



# E-cigarettes and shisha use

Findings from the Young Persons' Alcohol and Tobacco survey 2013

David Scott, trading standards manager, Lancashire County Council

November 2014



## Contents

Introduction .....	2
Summary finding of the survey .....	2
Emerging issues.....	3

## Introduction

This short report on e-cigarette and shisha use has been taken from the Young Persons' Alcohol and Tobacco survey (2013). It completes a suite of literature review documents around the seven health behaviours incorporated in the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA).

It complements the secondary data analysis report which can be found on the [JSNA publications](#) page with final health behaviours report.

For further information please visit our website:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight) or email [jsna@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:jsna@lancashire.gov.uk).


## Summary finding of the survey

Findings of the Young Persons' Alcohol and Tobacco Survey 2013 include:

- 21.4% of 14-17 year olds in Lancashire had tried shisha at least once; this figure was 32.8% in Blackburn with Darwen and 17.2% in Blackpool;
- 26.7% of 14-17 year olds in Lancashire had brought or tried e-cigarettes; this figure was 29.4% in Blackburn with Darwen and 19.9% in Blackpool;
- 84.9% of regular smokers have brought or tried e-cigarettes; 60.8% have tried shisha;
- of those who smoke when drinking, 44.6% have tried shisha and 53.6% have brought or tried e-cigarettes;
- 6.8% of those who 'have never smoked' have tried/brought e-cigarettes, and 7.3% have tried shisha;
- approximately 30% of those who have tried smoking but didn't like it have tried shisha at least once, whilst 33.7% have brought or tried an e-cigarette;
- young people aged 17 are more likely to have tried shisha at least once (46.3%) compared to those aged 14 years (15.6%), 15 years (22.0%) and 16 years (28.4%); and
- there is a similar pattern for e-cigarettes: 55.5% of 17-year olds have brought or tried e-cigarettes compared to 20.0% of 14-year olds, 27.9% of those aged 15 and 31.2% of those aged 16.

The findings provide an indication of patterns across Lancashire, but should be used with caution for a number of reasons. These are outlined in the briefing paper 'E-cigarette and shisha access among young people in Lancashire. Findings from 2013 North-West Trading Standards Survey'.

The levels of reported use in the study indicate that access to both e-cigarettes and shisha is not uncommon among certain groups of young people in the region. Care is required in relation to the study, however, in terms of representativeness across the county footprint; potential survey fatigue and potential over- or under-reporting.



Despite these caveats, the study highlights areas that would benefit from further exploration and additional research in order to compare findings and develop a greater understanding of motivations for use; potential risk factors; and levels of access, experimentation and usage in what is a rapidly changing area.

### **Emerging issues**

- What is the relationship between access, experimentation and usage of e-cigarettes and/or shisha for young people?
- What is the relationship between e-cigarettes and smoking cessation for young people, and what might be the future role of e-cigarettes in relation to young people's smoking cessation?
- What are the factors impacting on non-smokers' access to (and potential further use of) both e-cigarettes and shisha?
- How does shisha use among young people operate across smoking settings (from cafés to home or friends' houses)?
- What roles do these wider social contexts play in the appeal of these new smoking products?
- What roles do gender and ethnicity play in e-cigarette and shisha usage amongst young people?

In conclusion, the TS dataset raises some useful questions about young people's use, though it may be difficult to draw firm, reliable conclusions from the study.