

Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

MICHAEL J. WILLIAMS
ACTING PROSECUTOR



FRANK R. CRISOLOGO
ACTING CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

PAUL T. APPROVATO
ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

Justice Center, 2nd Floor
65 Park Avenue
PO Box 756
Flemington, NJ 08822-0756

Telephone 908-788-1129
Fax 908-806-4618

www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/prosecutor.htm

MEDIA RELEASE – APRIL 26, 2019

PROSECUTOR WARNS OF DANGERS OF VAPING

Acting Hunterdon County Prosecutor Michael J. Williams and Acting Chief of Detectives Frank R. Crisologo announced that they have partnered with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Intelligence Center to inform the public about the perils of vaping and the dangerous trend affecting users of illicit vaping.

According to Acting Prosecutor Williams, “We’ve been seeing an increasing number of high school students using ‘dabs,’ which are basically highly concentrated THC oil ingested using a vaporizer pen. These oils contain a very high percentage of THC – nothing like the plant material that parents might think of when they hear the word “marijuana”. Dabs release an incredibly large amount of THC into the body and are more likely to cause dependence and addiction. Smoking even a small amount produces an intense, long-lasting high, and in some case people have lost consciousness and have needed hospitalization.”

The following information provided by (HIDTA) contains data on vaping and the potential risks associated with illegally ingesting THC using these devices.

VAPING

Vape Slang Terms:

Juuling- (Juil or jewelring) vaping brand that has become synonymous with vaping THC, looks like a flash drive as opposed to an e-cig

E-cig- electronic cigarette

Vaping:

- Act of inhaling and exhaling aerosol, or vapor, produced by an e-cigarette
- Grown in popularity since being introduced in 2007
- Vaping devices include e-cigarettes (e-cig), vape pens, and advanced personal vaporizers
- E-liquid in vaporizers could contain: liquid based nicotine, flavored liquid, or other chemicals

Vaping THC:

- Vaping THC does not replicate the unmistakable odor of marijuana that is associated with traditional smoking
 - Any flavoring can be added to mask the THC smell, such as cherry or strawberry

THC-

Tetrahydrocannabinol, is a chemical linked to marijuana's psychological effects

MOD- body of a vaping cartridge or battery

Atty- (Atomizer) Heating element in e-cig wrapped around wick that produces vapor

Dabbing- vaping or inhaling high-grade marijuana

concentrates, known to be dangerous

B&M- (Brick and Mortar) refers to a vape shop with a physical location you can visit

Liquidizer- Turns 420 Concentrate, marijuana, to vape juice

- Other popular flavoring: Black Mamba, Rip Tide, Swagger, Boosted, Mother's Milk

- Vaping THC produces higher concentrations of THC creating greater exposure to marijuana's mind altering and addictive ingredient
 - THC affects a person's memory, pleasure, movements, thinking, coordination, concentration, sensory, and time perception

Methods of Vaping THC:

Marijuana Flowers:

- Plant compound
- Marijuana buds or "flowers" are grinded into small pieces to break down the material, which creates more surface area
- Vaporizers apply heat just below the temperature of combustion



Oil Cartridges:

- Easy to use, high in THC, pre-filled oil vape cartridge
- Prefilled Oil Vape Cartridges:
 - CO2 Oil- compatible with vaporizer cartridges
 - Distillates- contains pure cannabinoids
 - Additives- used as a thinning agent/contains hash oils

Marijuana Flower

Oil Cartridge



Wax

Shatter

Wax and Shatter:

- Wax is the most popular form of all marijuana concentrates, Shatter is broken up pieces of wax
- A specialized wax pen allows users to vape wax in solid form

Hazards of Vaping:

Explosions:

- Vape pens are at risk of overheating and exploding, in many cases due to the lithium-ion-polymer batteries
 - In Old Bridge Township in Middlesex County, NJ a woman's vape pen exploded in her purse. [New York PIX](#): September 13, 2017
 - A subject from Florida was killed after a vape pen exploded and sent projectiles into his head. The explosion also caused a small fire in the subjects' home. [Philly.com](#): May 18, 2018

Burns:

- There have been cases in which vape pens are susceptible to catching fire and causing third-degree burns
 - A subject from San Jose, CA suffered third-degree burns on his hand and leg after a vape pen exploded in his pocket in February of 2018. [NY Daily News](#): February 13, 2018

Drug Laced:

- In cases such as teen use of vaping, users may be unaware of the potential harms or materials in which they are inhaling
 - A case in Gloucester Township, Gloucester County, NJ linked high-concentrated THC in a vape pen-ending suspect into psychotic episode. [CBS Local Philadelphia](#): May 31, 2018

Recent News:

DEA Warning

- The DEA issued a warning in regards to teenagers' vaping.
- In the video, 1 in 3 high school students are stated to be using a vaping device. Teenagers may be unaware of nicotine or THC oil, found in marijuana, in a vape pen. Teenagers are at risk of addiction when using a Juul or other e-cigarette devices. [WDIV4 June 12, 2018](#)

Effects on Schools:

- Schools have had little warning regarding the use of vape pens among students, making it difficult to develop a policy to control it. Teenagers said Juuls began showing up at parties last year, by the fall were at school and football games. Now, students post videos of themselves doing vapor tricks on social media. [The New York Times](#): April 2, 2018
- The 2017 Monitoring the Future survey on adolescent drug use found that 11% of 12th graders, 8.5% of 10th graders, and 3.5% of 8th graders had vaped nicotine in the previous 30 days. Of those high school seniors, 24% reported vaping daily, which the study defined as vaping on 20 or more occasions in the previous 30 days, said Richard A. Miech, a professor at the Institute for Social research at the University of Michigan and a principal investigator of the study. 19% reported vaping on 40 or more occasion during that period. [2017 Monitoring the Future Survey](#) as reported by [The New York Times](#): April 2, 2018
- In Monmouth and Ocean County, NJ, school superintendents are now enforcing anti-smoking policies, while also educating parents and students on the dangers of nicotine addiction. Also, schools are warning the dangers of vape and e-cigarette risk of explosion and other serious injuries due to malfunctions. [Jersey Shore Online](#): April 2, 2018
- Several School Districts in New Jersey have adopted specific policies regarding students found with an e-cig or vape pens.
 - Millburn School District in Essex County, NJ now requires any student caught with a vaping device to be drug tested. [The New York Times](#): April 2, 2018
 - The Township of Evesham in Burlington County, NJ adopted a local law on April 5, 2018. Teenagers under 18 years of age can now be fined if caught in possession of vaping instruments. First offense will be a written warning and the parents will be notified, second offense is a \$50 fine, and each offense after will be an increase in the fine. [NBC10](#): April 12, 2018

Types of Vape Pens:

- E-cigarette
- Pen vapes
- Large size tank devices
- Medium size tank devices
- Portable flower vapes
- Portable oil vapes
- Wax Pen



Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-0010, going online at www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com, or through the free "P3 Tips" smartphone app. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

For current events on the go, follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/HunterdonCoPros>
For press releases visit our website at <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/prosecutor/press.htm>