

Outdoor vaping prevalence



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Aim

To observe the relative prevalence of:

- (i) smoking and vaping outside hospitality venues
- (ii) smoking and vaping among those walking in downtown pavement areas

Background

- New Zealand does not regulate vaping in outdoor public places (there are some ‘educational’ policies)
- Organisations (e.g., individual businesses) may ban vaping on their properties

Methods for hospitality venues

- 56 hospitality venues in central Wellington (capital of NZ) were selected
- 2422 venue observations recorded the number of seated:
 - patrons
 - smokers
 - vapers
 - children



Observations were made in May 2018, during:

- 3.30pm - 9pm on weekdays
- 12pm - 9pm on weekends

Circuit of venues

New Zealand map



Methods for downtown streets

In three defined pavement areas:

- 121 x ten minute observations
- Pedestrians passing within a 5m radius of observer
- Recorded:
 - Time
 - Number of active smokers and active vapers



Results: Hospitality venues

- 10 active smokers to 1 active vaper
- *Point prevalence* of vaping = 1.4% of patrons
- Active vapers were 6 times more likely to be observed at venues *without* children present, compared to venues with children
(95%CI: 1.9 to 19.2)



Results: Downtown streets

- 2.9 active smokers to 1 active vaper
- On average, six active vapers and 17 active smokers were observed per hour across the 3 locations



Discussion: Methods issues

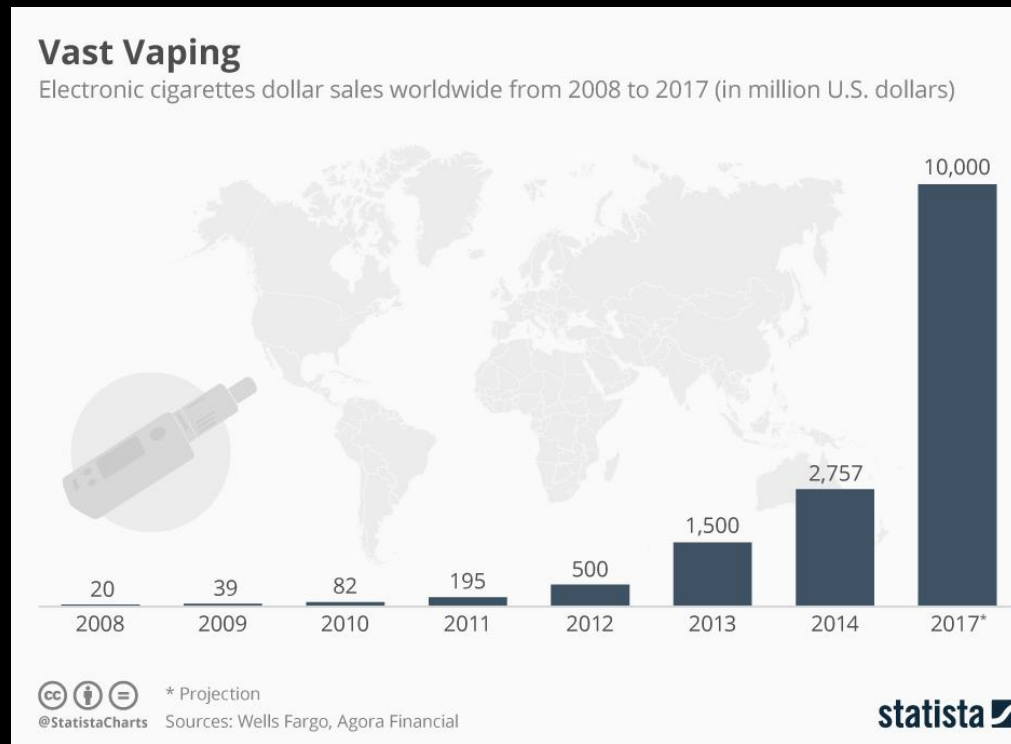
- Sometimes **difficult to distinguish** vaping devices from other items, such as phones and keys
- Issue **increasing** with discrete pod-style devices
- Vaping may be more **intermittent** than smoking (e-cigarettes may be pocketed between puffs)
- So observations of active vaping less likely, compared to active smoking?



Discussion: Research implications

Fieldwork required to assess:

- Vaping in other settings and jurisdictions
- Trends in visible vaping over time
- Policy effects with before/after observations



Discussion: Policies?

- Secondhand vapour in proximity to:
 - Seating
 - Crowded sidewalks
 - Entrances and windows
- Vape industry stances
 - ‘Courtesy’ v rules
- Normalisation of nicotine use?

