

# Evaluation of Youth-Tobacco Awareness Class (Y-TAC)

Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance (HCADA)

Natasha Kurji, MPH, CPH and Thomas Koza | March 17, 2020



# Presentation Outline



Background: Vaping Prevalence and Health Issues

What is Y-TAC?

Purpose of this Study

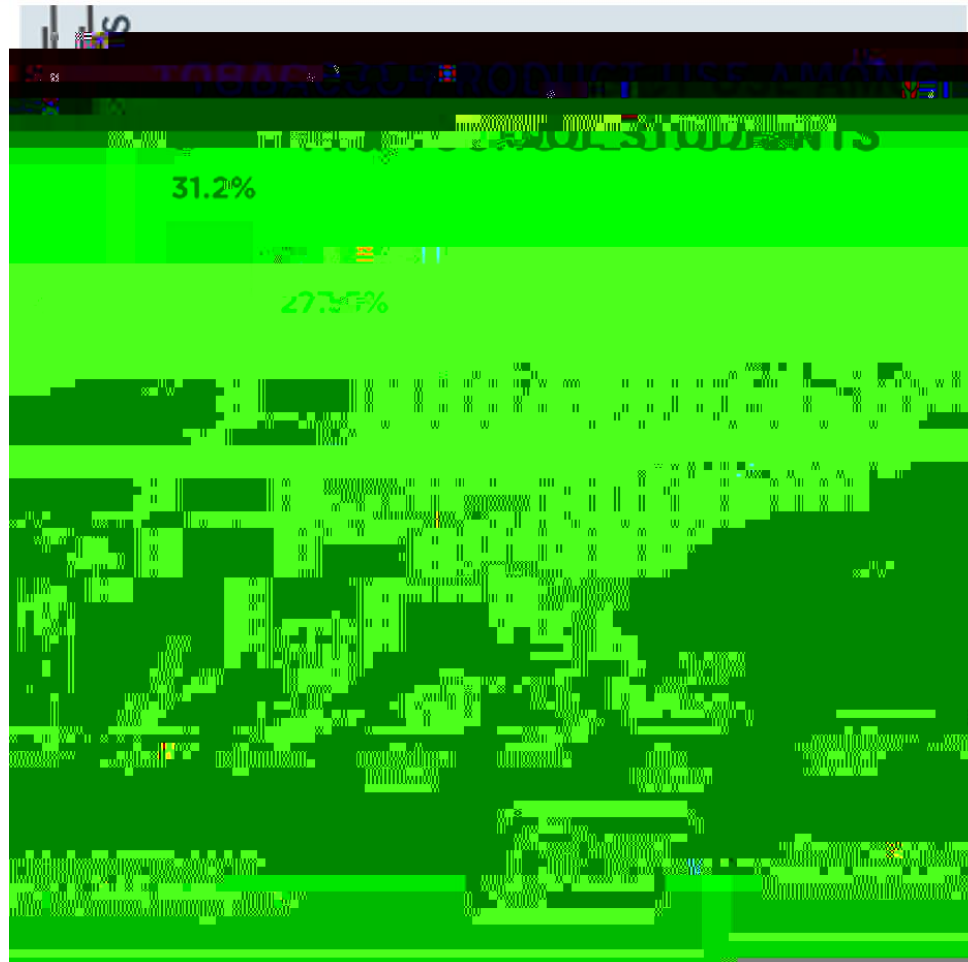
Methodology: Quantitative and Qualitative

