

# Synthèse de documents type CCP – samedi 11 janvier 2020, 8h-11h

*N.B. : le candidat attachera la plus grande importance à la clarté, à la précision et à la concision de la rédaction. Si un candidat est amené à repérer ce qui peut lui sembler être une erreur d'énoncé, il le signalera sur sa copie et devra poursuivre sa composition en expliquant les raisons des initiatives qu'il a été amené à prendre.*

**L'usage de toute machine (calculatrice, traductrice, etc.) est strictement interdit.**

**Rédiger en anglais et en 400 mots une synthèse des documents proposés, qui devra obligatoirement comporter un titre.**

Indiquer avec précision, à la fin du travail, le nombre de mots utilisés (titre inclus), un écart de 10 % en plus ou en moins sera accepté.

Vous aurez soin d'en faciliter la vérification, soit en précisant le nombre de mots par ligne, soit en mettant un trait vertical tous les vingt mots.

Ce sujet comporte les 4 documents suivants :

- **document 1** : un article de *The Economist*, publié en septembre 2019.
- **document 2** : une illustration satirique de Gary Varvel, publié dans *Indianapolis Star* le 14 septembre 2018.
- **document 3** : un article du *New York Times*, publié en janvier 2020.
- **document 4** : un graphique du *Washington Post*, publié en septembre 2019.

**Vous n'oublierez pas de glisser le sujet dans vos copies à la fin de votre composition et de sauter des lignes (manquement à cette consigne = retrait de points)**

## Vaped and confused

### A deadly outbreak casts a dark cloud over e-cigarettes

*Researchers are trying to understand the effects of illicit black-market cartridges*

With six people dead and more than 450 suffering from serious pulmonary disease across America, doctors and federal officials are trying to identify the cause of a mystery illness tied to e-cigarettes. Although the dead have largely been older, the wider outbreak is unusual in hitting young and otherwise healthy people. A recent study of 53 cases in Illinois and Wisconsin found the median age was just 19.

Much of the investigatory work is focused on agents that may have been added to illicit black-market cartridges containing cannabis extracts. On September 9th health officials in New York issued subpoenas to firms selling thickening agents, such as vitamin e, used in black-market vaping products. Then on September 11th the Trump administration announced plans to ban flavoured vaping products.

Although the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended that people should stop vaping until the source of the outbreak is identified, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued different advice. The FDA—now conducting product testing to work out the source of the problem—has advised consumers to avoid buying vaping products on the street and to stop vaping with products containing cannabis. This warning includes products bought legally in states that allow cannabis to be sold.

Many of the patients have similar symptoms. Daniel Fox, a pulmonologist with WakeMed, a health-care system in North Carolina, says a small cluster of cases in his state had symptoms such as shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting and fever. All had consumed cannabis by vaping. Dr Fox says the diagnosis was lipoid pneumonia, a rare non-infectious condition that occurs when oils or lipid-containing substances enter the lungs. The finding that immune cells in the lungs have oil inside them also indicates that oil is causing the injuries.

The current outbreak is acute and seems to be a reaction to something toxic found mostly in illicit products. But the news could not come at a worse time for vaping firms. They are under pressure for marketing e-cigarettes to children, enticing them with fruit flavours. The National Youth Tobacco Survey found that e-cigarette use among high-school pupils increased by 78% between 2017 and 2018, from 11.7% to 20.8%. Among American teenagers, e-cigarettes are now the most commonly used tobacco product. Bloomberg Philanthropies said this week that it would spend \$160m to discourage their use by the young. The non-profit organisation will back the end to flavoured e-cigarettes.

The FDA is on the warpath, too. On September 9th it sent a warning letter to Juul Labs, an e-cigarette firm in San Francisco, about its marketing. The FDA wants companies to show evidence that vaping is less harmful than smoking cigarettes before claiming as much—a message the agency says Juul has given to students. Gregory Conley, president of the American Vaping Association, a non-profit group, called the letter a “colossal” waste of resources aimed at appeasing congressional Democrats.

