

## **Be Well Coalition**

### **MEETING NOTES – October 13, 2023 12:00-1:00PM**

**Coalition members present:** Katie Allen, Prevention Specialist [DFC Project Director/Coordinator]; Sandy Stevens, NEWARC [Youth Serving Sector]; Betty Breen, Senior; Kelsey Schloredt [Other org for SU reduction]; Melissa Jones, Crook County Clerk [DFC AOR]; Courtney Reynolds, Impact Mentorship, [Volunteer Organization]; Terri Jones; Patty Cox; Carol Stutzman; Wendy DePina [SU Government Agency]; Dave Osborne, Crook County Attorney's Office [Law Enforcement]; Tina Wood, Council of Community Services [Civic Group]; Travis Sylvester, Sylvestri Media; Jenna Ellsbury, CCSD [School Sector]; Ginger Shoffstall, The Wyoming Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG).

Guests: Shastin Gerbracht and Jessica Cornwell - Black Hills VA COMPACT Act - Suicide Prevention

#### **Guest Presentation:**

Jessica Cornwell of the VA presented on the COMPACT Act which is Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment Act. This program helps Veterans (they don't have to be enrolled in the VA programs) who are having an acute suicidal crisis immediate access to any VA or non-VA healthcare facility for emergency health care services at no cost to them. The flyer that was shared at the meeting are included in the minutes.

#### **Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Promotion**

Katie participated in a new Train the Trainer for a program called COMET (Changing our Mental & Emotional Trajectory). The focus is on rural values of neighbor helping neighbor, especially when concerned about another's emotional and mental well-being. This workshop will teach people a natural way to talk about difficult topics, how to navigate those conversations and how important it is to be there to help each other. Katie is co-training MHFA with the Department Of Corrections quarterly, at this time it seems that WY is the only state that requires MHFA for all Corrections employees. Katie will be providing MHFA for Treatment Court staff in Gillette in May. Ashley McRae, CPS will join us from Gillette to talk about LOSS teams. On December 18th at 9AM at the Campbell County Fire Department Training Center there will be a Mental Health Town Hall which is an initiative from the Governor's office.

#### **Capacity Enhancement**

Welcome to our four new members and stakeholders.

#### **Drug Free Communities Grant**

Thank you to Monte Reichenberg for joining the leadership to fill our faith-based sector. One of the grant requirements is that two coalition members attend at all three weeks of the National Coalition Academy (NCA). The first week of NCA will be virtual on January 8-11, 2024. All coalition members are invited to participate, this training will cover some basic building blocks of a coalition and will be very helpful. The second & third week will be in person in Phoenix, AZ, Additionally, a job description for a part to full time assistant is being worked on.

### **Youth Prevention Activities**

Katie has met with Hulett and Moorcroft students so far to begin youth prevention activities. She will meet with them again at the end of November and will work to add Sundance after the new year. This is the main activity the future staff member will work on.

### **Tobacco/Nicotine**

New warning letters have been sent out from the FDA to retailers to stop selling illegal youth-appealing e-cigarettes. Handouts were provided, [click this](#) to see the story and pictures of those items. Within this article is also a link with findings from the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey - [this is a link to the article](#). The good news from the survey is that e-cigarette use among high schoolers dropped 4.1%. However, any tobacco use among middle schoolers increased 2.1%.

### **Partner Sharing**

Impact Mentorship is looking for two mentors in the Sundance area. Currently there is a teenage girl so an adult female is needed and a teenage boy is expected into the program shortly, so an adult male will be needed. Please contact Courtney Reynolds if you or anyone you know might be interested. Her email is [CReynolds@yeshouse.org](mailto:CReynolds@yeshouse.org).

The Council of Community Services is working with the Food Bank of Wyoming and Moorcroft Interfaith's food pantry program to help get meals to people in need throughout the county. Volunteers and donations are always appreciated.