Results

Discussion/Recommendations

Conclusions

# Background: Vaping Prevalence

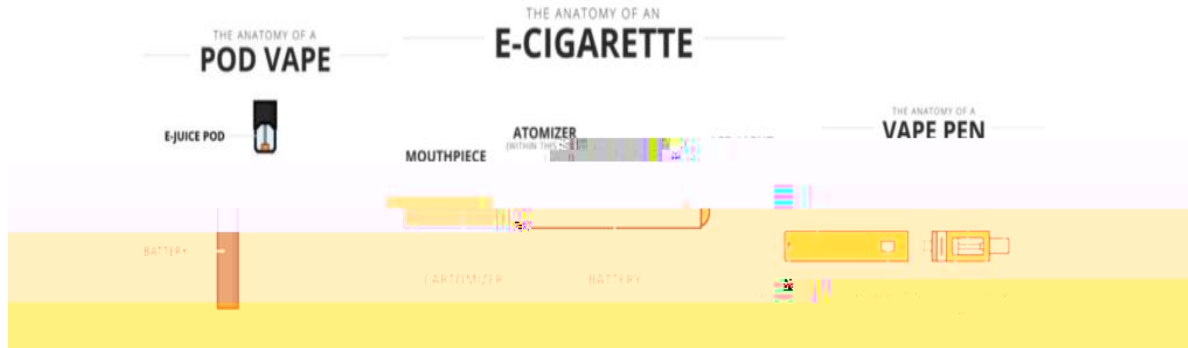


# Background Information

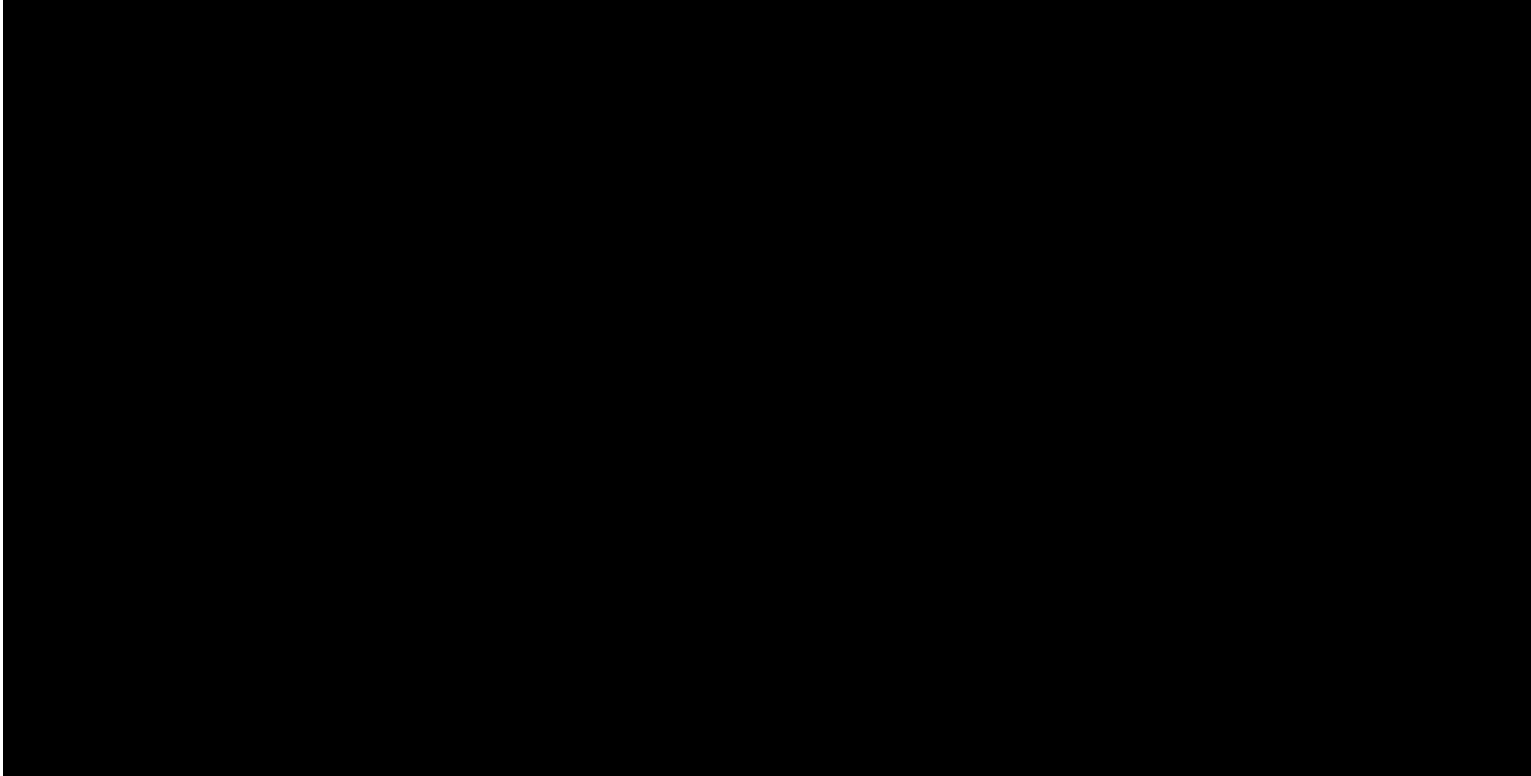
Battery operated devices that are used to inhale an aerosol that typically contains nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals <sup>1</sup>

The prefrontal cortex is one of the last areas to mature in the adolescent brain <sup>2</sup>

Vaping could act as a catalyst for smoking traditional tobacco cigarettes in adolescence <sup>3</sup>



