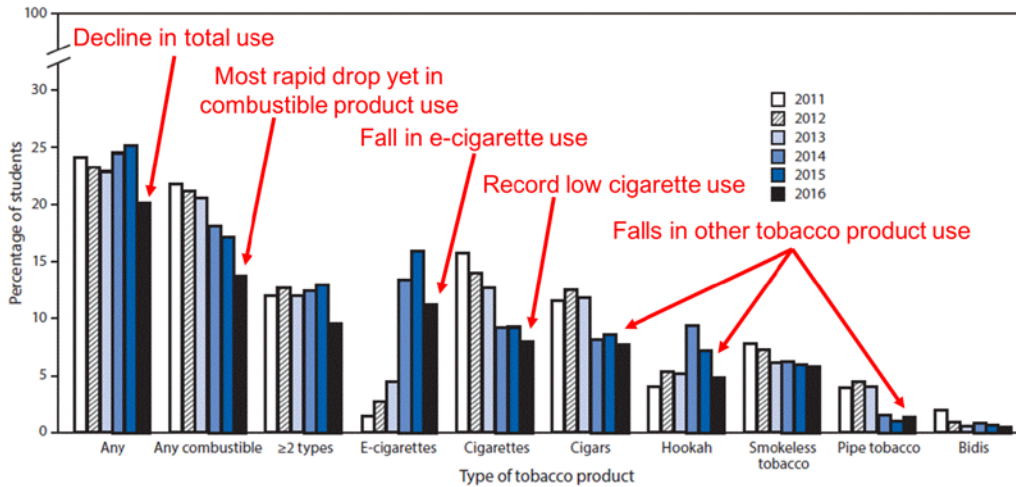


Trends in tobacco and nicotine use in the United States – April 2018 version

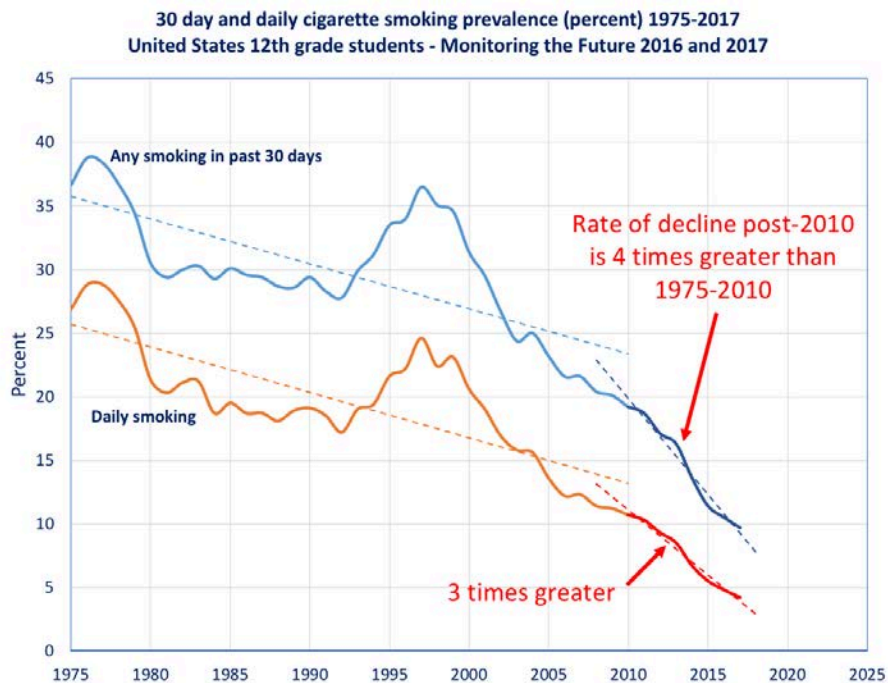
The two charts that follow are annotated to show key features of the most recent data on youth smoking in the United States. The first is from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, published June 2017¹.

FIGURE 1. Estimated percentage of high school students who currently use any tobacco products,* any combustible tobacco products,† ≥2 tobacco products,‡ and selected tobacco products – National Youth Tobacco Survey, United States, 2011–2016^{¶,**,††}



* Any tobacco product use is defined as past 30-day use of electronic cigarettes, cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco and/or bidis.