Ginger shared what is happening with the WCPG and how working with the coalition, especially substance use prevention, is an ideal partnership. Johnson County currently is working actively on this program and we will continue to see how our county can do more to support these programs and support.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The December coalition will be Friday, December 8th at Noon, lunch and training start at 11:30. Ashley McRae of Campbell County Prevention will join us to brainstorm LOSS teams and other suicide prevention training opportunities.

Meeting ended at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Allen, Prevention Specialist

As always, our graphics are available for viewing and use for anyone interested on our Google Drive here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5wjcm75>



# FDA Warns Retailers to Stop Selling Illegal Youth-Appealing E-Cigarettes Disguised as Everyday Items

*Products Look Like Toys and Drink Containers That Can be Easily Concealed by Youth*

On Nov. 16, FDA issued [warning letters \(/inspections-compliance-enforcement-and-criminal-investigations/compliance-actions-and-activities/warning-letters\)](#) to seven online retailers for selling and/or distributing unauthorized e-cigarettes. The unauthorized e-cigarettes are packaged to look like youth-appealing toys and drink containers, including milk cartons, soft drink bottles, and slushies. The products' design may also help youth conceal the e-cigarettes from adults or be confused with an everyday object and the contents accidentally ingested by young children.

**“As we continue into the school year, it’s critical that parents, teachers, and other adults are aware of illegal e-cigarettes deceptively packaged to look like everyday items,” said Brian King, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products. “These types of products can be easily concealed and contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm the developing adolescent brain.”**

It is important for educators and those that work with youth to be aware of these illegal youth-appealing products, which can be deceiving and easily concealed, including among younger students. The [Vaping Prevention and Education Resource Center \(https://digitalmedia.hhs.gov/tobacco/educator\\_hub\)](#) is an online hub with free science-based lesson plans and materials for teachers, including how to spot stealth and disposable e-cigarettes and to help youth understand the dangers associated with e-cigarette use and nicotine addiction. The unauthorized products described in the warning letters issued today include e-cigarettes that:

- Imitate drink containers for youth-appealing drinks such as milk, soft drinks, and slushies.



E-Cigarette



Drink Container



E-Cigarette



Drink Container



E-Cigarette



Drink Container



E-Cigarette



Drink Container



E-Cigarette



Drink Container

**E-Cigarette****Drink Container**

- Are designed to look like youth-appealing toys such as dice, phones, and action figures.

**E-Cigarette****Toy****E-Cigarette****Toy****E-Cigarette****Toy**

Findings from the [2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey \(NYTS\)](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7244a1.htm?s_cid=mm7244a1_w)

([https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7244a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7244a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7244a1.htm?s_cid=mm7244a1_w)) showed an encouraging decline in e-cigarette use among high school students since 2022. However, an increase occurred in overall tobacco product use among middle school students, which includes e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes remained the most commonly used tobacco product among both high school and middle school students for the 10th year in a row, with 2.1 million youth reporting they currently used the products in 2023.

**“FDA uses a variety of surveillance tools to monitor the rapidly evolving e-cigarette landscape and to identify emerging threats to public health,” said Ann Simoneau, J.D., M.B.A, director of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement within FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products. “We use data from these tools to help prioritize investigations of youth-appealing products across the supply chain to ensure illegal products stay off the shelves.”**

The retailers receiving these warning letters sell and/or distribute e-cigarettes in the United States that lack authorization from FDA, which is a requirement under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act to legally market a new tobacco product. In addition to the specified products mentioned in the warning letters, the retailers were warned to address any violations that are the same as or similar to those stated in the warning letter, and promptly take any necessary actions to bring the tobacco products that they offer for sale in the United States into compliance with the FD&C Act. The seven retailers issued warning letters were given 15 working days to respond with the steps they will take to correct any violations and to prevent future violations. Failure to promptly correct the violations can result in additional FDA actions such as an injunction, seizure, and/or civil money penalties.