# E-cigarette, or Vaping, Product Use-Associated Lung Injury (EVALI)



# **Youth-Tobacco Awareness Class (Y-TAC)**

Once a month at courthouse downtown

Instructor and PowerPoint

### Tobacco Citation (Student ic

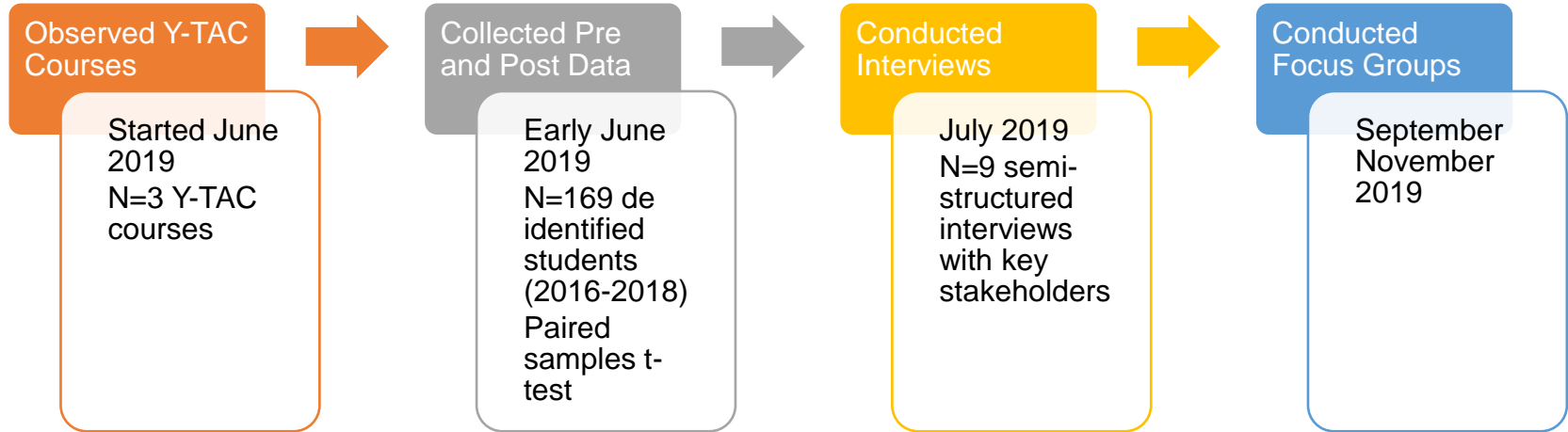




## Goals of Study

1. Examine the effectiveness of the awareness course through collected pre and post test data
2. Assess perceived effectiveness and attitudes of the awareness course as well as how electronic cigarettes are effecting adolescents in Hillsborough County by conducting interviews and a focus group
3. Describe ways to possibly modify the HCADA Youth Tobacco Awareness Course to improve outcomes

# Methodology Timeline: Case Study Approach



# Results



# Pre and Post Test Score Means



# Pre-Post Test Analysis

1. I am aware of at least one thing about the effects of tobacco.
2. 1 in 3 smokers will die from smoking-related causes such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, other lung diseases, and other cancers.
3. There are immediate benefits to stop using tobacco.
4. Tobacco advertisements make their products look cool, sexy, attractive, and/or fun.
5. Resources are available to help those who want to quit tobacco use.
6. I have thought about quitting tobacco use.
7. I have a desire to quit using tobacco.

N = 169 de-identified students (2016-2018)

