

Backgrounder

Tobacco and vaping surveillance systems in Canada – 2019 and 2020.

Measurements of usage

Government and government-funded surveillance activities:

	Survey	Contact	Survey period	2019 survey	Release date	2020 survey
National	Canadian Community Health Survey CCHS 2018.	Centre for Population Health Data client services statcan.hds.statcan@canada.ca	Annual Public Use Microdata released bi-annually	Yes	June 25, 2019 (PUMF for later release)	Yes
	Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth		Occasional February 11, 2019 to June 28, 2019	Yes	Data release scheduled for March 2020.	No
	Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey	STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca	One-time. October 29 to December 17, 2019.	Yes	Partial release, March 5, 2020.	
	Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey	hc.cstads.questions-ectade.sc@canada.ca	Bi-annual October 2018 to June 2019	Yes	Partial release. December 19, 2019.	No
	COMPASS	Scott Leatherdale, University of Waterloo sleather@uwaterloo.ca	Annual since 2012-2013	Yes	2018-2019 results released in August 2019	
Provincial	B.C. Adolescent Health Survey 2018.	mccreary@mcs.bc.ca	2008, 2013, 2018	Yes	Released in November 2019	No
	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Monitor	survey@camh.ca .	Bi-annual survey, 1977 to 2019	Yes		No
	Ontario Student Drug Use Health Survey	survey@camh.ca .	Bi-annual survey, 1977 to 2019.	yes	Released in February 2020. ¹	No

B.C. Adolescent Health Survey

The survey is administered by the McCreary Centre Society between January and June 2018 (during the coming-into-force of the federal law legalizing e-cigarette sales). The survey is administered to 38,000 BC students between grades 7 and 12. In 2018, questions on past-30 day use of electronic cigarettes were asked of all students (in 2013 it was asked only of cigarette smokers). 21% of BC students were reported to have vaped with nicotine,

1 CAMH. 2019 OSDUHS Drug Use Report.
https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdf---osduhs/drugusereport_2019osduhs-pdf.pdf?la=en&hash=7F149240451E7421C3991121AEAD630F21B13784

Physicians *for a* Smoke-Free Canada

134 Caroline Avenue ♦ Ottawa ♦ Ontario ♦ K1Y 0S9
www.smoke-free.ca ♦ psc@smoke-free.ca

compared with 7% of students who had smoked a cigarette. Vaping with nicotine included 64% of smokers students (by inference 17% of non-smoking B.C. youth are vaping with nicotine).²

Canadian Community Health Survey.

Since 2015, the CCHS has included a question on past 30 day use of electronic cigarettes. This question is part of optional content on Tobacco Product Alternatives, and is not asked across Canada. Results for Ontario in 2015 found that 3% of Ontarians over 12 had used a vaping product in the past 30 days (2.9% of those over 19 years of age).^{3,4} In 2019, Health Canada reported that beginning in 2020, an additional 10 questions on smoking/nicotine use were being added to the core questions of CCHS.⁵ The 2018 results were released in June, 2019.⁶

Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth

This Statistics Canada survey surveys health behaviours of more than 90,000 Canadian children aged 1 to 17. The initial survey was conducted between February 11, 2019 and June 28, 2019. Included in the questionnaire are some questions for youth aged 12 to 17 years old related to tobacco and e-cigarettes or other tobacco alternatives (past 30 days, and frequency).⁷ The pilot survey was administered in 2016 and also included questions on e-cigarette use.⁸

Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey

Health Canada has funded student smoking surveys since the mid 1990s, most recently as the biennial Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Survey (CSTADS), conducted by Propel Centre at the University of Waterloo.⁹ In 2019, the federal government issued a Request for Information soliciting interest from data collectors for the 11 planned cycle (2020-2021).¹⁰ Results for 2018-2019 were released by Health Canada on December 19, 2019.¹¹

Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey

Health Canada replaced the long-running Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) with the Canadian Tobacco Alcohol and Drug Survey (CTADS) in 2012. The last wave of CTADS survey was conducted in 2017. In 2019, Statistics Canada conducted a one-time Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey in October – December.¹² The results were partially released on March 5, 2020.¹³

