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Alaska posted the nation's highest rate of increase in electronic cigarette **use** by **young adults** from 2016 to 2021, according to a report tracking patterns in all the states.

The rate of **e-cigarette use** by Alaskans in that age group more than **tripled**, from 4.8% in 2019 — the lowest rate in the nation at the time — to 15.8% in 2021, according to the report.

The report was compiled by HealthAdvisor, a company owned by insurance marketer Tranzact. The report uses data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Nationally, **e-cigarette use**, also known as vaping, increased dramatically during those years for **young adults**, according to the report. In 2016, 9.6% of Americans between 18 and 24 years old used e-cigarettes, according to the report; that jumped to 19.8% in 2021, roughly doubling.

The HealthAdvisor report has findings similar to those in the 2022 **Alaska** Tobacco Facts update released in December by the **Alaska** Department of Health. That report, which focused on a younger age group, said that about a quarter of **Alaska** high school students regularly used e-cigarettes in 2019 and nearly half had tried vaping at least once.

A bill aimed at curbing youth **e-cigarette use** is being considered by the **Alaska** Legislature. The measure, Senate Bill 89, would raise the legal age for purchase of **e-cigarette** products from the current 19 to 21. It would also impose **Alaska's** first state tax on **e-cigarette** products. Although municipalities around the state impose taxes on **e-cigarette** products, the state has not changed its tobacco taxes since 2006, a time before vaping products became widely used.

The bill is sponsored by Senate President Gary Stevens, R-Kodiak. It is pending in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, where it is scheduled to get its next hearing on April 21.

Lawmakers last year passed a similar bill that was also sponsored by Stevens, but Gov. Mike Dunleavy vetoed it, citing opposition to the tax provision. The tax structure in this year's bill is different from that in the bill vetoed by Dunleavy.

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