

Patterns of Cigarette and E-cigarette Use Among Teenage Boys in Jakarta: Implications for Monitoring and Cessation Strategies

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Background

In 2021, an estimated 70 million adults in Indonesia used tobacco, mostly males who initiated by age 19. The 2023 National Health Survey reported a smoking prevalence of 14.3% among boys ages 10–18. This study examined cigarette and e-cigarette use, as well as quit intentions and attempts, among teenage boys in Jakarta, the capital city of the country.

Methods

A school-based survey was conducted from September–October 2024 among 2771 male students (ages 12–19, grades 7–12) from 82 schools in Jakarta's five administrative regions. Probability proportional sampling was used, stratified by region, school type, and grade. Participants completed a web-based self-administered survey on electronic devices in a group setting facilitated by data collectors.

Results

12% currently smoked; highest among vocational school students (27%)

- Among those currently smoked, **66% had attempted to quit in the past six months**
- Reasons for not intending to quit: seeking relaxation (68%), believing that smoking is not as harmful as claimed (34%), previous failed attempts (33%)

Of those who reported ever smoking (39%):

• **Average initiation age: 13.2 (SD=2.3)**

• Most obtained their first cigarettes from friends (68%)

• Barriers to quitting: peer influence (32%), limited access to cessation resources (27%)

E-cigarette use:

• **39% had ever tried e-cigarettes, 24% had used in the past 30 days**

Among those who had never smoked cigarettes (61%), 18% had tried e-cigarettes

Fig 1. Cigarette and e-cigarette use among teen boys in Jakarta

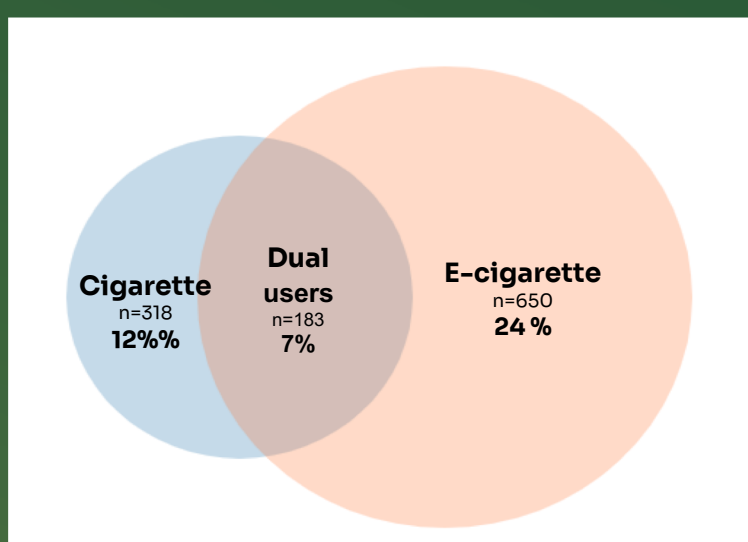
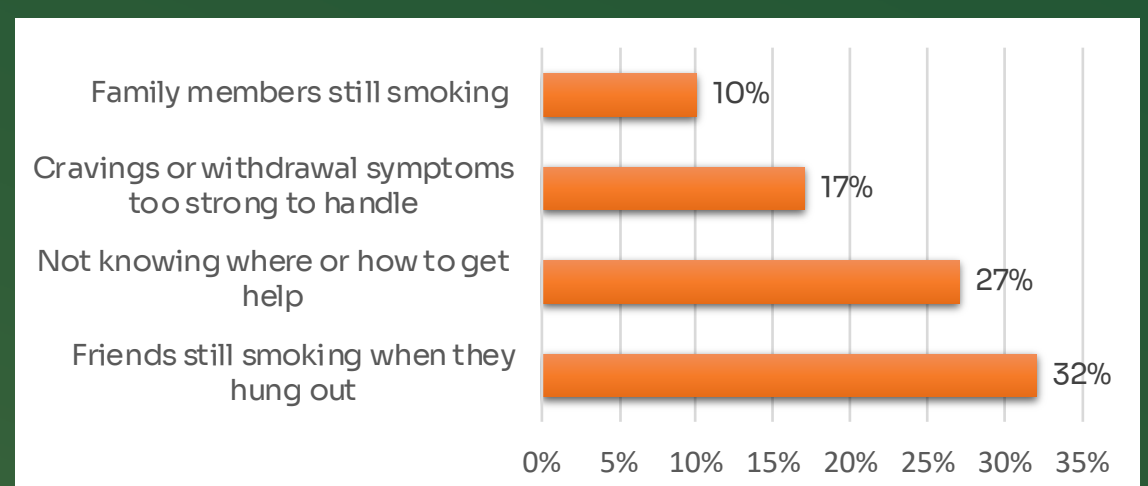


Fig 2. Barriers to quitting smoking among teen boys in Jakarta



Conclusions

Findings reveal concerning prevalences of nicotine and tobacco product use, highlighting the need for cessation efforts tailored to youth in Indonesia, addressing peer influence, misconceptions about smoking risks, and access to cessation resources. Routine monitoring of emerging nicotine products is essential to inform targeted public health strategies to ensure cessation initiatives remain relevant in a changing product landscape.