

**Peer Review File**

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**REVIEWER 1**

**Comment 1:** “My only substantial concern is that the manuscript's discussion of the social acceptability of vaping among young people is overly broad and lacks nuance. Below are three citations that provide evidence that some young people hold anti-vaping norms and attitudes, contrary to the view presented in the manuscript. As the primary contribution of the manuscript is to synthesize existing research and provide commentary, a more nuanced review and discussion of the important topic of social norms about vaping, through the lens of how/why they do/don't differ from norms about smoking, would increase the impact of the manuscript. I hope the authors receive this suggestion in the supportive spirit in which it is offered.”

Reply 1: Thank you for your suggestion and we really appreciate the additional material—they helped strengthen our arguments. We incorporated these references and have edited the document to increase nuance that there exists substantially diversity. We recognize that youth are not a homogenous, monolithic group; thus, it is expected that some youth will have anti-vaping norms. We also recognize that the full picture is more complicated and we hope that our paper will be among many others aimed at understanding this complexity.

Changes in the text: We added a paragraph describing some of the most important nuances around trends and social norms towards vaping, as well as other limitations present in our work (see page 6, lines 155-167):

“This review has several limitations. First, the emerging research discussed and the commentary provided here are largely informed by the vaping experiences of youth in North America. As demonstrated in other studies ([10,17,21,32–34](#)), trends and social norms around vaping are subject to differences in specific regulatory, political, and socio-economic contexts. Strategies for understanding vaping dependence and cessation must be sensitive to these differences. Second, most of the research discussed were focused on the social and behavioural aspects of vaping; biopharmacological considerations were beyond the scope of this paper. Third, the vaping landscape is constantly evolving and with it, social norms among youth and their relevance to research and policy. Future work should continue to monitor these changes and their impact on vaping cessation among youth, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these limitations, this literature review has important strengths. It highlights an often-overlooked assumption in the literature on vaping cessation among youth. Additionally, this is the first synthesis of existing research on this topic, providing useful insights for future research and for the development of vaping cessation interventions.”

**REVIEWER 2**

**Comment 1:** “Page 3 Lines 62-64. In addition to qualitative evidence, there are differences in products (electronic vs. combustible) (e.g. nicotine absorption) and user groups (vapers vs. smokers) (e.g. nicotine dependence) that are quantitative in nature in the literature. The review goes on to discuss some of these studies, therefore, the qualitative descriptor may not be accurate. Additionally, the literature documenting differences (and more recently commonalities) in nicotine absorption in electronic vs. combustible products may be important to cite.”

Reply 1: Thank you for noticing this and flagging it for us. We have added literature on commonalities and differences in nicotine absorption, and that more work is needed to understand this in youth as very few of these studies have youth participants, which is our population of interest.

Changes in the text: The qualitative descriptor has been removed (see page 3, lines 66-68).

This has been added in the manuscript (see page 4, lines 82-83): “A few studies compared nicotine delivery and dependence between e-cigarette and cigarette users, reporting mixed results (20–22).”

We also added further clarification on the focus of our paper (see page 7, lines 156-168):”

**Comment 2:** “Page 3 Line 68. “We bring them in and make a...” Please revise this sentence for clarity.”

Reply 2: Thank you for noticing this. We agree that the wording here is vague.

Changes in the text: The line in question has been revised (see page 3, lines 70-72). It now reads:

“Drawing from recent evidence and firsthand experience in co-designing vaping cessation interventions with youth and young adults in Canada, we speculate on why we see these differences and how they might be incorporated in future interventions.”

**Comment 3:** “Page 4 Line 80. The authors indicate that dependence and withdrawal may have a greater impact on sustained vaping compared to flavor preference. The authors should provide more evidence or examples how they arrived at this conclusion.”

Reply 3: We appreciate the opportunity to provide further clarification. We recognize that research on vaping dependence and cessation are in their early stages. In this paper, we included emerging evidence where we can, including our own work in Canada led by Dr. Michael Chaiton, alongside the work of other researchers in the US focused on vaping cessation among youth, namely research at the Truth Initiative led by Dr. Amanda Graham and research at the Yale School of Medicine led by biobehavioral scientist Dr. Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin. We have qualified this statement to identify the need for future research in this area.

Changes in the text: The statement in question has been revised for precision (see page 4, line 84). Excerpt is provided here for your convenience—please note the italicized text:

“It would seem that though flavours are highly influential in vaping initiation, dependence and withdrawal symptoms may have a greater impact on sustained vaping (8–11), which is consistent with the literature on cigarette smoking onset and escalation (23).”