Today’s warning letters are the latest in a series of FDA’s efforts across the supply chain to address illegal e-cigarettes that appeal to youth. As of November 2023, FDA has issued approximately 630 [warning letters](https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/compliance-enforcement-training/advisory-and-enforcement-actions-against-industry-unauthorized-tobacco-products#2) (<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/compliance-enforcement-training/advisory-and-enforcement-actions-against-industry-unauthorized-tobacco-products#2>) to firms for manufacturing and/or distributing illegal e-cigarette products and devices, issued more than 400 warning letters to retailers for the sale of unauthorized e-cigarettes, [filed civil money penalty complaints](https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/compliance-enforcement-training/advisory-and-enforcement-actions-against-industry-unauthorized-tobacco-products#5) (<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/compliance-enforcement-training/advisory-and-enforcement-actions-against-industry-unauthorized-tobacco-products#5>) against 35 e-cigarette manufacturers and 42 retailers for manufacture or sale of unauthorized products, and worked with the Department of Justice to seek injunctions against 6 manufacturers of unauthorized e-cigarettes.

Was this helpful?

Yes

No



## COMET™ Community Training

- Learn a natural way to talk with a friend, a neighbor, or an acquaintance about difficult topics.
- Learn a conversational guide and the importance of being “the other person.”
- Practice the COMET intervening questions and plan how you will use COMET to have in conversations about another’s well-being.

**COMET™ recognizes our rural values of neighbor helping neighbor, and communities being their own best resource – especially when concerned about another’s emotional and mental well-being.**

**Please join us for this 90 minute workshop!**



**Contact Katie Allen, COMET trainer  
to schedule your training**





# Results from the Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey

## On this page:

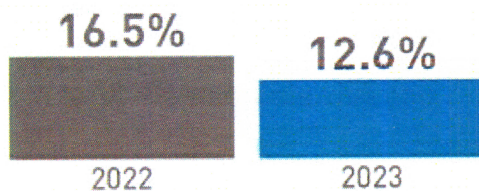
- [2023 Findings on Youth Tobacco Use](#)
  - [Findings on Youth Use for All Tobacco Products](#)
  - [Findings on Youth Use for E-Cigarette Products](#)
- [NYTS 2023 Methodology](#)
- [Public Health Education](#)
- [Goals of NYTS](#)
- [Previous National Youth Tobacco Survey](#)

## 2023 Findings on Youth Tobacco Use

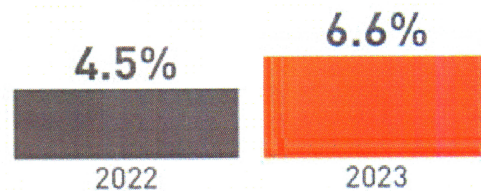
**NYTS**  
2023

About **2.8 million**  
youth currently use any tobacco product

Any tobacco use **decreased** among  
high school students



Any tobacco use **increased** among  
middle school students



Driven by a **drop**  
in high school e-cigarette use



In November 2023, FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released data from the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) on youth tobacco use in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: [“Tobacco Product Use among Middle and High School Students – United States, 2023.”](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7244a1.htm?s_cid=mm7244a1_w) ([https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7244a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7244a1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7244a1.htm?s_cid=mm7244a1_w)).

Among U.S. high school students, current overall tobacco product use declined during 2022-2023 (16.5% to 12.6%). This decline was primarily driven by e-cigarettes (14.1% to 10.0%), which translates to 580,000 fewer high school students who currently used e-cigarettes in 2023. Among high school students, declines were also observed during 2022-2023 for cigars and overall combustible tobacco smoking, representing all-time lows. Although a decrease in e-cigarette use was observed among high school students, there was an increase in current overall tobacco product use among middle school students (4.5% to 6.6%) and multiple tobacco product use (1.5% to 2.5%). However, among middle school students overall, no significant change was observed during 2022-2023 for any individual tobacco product type, including e-cigarettes.

