

Dear Senator Hughes,

I am the lead researcher on the smoking and vaping aspect of the Youth19 study. I'm writing following the oral hearing on 12 Nov 2020, at which the Youth19 study was discussed, during the submission of New Zealanders Prof Robert Beaglehole, Prof Chris Bullen, and Ben Youden to the committee.

Having watched the recording I would like to clarify three points that were raised in relation to the Youth19 study.

1. The Youth19 survey was referred to as 'somewhat historic' by one of the submitters. The data was collected in mid-2019 and is therefore (along with the 2019 ASH Year 10 survey) the most recent data available on youth vaping and smoking in New Zealand.
2. Another submitter suggested the Youth19 survey was 'not necessarily consistent with other population level surveys we have on youth behaviour.' In fact our findings broadly are consistent with the 2019 ASH Year 10 survey. Both surveys found 37-38% of students had tried vaping, that a substantial proportion (ASH: 12%, Youth19: 10%) vape regularly (i.e. monthly or more often), and that regular vaping is far more prevalent than regular smoking (ASH: 6%, Youth19: 4%).
3. The inclusion of young people aged 18 was queried, since 18 year olds can legally buy and use e-cigarettes. The Youth19 survey is the first New Zealand study to examine smoking in the whole secondary school age range (13-18 years), providing valuable insights into when vaping uptake occurs. Findings by age are provided below. Although vaping increases with age, it is interesting to note that there is NOT a marked step-change between the '16 year old' and the '17 and over' category, showing that a) inclusion of 18 year olds has not skewed the findings (as implied by the submitter), and b) the majority of vaping uptake among high school students occurs by 16 years of age.

Vaping Use

	Ever Vaped		Current vape use		Weekly or more often vape use		Monthly or more often vape use	
	n (N)	% [95% CI]	n (N)	% [95% CI]	n (N)	% [95% CI]	n (N)	% [95% CI]
Total								
Total	2,788 (7,164)	37.8 [34.8-40.7]	1,771 (7,146)	23.9 [21.3-26.4]	423 (7,146)	5.6 [4.3-6.9]	723 (7,146)	9.6 [7.8-11.4]
Age								
13 and under	292 (1,270)	22.1 [18.5-25.7]	149 (1,269)	11.3 [9.0-13.7]	26 (1,269)	1.8 [1.1-2.5]	53 (1,269)	3.8 [2.7-5.0]
14	520 (1,624)	30.6 [26.1-35.1]	310 (1,620)	18.5 [14.8-22.2]	61 (1,620)	3.7 [2.2-5.1]	130 (1,620)	7.7 [4.9-10.4]
15	676 (1,557)	42.0 [37.0-47.0]	434 (1,551)	26.6 [22.1-31.1]	102 (1,551)	6.0 [3.8-8.3]	171 (1,551)	10.3 [7.7-12.9]
16	647 (1,384)	45.9 [42.5-49.3]	440 (1,378)	31.2 [27.1-35.4]	111 (1,378)	7.5 [4.9-10.1]	189 (1,378)	12.8 [9.4-16.2]
17 and over	653 (1,329)	47.6 [43.7-51.6]	438 (1,328)	31.3 [27.7-34.9]	123 (1,328)	9.1 [6.8-11.4]	180 (1,328)	13.1 [10.3-16.0]

Further details about the Youth19 study, including a detailed methodology report can be found at <https://www.youth19.ac.nz/> The Principal Investigators are Associate Professor Terry Fleming and Associate Professor Terryann Clark (copied in this email).

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance to the Select Committee on Tobacco Harm Reduction as you conduct this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



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Research Fellow

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Hours/Haora puare Tue, Wed, Thur 9am - 5pm

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