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| **Title of Research Presentation** Vaping and smoking outside hospitality venues and in streets: Objective data from pilot field observations |
| **Background/Objectives**Vaping in public places has potential positive or negative health impacts, nuisance impacts, and normalises this behaviour. There appears to have been no published observations of the prevalence of vaping in outdoor places. We aimed to pilot: (i) the assessment of the point prevalence of vaping, and the relative prevalence of smoking and vaping outside hospitality venues and (ii) the assessment of the relative prevalence of smoking and vaping among those walking in downtown pavement areas. **Methods**Observations were made of the number of patrons, smokers, vapers and children sitting at the outside areas of 56 hospitality venues in central Wellington, New Zealand, between 3.30pm and 9pm on weekdays and 12pm and 9pm on weekends in May 2018. Ten minute observations were also made of pedestrians within three defined pavement areas, with the location, time, and number of active smokers and active vapers passing within a 5m radius being recorded. Data were collected on smartphones by filling in a standardised, online form.**Results**A total of 114 active vapers were observed during 2422 venue observations. Active vapers were 6.12 times more likely to be observed at venues without children present, compared to venues with children present (95%CI: 1.9 to 19.2). A ratio of 10 active smokers to 1 active vaper was observed at the venues, with point prevalence of vaping at 1.4% of patrons. During 121 static observations of pedestrians at the three locations, a ratio of 2.9 active smokers to 1 active vaper was seen (120 vapers, 350 smokers). On average, six active vapers and 17 active smokers were observed per hour across the three locations.**Discussion**As countries increasingly constrain smoking and vaping in outdoor settings, it is important to base such policies on objective data. The methods provided data that showed clear differences in the prevalence of active smokers and vapers in public places. However it was sometimes difficult to distinguish vaping devices from other handheld devices such as phones and keys. Vaping is also more intermittent in nature than smoking (e-cigarettes can be pocketed between puffs), so observers were probably less likely to capture someone actively vaping compared to actively smoking. Further studies are required to assess vaping in other settings and jurisdictions, and to assess trends in visible vaping over time.**Keywords**VapingSmokingField observationPrevalence  |