## Findings on Youth Use for All Tobacco Products

**NYTS**  
2023

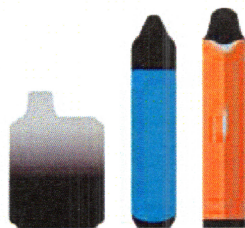
**10% of students**  
reported current use of any tobacco product

Among those who currently use a tobacco product:

**E-Cigarettes**

were the most popular  
product for the

**10<sup>th</sup> year** in a row



**Cigarette  
and Cigar**



use remain at an all-time low

### Current Use

- 10.0% of students (2.80 million) reported current use of any tobacco product



- 12.6% (1.97 million) high school students and 6.6% (800,000) middle school students reported current use of any tobacco product.
- 3.4% of students (920,000) reported current use of any combustible tobacco product
- 3.4% of students (940,000) reported current use of multiple ( $\geq 2$ ) tobacco products

### Most Commonly Used Types of Devices

- E-cigarettes (7.7%)
- Cigars (1.6%)
- Cigarettes (1.6%)
- Nicotine Pouches (1.5%)
- Smokeless (chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, or snus) (1.2%)
- Other oral nicotine products (lozenges, discs, tablets, gums, dissolvable tobacco products, and other products) (1.2%)
- Hookahs (1.1%)
- Heated Tobacco Products (1.0%)
- Pipe Tobacco (0.5%)

### Findings on Youth Use for E-Cigarette Products

**NYTS**  
2023

More than **2.1 million**  
youth currently use e-cigarettes,

with a decline in high school students currently using e-cigarettes in 2022-2023

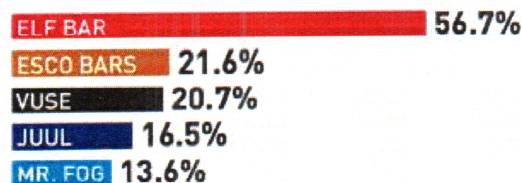
#### Among youth who reported current use of e-cigarettes:

More than **1 in 4**



use e-cigarettes daily

The most popular brands include disposable and cartridge-based products, and the most commonly reported products were:



Almost

**9 out of 10**



use flavored e-cigarettes



## Current Use

- 7.7% of students (2.13 million) reported current use of e-cigarettes
- 10.0% (1.56 million) high school students and 4.6% (550,000) middle school students reported current use of e-cigarettes

## Frequency of Use

- More than 1 in 4 (25.2%) of current youth e-cigarette users use an e-cigarette product every day
- More than 1 in 3 (34.7%) youth e-cigarette users report using e-cigarettes at least 20 of the last 30 day

## Flavored E-Cigarette Use

- Almost 9 out of 10 current e-cigarette users (89.4%) used flavored e-cigarettes, with fruit flavors being the most popular, followed by candy, desserts, or other sweets; mint; and menthol
- Over half (57.9%) of students currently using e-cigarettes reported using flavors with “ice” or “iced” in the name

## Type of Device

- The most commonly used device among current e-cigarette users was disposables (60.7%), followed by prefilled/refillable pods or cartridges (16.1%)

## Commonly Used Brands

- The most commonly reported brands reported among current e-cigarette users were: Elf Bar (56.7%), Esco Bars (21.6%), Vuse (20.7%), JUUL (16.5%), and Mr. Fog (13.6%)

## NYTS 2023 Methodology

The 2023 data was collected between March 9 to June 16, 2023. The NYTS is a cross-sectional, school-based, self-administered questionnaire administered to U.S. middle (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students since 1999. A stratified, three-stage, cluster sampling procedure was used to generate a nationally representative sample of U.S. students attending private or public schools in grades 6-12. In 2023, data were collected from 22,069 students, with an overall response rate of 30.5%. Weighted prevalence estimates, 95% confidence intervals, and population totals were provided for ever use and current use (use on  $\geq 1$  day during the past 30



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What happens if an eligible Veteran has an additional suicidal crisis?**

A: A new and separate 30/90 day period for providing medical and mental health care begins with each new suicidal crisis.

