to places kids go, including schools and daycares. We can also restrict kid-focused marketing and hold retailers accountable when they fail to follow the law.

Together, we can create the safer, healthier communities our kids deserve.

Scan here to join our Austin coalition and help keep our kids safe and healthy.