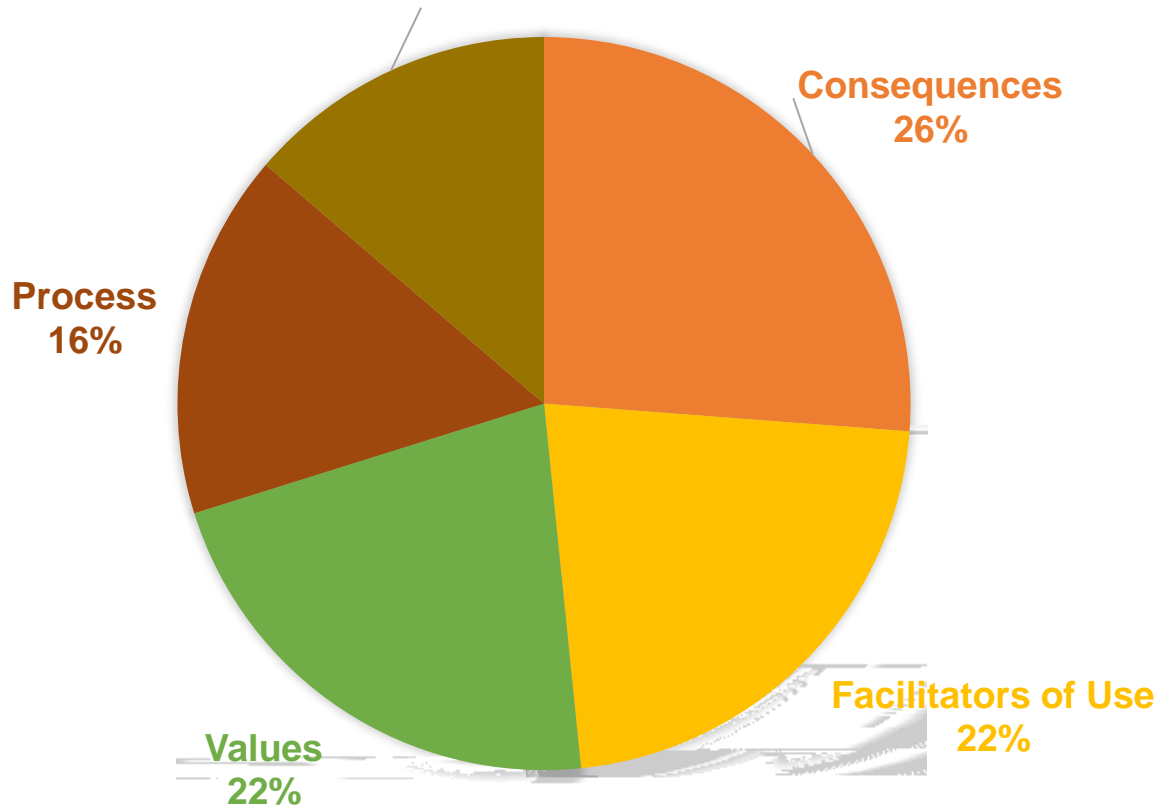
Paired sample t-tests conducted

# Semi-Structured Interviews

**What are your experiences surrounding tobacco products in school and the community?**

**Do you personally believe that the Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliances Youth Tobacco Awareness Course is effective for students?**

**What do you think would be an appropriate consequence for a student using or possessing tobacco products in school?**



# 1. Values

Concern for E-cigarette Use

**hospitalized or killed**

**what are they smoking**

-cigarettes can have way **more things than just nicotine**

Parent Involvement (Positive)

**I want to like scare him**, scare the bejesus out

You know, you have to have a good relationship with your kids. Like you can't **has to be a line of mutual respect**. Yeah, but you can't be too strict or too soft. You know? You gotta have like a happy

Parent Involvement (Negative)

to get and when you do. I'm just going to look at it. **I'm not paying for nothing**



## 2. Consequences

Guardian Enforced

# 3. Process

Misinformation

# 4. Facilitators of Use

Accessibility

-year-

# 5. Recommendations

# Discussion

## What did we learn?

Youth Tobacco Awareness Class is effective in changing youth attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge

There is a need for better communication between schools, law enforcement, the court, HCADA, and parents

Parents with youth cited for tobacco use in Hillsborough County need better guidance related to the citation process and vaping education

# Study Limitations

Key variables are missing

Instructor, school, student age, student gender, number of past offenses

Obtaining IRB approval to interview Y-TAC students

Time and logistical constraints

# Future Research

## Start tracking key variables

To improve Y-TAC implementation, tracking of key variables (instructor, school, age, gender, repeat offenders, etc.) is needed to better understand distribution and demographics of this issue

## Determine proper evaluation methods

Survey is a great start, but more can be done to ensure concepts are being grasped by students

## Gain student perspectives

Youth understand each other better

Can provide insight into what motivates use vs. no use



# Practice Recommendations

## Y-TAC Program

- Have students write a research paper
- Write a letter to the judge
- Harsher punishment for repeat offenders
- Monthly educational seminars for parents

## Community

- Increase prevention information in schools
- Treat e-cigarettes as drug paraphernalia
- Create consistent punishments across the county (i.e. number of days and type of punishment)
- Provide parents with pamphlets to guide them through the citation process

# Policy Implications

## Decrease Accessibility

Raise the legal age limit (Law got passed!)

Place stronger restrictions on e-cigarette distributors

Place larger fines and/or harsher punishments for underage tobacco use and possession laws

**Conclusions:  
Take home message**

Community-based awareness/education classes, like the Y-TAC, are an effective first step to addressing youth drug use

In order to make the citation process more efficient, synergy is needed

# Acknowledgements

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