

RESEARCH BASED TEMPLATE

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The Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n Roll 2025 Survey: What stops young people from using vapes in the future?

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Background:

Vaping prevalence among Australian youth has risen sharply over the past five years, leading to the introduction of a strict prohibition of non-therapeutic vapes in July 2024. However, the impact of such regulatory reforms on future vaping intentions among non-vaping youths remains unclear.

Methods:

The Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n Roll (SDRR) is an annual survey of Victorian young people aged 15-29 years. Respondents completed an online questionnaire assessing vape use patterns and intentions, perceptions of vaping harm and ease of access (on a scale of 1-100), mental well-being, and demographic variables. People who currently vape were excluded, leaving n=729 in 2024 and n=684 in 2025. Multivariable logistic regression identified factors associated with future intention to vape in 2025.

Results:

Some intention to vape in the future was reported by 19.3% in 2024 and 26.8% in 2025 (p=0.0009). The perceived ease of access to vaping remained stable between the two survey years, with mean scores of 78.6 in 2024 and 77.9 in 2025. In 2025, intention to vape was associated with being a current smoker (AOR = 2.89) or past vaper (AOR = 7.52). Meanwhile, moderate well-being (AOR = 0.23) compared to low well-being and being in older age groups (AOR = 0.40) was associated with lower intention.

Conclusion:

Among young Victorians aged 15-29 who do not currently vape, future intention to vape is reduced by older age and stronger wellbeing. There is no evidence of a decline in intentions to vape or in perceived ease of access to vapes, despite the introduction of new regulations. These findings highlight the need to complement regulation with education and well-being strategies to address future vaping risk in youth.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.