Although public concern over marketing and sales to children is understandable, vaping by adults trying to quit or reduce smoking needs to be put in perspective. E-cigarettes have been on the market around the world for over a decade and are used annually by about 11m adults in America. Legal, regulated vapes typically use a water-soluble solvent, as putting oil in the lungs is known to be dangerous. While e-cigarettes are not harmless, evidence from trials suggests that vaping causes no serious short-term harm, though in the long term it may. Public-health experts are also keen to point out that vaping is less harmful than smoking, contrary to the FDA’s scepticism.

Peter Hajek, an expert on tobacco dependence at Queen Mary University of London, says the scare is being used to deter cigarette smokers from switching to less risky vapes. Overall, 450,000 smokers die each year in America. Dr Hajek said the current outbreak of serious lung disease is more like the methanol poisoning that occurs when contaminated alcohol is sold. These are unusual, but can be deadly. Despite the evidence, in the unfolding panic, facts are the first thing to go up in smoke.

*The Economist*, September 14, 2019

## Document 2



## Document 3

### What if a Vaping Tax Encouraged Cigarette Smoking?

*Policies aimed at youth vaping may have negative effects on adult smokers.*

By Margot Sanger-Katz

The surging popularity of vaping among young Americans is driving lawmakers to use one of their favorite tools to discourage unwanted behavior: taxes.

In December, the Massachusetts legislature passed a 75 percent tax on all e-cigarettes. Twenty states have already done so, along with the District of Columbia, and several more are considering similar policies. The House Ways and Means Committee passed a bill last year that would make federal tobacco taxes apply equally to cigarettes and vaping products that deliver nicotine, the addictive drug in tobacco.

Taxes have proved effective in reducing cigarette smoking. But what if a vaping tax actually encouraged smoking instead of reducing it?

A new study suggests that these new taxes have the potential to do just that — by discouraging adult smokers from considering nicotine vaping, a safer way to ingest nicotine, or encouraging vapers to switch to cigarettes instead. The study, published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, examined what happened in Minnesota, one of the first states to impose a steep vaping tax (95 percent). The effect was that declines in smoking there leveled off, while they continued to fall in similar states that hadn't imposed such taxes.

"By decreasing the extent to which people use e-cigarettes, you decrease quitting of conventional cigarettes," said W. Kip Viscusi, a professor of law, economics and management at Vanderbilt University, who was not involved in the research but has studied tobacco policy extensively.

The research was conducted by Henry Saffer, Michael Grossman, Daniel L. Dench and Dhaval M. Dave, who used data from a detailed census survey about tobacco use to measure what happened to the smoking rate. Their goal was to find out whether e-cigarettes helped adult smokers quit smoking cigarettes, which are linked to a wide range of illnesses and are estimated to contribute to one in five deaths in the United States.

It's possible, they figured, that vaping might encourage more people to smoke, by providing a new way to try nicotine for the first time. It might also cause people who might have quit to just keep smoking, by providing

a second way to get nicotine where smoking is restricted. The natural experiment of the Minnesota tax helped them measure what some overall effects really were.

When Minnesota made vaping more expensive, they found, smokers kept smoking instead of switching to e-cigarettes. A longstanding decline in adult smoking in the state slowed way down, while smoking in states that hadn't imposed big vaping taxes continued to fall. The researchers concluded that making e-cigarettes more expensive discouraged Minnesota smokers from trying them and caused fewer of them to switch away from smoking. By measuring the difference in the trends, the researchers estimated that Minnesota caused around 32,000 more adults to keep smoking cigarettes.

The paper didn't include close measures of whether people who stopped smoking completely quit nicotine, the most healthful possible outcome for smokers. While it is clear that most vaping products are safer than cigarettes, it is not yet clear by how much. New research is emerging that vaping products may cause some long-term lung and heart disease. And a recent poisoning outbreak associated mainly with THC, in which 55 people died, suggests that there can be acute health risks for some users.

But in general, nearly all public health researchers agree that it's better to switch to regulated e-cigarettes than to continue smoking cigarettes. They tend to describe a move from smoking to vaping as a form of "harm reduction," a more safe choice, even if it is not totally safe.

Some tobacco opponents were skeptical of the study's findings. Matthew L. Myers, the president at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which endorses high vaping taxes, said the Minnesota results could be explained by unmeasured differences between that state and the states the researchers used for comparison. He pointed to other research that shows that only a fraction of adult smokers who start vaping ever switch over entirely.

