

# Review of: "Youth Patterns of Use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) Use, Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Waves 4 – 5.5"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

I commend the authors on an article well written. The topic is most relevant to the current trends in ENDS use among youths. The interplay between policy, stakeholders, and consumers was incredibly captivating to read and underscore how policies influence behavior (especially risk behaviors among adolescence and youth) at an individual level and, by extension, trends. Overall, the authors conveyed their findings concisely while addressing the crucial limitations of the study. Below I have included comments by sections that I hope the authors find helpful.

**Title:** Consider: Youth Pattern of Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) Use; PATH Wave 4-5.5

**Abstract:** It is best practice to explain an abbreviation, especially if authors plan to use abbreviations repeatedly. For example, 'Past 30 Days' (P30D)

**Method - Data & sample:** Authors need to expand further on the PATH dataset regarding the study design and sampling method.

**Measures:** A major limitation in this study is the analysis of the brand data, i.e., reported regular/ last-used ENDS brand. Failure to include the most common disposable brands at the time in the questionnaire options was a grave error that diminished the results, leaving the authors no choice but to make conjectures rather than report study findings.

**Analyses:** Authors fail to state explicitly the analytical methods and tools used for this study's primary analyses and highlight statistically significant findings and the appropriate effect size.

**Discussion:** Although reconciling the differences in prevalence estimates between PATH and other National youth surveys like MTF & NYTS is outside the scope of this study, authors can proffer an explanation, particularly as the other surveys report similar figures.