

YUNMUN XXX

World Health Organization

Topic 1: Widespread Global Smoking

Lung cancer, heart disease, and strokes are just a few of the deadly dangers that result from smoking. Cigarettes have existed since 1865, and every year more than eight million deaths occur from smoking. Moreover, there are more than seven thousand chemicals in tobacco smoke of which two hundred fifty are harmful and sixty-nine are proven carcinogens.¹ Given all of this information, it is surprising that fourteen percent of the world's population still smokes today. In an attempt to diminish unhealthy cigarette smoking, many companies have shifted to e-cigarettes, a product that has been growing at an exceptionally rapid pace.

In 2011, approximately seven million individuals used e-cigarettes, compared to over forty million in 2018. Moreover, by the year 2021, that number is expected to reach fifty-five million.² E-cigarettes have aided in reducing cigarette smokers drastically. At first glance, those numbers look fantastic until one understands that e-cigarettes have also contributed to a surge in teenage "vaping." A CDC study has exhibited that 27.5% of high school students say they use e-cigarettes, compared to 11.7% in 2017 and just a mere 1.5% in 2011.³

While the long-term health issues and implications of e-cigarettes are unknown, it has been assumed thus far that it is still safer than smoking cigarettes. Is this truly the case given the recent outbreak of illnesses and deaths? It is your job as delegates of the WHO to create a plan to reduce smoking, and teenage vaping. Make sure to understand your specific country's current policy and stance on the issue. Has your country taken any steps (or any recent steps) on this issue? How can countries work together and share ideas? What is the line between allowing citizens to engage in risky behavior while trying to protect citizens at the same time? Research the issue, come prepared, and work together with your fellow delegates to protect the health of our international community.

Best of luck,

Jason Jubas

Chair, WHO

YUNMUN XXX

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-44295336>

³ <https://www.medpagetoday.com/pulmonology/smoking/82143>