-
- 2 McCreary Centre. Results of the 2018 BC Adolescent Health Survey
https://www.mcs.bc.ca/pdf/balance_and_connection.pdf
 - 3 OTRU. Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy Monitoring Report: Use of Tobacco and Alternative Products https://otru.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2017_SMR_Tobacco_Alternative_Products.pdf
 - 4 Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) – 2018
http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Instr.pl?Function=assembleInstr&a=1&&lang=en&Item_Id=839130
 - 5 Personal communications
 - 6 Statistics Canada. The Daily. June 25, 2019
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190625/dq190625b-eng.htm>
 - 7 Statistics Canada. Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth – 2019
http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Instr.pl?Function=getInstrumentList&Item_Id=1209093&UL=1V&
 - 8 Statistics Canada. EQ - PILOT - Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, Youth version
http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Instr.pl?Function=getInstrumentList&Item_Id=314505&UL=1V&
 - 9 Statistics Canada Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CTADS)
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-student-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey/2016-2017-summary.html>
 - 10 https://buyandsell.gc.ca/cds/public/2019/04/10/4c646cec3069b182bbc6c7d5edadec85/ABES.PROD.PW__SS.B008.E35029.EBSU000.PDF
 - 11 Health Canada. Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-student-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey.html>
Public Use Microfile will be released by Statistics Canada.
 - 12 Statistics Canada. Canadian tobacco and Nicotine Survey.
<https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5305>
 - 13 Statistics Canada. The Daily. Canadian Tobacco and Nicotine Survey. 2019.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/200305/dq200305a-eng.htm?HPA=1>

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. CAMH Monitor

Since 2013, the bi-ennial CAMH monitor has asked about the use of e-cigarettes. In 2017, questions were asked only of lifetime and past-year use. In 2017, it reported “[past year] electronic cigarette use did not change significantly between 2013 (10.5%) and 2017 (8.5%) among the total sample”.¹⁴

COMPASS

COMPASS is a prospective cohort (2012-21) collecting longitudinal data annually from 65,000+ grade 9 to 12 students in Ontario, Alberta, Quebec, British Columbia, and Nunavut on a variety of chronic disease (CD) and mental health (MH) risk factors and outcomes, including tobacco and e-cigarettes. COMPASS also measures annual ongoing changes to health interventions surrounding the participating students. This enables evaluation of interventions as natural experiments using the quasi-experimental design inherent in COMPASS. To date, more than 50 school boards, 200+ schools, and 200,000+ students have participated in COMPASS to date. Data can be examined using annual repeat cross-sectional data or the linked longitudinal data.^{15 16} Results for vaping use were made available in fall 2019.^{17 18}

Ontario Student Drug Use Health Survey.

A bi-annual study conducted by CAMH of Ontario students in grades 7 through 12.¹⁹ Questions on vaping are included in the “Form B” versions of the English questionnaires.^{20 21} The 2019 survey results were released in February 2020.²²

14 CAMH Monitor eReport 2017. <https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdfs---camh-monitor/camh-monitor-2017-ereport-final-pdf.pdf?la=en&hash=A411E25BB4E8838EE41F89D46799C3E527352B21>

15 University of Waterloo. Compass system. <https://uwaterloo.ca/compass-system/>

16 Personal correspondence

17 Univeresity of Waterloo. The Compass Study. Vaping Brochure.

http://cqct.qc.ca/Documents_docs/DOCU_2019/DOCU_19_11_00_Compass_Vaping_Brochure.pdf?lbisphreq=1

18 Compass Quebec. Usage de la cigarette électronique dans les écoles secondaires de la région de la cpaital-nationale.

https://uwaterloo.ca/compass-system/sites/ca.compass-system/files/uploads/files/rapport_cig_electronique_2019_final_web_protege.pdf

19 <https://www.camh.ca/en/science-and-research/institutes-and-centres/institute-for-mental-health-policy-research/ontario-student-drug-use-and-health-survey---osduhs>

20 <https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdf---osduhs/form-a-es-grades-7-8-2019-osduhs-pdf.pdf?la=en&hash=A039632AFDB550AE081FA8302B8368DD22329FD0>

21 <https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdf---osduhs/form-b-ss-grades-9-12-2019-osduhs-pdf.pdf?la=en&hash=7376FDA2387F5E3B5EE95FE5E7B7124502FAD404>

22 CAMH. 2019 OSDUHS Drug Use Report.

https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdf---osduhs/drugusereport_2019osduhs-pdf.pdf?la=en&hash=7F149240451E7421C3991121AEAD630F21B13784