**Q: What happens if an eligible Veteran continues to require care beyond the 30/90 days?**

A: Treating provider can request and authorize one thirty day extension.

**Q: Can a Veteran appeal decisions made regarding COMPACT Act Care?**

A: Please refer Veterans to the local VA medical center patient advocate to file an appeal.

**Q: How long does a community provider have to submit COMPACT Act claims to the VA?**

A: Community providers have 180 days to submit Veteran claims under the COMPACT Act. It is recommended to notify the VA upon the Veteran's ED admission to 1-844-724-7842

**Q: How do I know if an individual is an eligible Veteran?**

A: Ask individual if they have served in military. If yes, report to VA to determine eligibility.



## Black Hills Health Care System Fort Meade VA Medical Center

113 Comanche Road  
Fort Meade, SD 57741  
Emergency Department open 24/7  
Veterans Crisis Line 24/7

### Phone Numbers:

Main phone:  
605-347-2511

COMPACT Act Coordinator:  
605-720-6733

Available during business hours  
Monday through Friday  
7:30a – 4:00p

*Suicide Prevention is everyone's business.*

*#REACHOUT*

[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)  
 **Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**  
or **TEXT 838255**



## Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act

Information for  
Veterans & Community  
Providers

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs





### What is COMPACT Act?

Under the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act, Veterans with acute suicidal crisis can go immediately to any VA or non-VA healthcare facility for emergency health care services at no cost to them.

### What is an Acute Suicidal Crisis?

Acute suicidal crisis means an individual was determined to be at imminent risk of self-harm by a trained crisis responder, or health care provider.

### What is Emergent Suicidal Care?

For an individual in acute suicidal crisis, care that ensures to the extent practicable, immediate safety and reduces: severity of distress; the need for urgent care; or the likelihood that the severity of distress or need for urgent care will increase during the transfer of that individual from a facility that care was provided for the acute suicidal crisis.

### What Services are Available?

COMPACT Act covers the following:

- Up to 30 days of inpatient care, and up to 90 days of outpatient care (the treating provider can extend coverage up to 30 days).
- VA will make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergent suicidal care.
- VA will determine eligibility for other VA services.
- VA will refer eligible Veterans for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the period of emergent suicide care.

### Who is Eligible?

Regardless of VA enrollment status, COMPACT Act Eligible Veterans are:

- Former members of the Armed Forces (enrolled or not enrolled) who are discharged or released from active duty after 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- A former member of the Armed Forces, including the reserve components, who served in the Armed Forces for more than 100 cumulative days and was deployed in theater of combat operations, in support of a contingency operation, or in an area at a time during which hostilities are occurring in that area during service, including by controlling an unmanned aerial vehicle from a location other than such theater arena.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment.

### How it Works

In the event of a mental health crisis, Veterans and their loved ones should do the following:

- Call 911 for all emergencies; or
- Present to their nearest VA or non-VA emergency room; or
- Call the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 option 1, text 838255, or start a confidential chat

### VA Notification

Community providers have up to 180 days to submit COMPACT Act related care claims to the VA. Providers should report claims to the VA's Emergency Care Centralized Notification Center using:

- VA's Emergency Care Reporting Portal <https://EmergencyCareReporting.CommunityCare.va.gov>
- Or by calling 1-844-72HRVHA (1-844-724-7842)

### Notification Requirements:

- Name
- Gender
- Social Security Number
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Date presenting and date of discharge
- Admission (yes/no)
- Chief complaint/admission diagnosis and/or discharge diagnosis
- Originating address (where event occurred)
- Mode of arrival
- Other health insurance
- Facility NPI, name, address, point of contact information