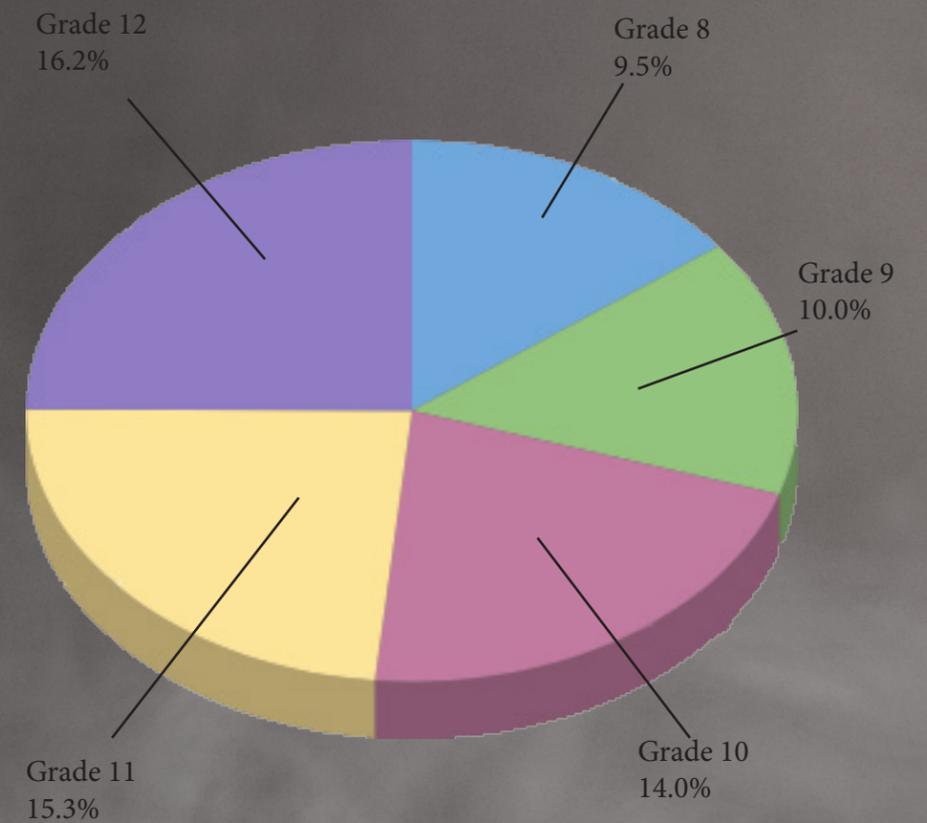


EIGHTEEN AND UP

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THE PERCENTAGES



To impress their friends, teens use vape pens to do smoke tricks.

High school students are the target of a new epidemic: vaping and juuling. Being surrounded by other young kids who are participating in this phenomenon, students find it difficult to stay away. "It's hard to not. When you go to any social event, everyone has one," a high school student from South Carolina said. Teenagers must be eighteen years old to purchase electronic cigarettes, but younger ones are finding creative ways to acquire them. "I know whenever I was 15 or 16, I got my older brother to get me stuff," one USC student said. In some places, an older person isn't even necessary. "Where I'm from, you can go to a couple places where people don't care. They'll give you the stuff because they're trying to make money and they don't really care how old you are," a high school student from Georgia shared. Students today are using different forms of elec-

tronic cigarettes to get high. "With juuling, you can do tricks but it's more about getting a buzz. It's fifty percent nicotine, but it's better than cigarettes because cigarettes have a lot of other chemicals in them," a seventeen year old from South Carolina said. The phenomenon doesn't stop with high school students. Seeing people they look up to continuing to vape, students are more likely to pick up the habit for themselves. "I think a lot of celebrities also have them, which makes you want to keep them," a high school student from South Carolina said. While the epidemic is affecting a lot of students, some were able to turn away. "I quit all nicotine last summer. Just because I thought it was stupid," a seventeen year old from South Carolina said. "I don't want to picture myself at 40 years old with a juul, but that was hard to do."



Vaping isn't just done in the comfort of their own home. One South Carolina high school student vapes in places like school or outside.

ADULTS' THOUGHTS

"I'm against it all together, even for adults. I don't like smoke as a whole and from what I'm told, vaping only brings water into your lungs which could make you drown from within. If there could be a general ban on cigarettes and vaping, that'd be great."
Orlando Sanchez, Police Officer

"I think vaping is detrimental to youth. I just don't see the point in vaping. It's something that can lead to bad habits later in life that would be detrimental to health."
Jenny Proctor, Advisor

I see it in my school, it's easier to get away with. They can do it in the bathrooms and it doesn't leave as much of an odor as cigarette smoke. The fact that kids can get away with it means they're doing it more frequently. It's easy to conceal, it's almost like a flashdrive. It's a real epidemic it is because of how easy it is to access."
Melanie Hunch-Duc, Advisor