

## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**REPORT TITLE:** "Vaping: An Under-the-Radar Epidemic"  
**REPORT DATE:** May 9, 2019  
**RESPONSE BY:** County of Marin Board of Supervisors

### GRAND JURY FINDINGS

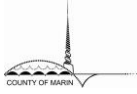
- We agree with the finding(s) numbered: **F1-F11**.

### GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation(s) numbered **R1 and R7** have been implemented.  
(The Civil Grand Jury has requested that the County Respond to Recommendations #1 and #7 only)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Supervisors



County of Marin Response to Grand Jury Report Findings and Recommendations  
"Vaping: An Under-the-Radar Epidemic"  
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**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDINGS**

**F1. Most vaping products are nicotine delivery systems that are designed to appeal to youngsters, are highly addictive, and may cause life-long health problems.**

**Response: Agree.**

**F2. Student vaping in Marin County is an epidemic that is increasing and reaching younger students, including those in middle schools.**

**Response: Agree.**

**F3. The Marin County Office of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services are leading diligent efforts to curb youthful vaping, but the public does not fully understand that vaping is an epidemic and the health damage it causes.**

**Response: Agree.**

**F4. Many students in schools in Marin County are not aware that vaping products contain nicotine, is highly addictive, and can severely damage their health.**

**Response: Agree.**

**F5. Many parents don't know about vaping. They can't recognize vaping devices, are not aware that their children are vaping, and may not know the severe damage to health vaping can inflict.**

**Response: Agree.**

**F6. Vaping cartridges can be refilled with substances including cannabis extracts that are several times stronger than the marijuana smoked by previous generations.**

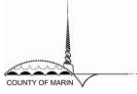
**Response: Agree.**

**F7. Peer pressure leads many adolescents to take up and continue using vaping products. Peer to peer programs and coaches effectively help students deal with peer pressure.**

**Response: Agree.**

**F8. All government bodies in Marin County do not ban the sale of flavored tobacco. To be effective, a ban must be county-wide and be vigorously enforced.**

**Response: Agree.**



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Through the collaborative efforts of the Department of Health and Human Services and policy leaders in Marin jurisdictions, policies to ban the sale of flavored tobacco have been adopted or are currently being addressed. As of June 30, 2019, bans on the sale of flavored tobacco products including vaping products are in effect in unincorporated Marin, Corte Madera, Larkspur, San Anselmo, San Rafael, Sausalito, and Novato. The goal is county-wide coverage, and plans are in effect to reach remaining cities by September 2019.

**F9. Adolescents who want to stop vaping face unique problems that make it extremely difficult for them to quit. To date, no cessation programs that address their special needs exist in Marin County.**

**Response: Agree.**

Historically, nicotine addiction has been approached as a dilemma of adult tobacco cessation, and is treated through behavioral therapy and nicotine replacement products such as patches and gums. Nicotine replacement products are not FDA approved for youth, leaving behavioral interventions as the primary remaining option. Health and Human Services' Tobacco Program, Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) and school districts recognize the need to address youth cessation and are currently working with health partners in Marin and prevention partners Statewide to identify and or develop youth cessation alternatives. This is a priority for cessation and prevention partners throughout the country.

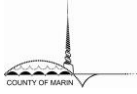
**F10. Vaping aerosols are odorless, smokeless and hard to detect. However, commercial devices to detect vaping aerosol are available and can be installed in school areas where vaping commonly occurs.**

**Response: Agree.**

The implementation of commercial devices to detect vaping aerosol in school areas is at the discretion of the Marin County of Education and Marin school districts.

**F11. Mentholated tobacco products are damaging to health, but not all flavored tobacco ordinances in the County ban them.**

**Response: Agree.**



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## **RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS**

(The Civil Grand Jury has requested that the County Respond to Recommendations #1 and #7 only)

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury recommends the following:

**R1. The County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services, the Marin County Office of Education, and all school districts should increase initiatives to provide students, parents, and the community with more information and support on vaping prevention and cessation. Initiatives should include digital and social media content, including materials for middle and high schools.**

**This recommendation has been implemented.**

Initial implementation has begun, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continues to partner with the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) and all school districts to provide prevention and cessation awareness. In addition to the education outreach for youth and community members, HHS has initiated a media campaign (including social media) to alert youth and parents of the dangers of youth vaping. In addition, MCOE, First Five, Marin Communications Forum, and HHS are co-sponsoring a county-wide educational event in October 2019 dedicated to increasing awareness and sharing resources to protect community members.

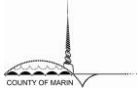
**R7. The County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services should work with the local medical community, including Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Healthcare and the Marin Healthcare District to establish teen nicotine cessation programs.**

**This recommendation has been implemented.**

HHS has initiated outreach to our healthcare partners at Kaiser, Marin General, Marin Healthcare District and local doctors to begin a collaborative effort to address the need to establish teen nicotine cessation programs. See response to F9 above. The HHS Tobacco Program is also working closely with all statewide tobacco partners to address the need for new and innovative, evidence-based youth cessation programs.

The HHS Tobacco Program has offered technical support to all Marin Jurisdictions with their desire and action to create and adopt flavor ban policies. Most jurisdictions have adopted policies with the remaining communities (with tobacco retail stores) in the process of discussing policies.

In addition, HHS continues to coordinate with and fund the Marin County Sheriff 's Department to conduct compliance checks throughout the county. These ongoing enforcement efforts will also monitor tobacco retailers to enforce the flavor bans. The Sheriff intends to remain a local leader in the efforts to continue to educate and battle this crisis.



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