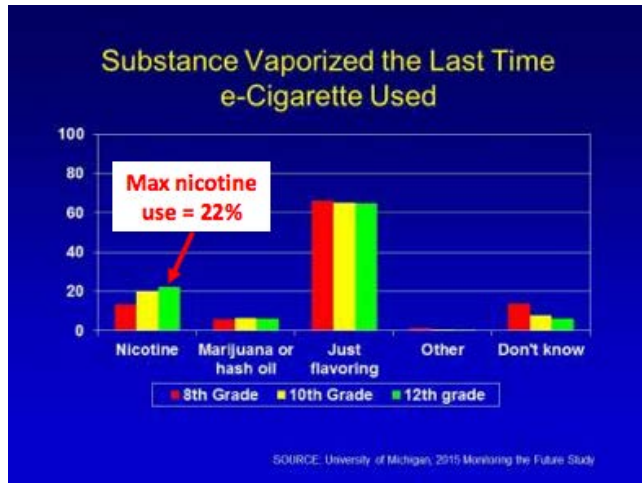
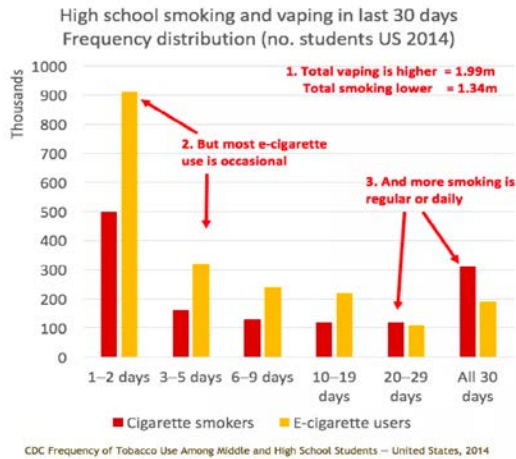
The second is from the University of Michigan Monitoring the Future survey, which has a time series dating back to 1975 for 12th grade smoking², showing an **unusually rapid decline in teen smoking**.



¹ Jamal A, Gentzke A, Hu SS, Cullen KA, Apelberg BJ, Homa DM, et al. Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students - United States, 2011-2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2017 Jun 16;66(23):597–603. [\[link\]](#) Annotation by Clive Bates.

² Miech, R. A., Schulenberg, J. E., Johnston, L. D., Bachman, J. G., O'Malley, P. M., & Patrick, M. E. Monitoring the Future: National Adolescent Drug Trends in 2017. University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, United States. December 2017. [\[link\]](#) Trends in Prevalence of Use of Cigarettes in Grades 8, 10, and 12. [\[2017 data\]](#) [\[2016 data\]](#). Chart and annotations by Clive Bates.

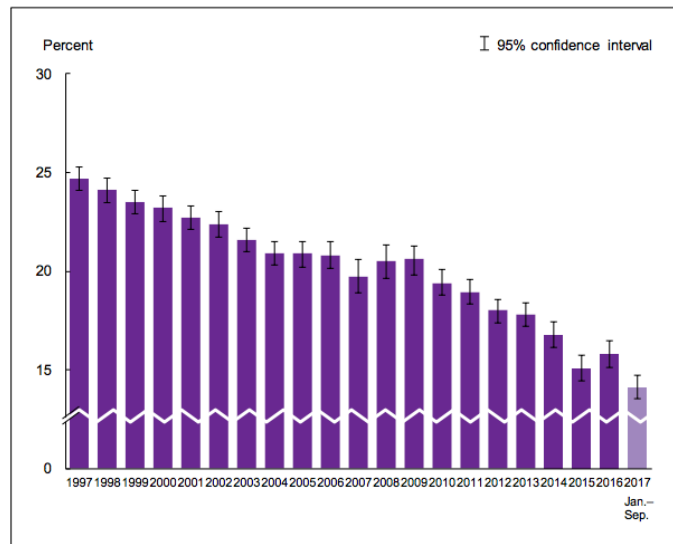
The third and fourth shows that the use of e-cigarettes is far less problematic than the headline numbers might suggest. Though e-cigarette use rose sharply, from 2011-15 then fell back in 2016, much of this was **occasional or experimental** use³. Also, students reported that most of their use **did not involve nicotine**⁴.



Finally, after stalling 2004-9, **adult smoking has been falling at a very rapid rate** as vaping has risen⁵.

Current smoking

Figure 8.1. Prevalence of current cigarette smoking among adults aged 18 and over: United States, 1997–September 2017



Vaping in the United States should be seen as a public health success in driving out smoking and a clear case of the ‘harm reduction’ approach working for public health.

³ Neff LJ, Arrazola RA, Caraballo RS, et al. Frequency of Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students--United States, 2014. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2015;**64**:1061–5 Table 35. [\[link\]](#)

⁴ Miech R, Patrick ME, O’Malley PM, Johnston LD. What are kids vaping? Results from a national survey of US adolescents. *Tob Control.*; 2016 [\[link\]](#).

⁵ National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 1997–2017, Sample Adult Core component. Figure 8.1. Prevalence of current cigarette smoking among adults aged 18 and over: United States, 1997–September 2017. [\[link\]](#)