"One has to be skeptical that e-cigarette use, including taxes on e-cigarettes, have been powerful enough in Minnesota or anywhere to actually have a meaningful measurable effect on adult cessation rates," he said.

Mr. Myers supports high taxes on e-cigarettes primarily because he sees them as a good way to discourage young people from starting to use nicotine in the first place. Since vaping products have entered the market in the United States, youth use of them has increased rapidly, outpacing a simultaneous decline in cigarette smoking among young people. Federal officials have described the development as a public health crisis.

The result has been a flurry of policy action to regulate vaping. In December, Congress passed a law that raises the legal age to purchase any tobacco product to 21. On Thursday, the Food and Drug Administration said it would crack down on the manufacturers of a subset of nicotine vaping devices that are sold in flavors other than tobacco or menthol. These measures are also intended to prevent youth vaping.

Strong evidence from states suggests that raising the tobacco purchasing age reduces smoking among both young adults and younger teenagers, who are less likely to have friends who can buy them cigarettes. Flavored products are particularly popular among younger vapers, according to surveys.

But Mr. Saffer, one of the Minnesota paper's authors, says his results suggest that a tax may be a blunt tool that reduces youth vaping at the expense of decreasing the number of adults who quit smoking.

"The research shows that e-cigarette taxes would be bad for adult smokers," he said. "To stop youth use, we know there are other alternatives."

Teen vaping rates have risen sharply in Minnesota, too, despite the large tax on the products.

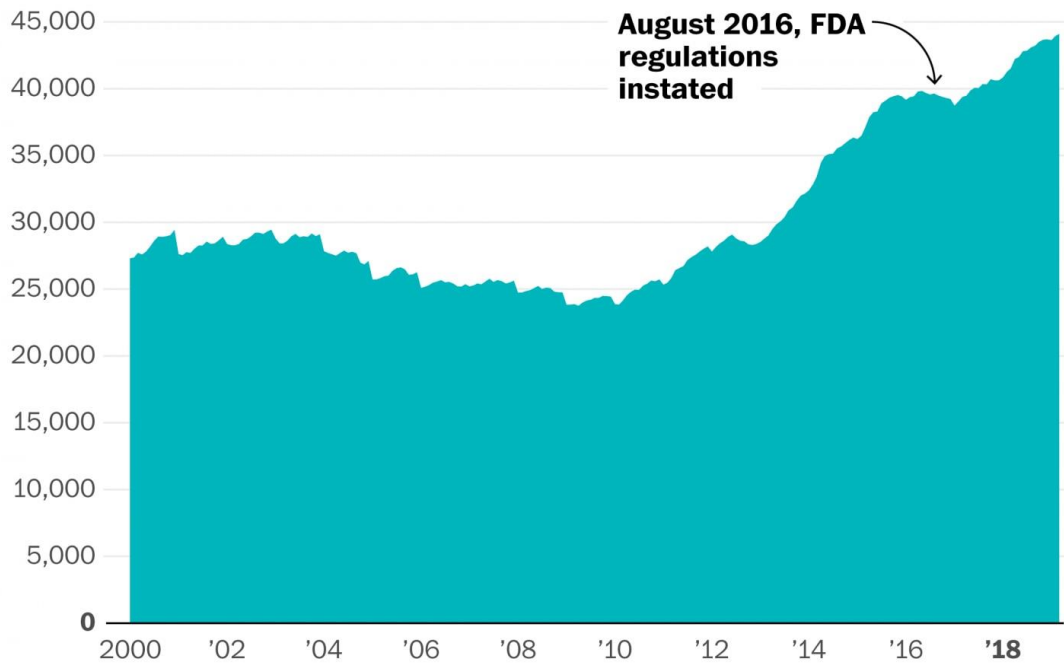
Abigail Friedman, an assistant professor of health policy at Yale, and an author of two studies on state Tobacco 21 laws, said policymakers needed to strike a delicate balance in regulating e-cigarettes. Regulations need to deter teen vaping, she said, but also do as much as possible to help adult smokers switch to safer alternatives.

"We need to make it attractive as an alternative, and we need to make it unattractive otherwise," she said.

After reading the Minnesota paper, she concluded that broad vaping taxes had failed the first test.

*The New York Times*, January 6, 2020

## Employment at tobacconists, which include vape shops



Source: Labor Department's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages THE WASHINGTON POST