

Abstract

Introduction: The prevalence of vaping and the use of electronic nicotine devices (ENDs) drastically increased resulting in a public health crisis in the U.S. Concerns over the long-term effects of these products grew while their use became even more popular amongst youth and adolescents. Due to these safety concerns, a law was passed in 2019 banning tobacco companies from selling or marketing vaping products to anyone under the age of 21. The goals of this project are to educate pharmacy students regarding vaping and teach them to educate high school and middle school students on the dangers of ENDs and vaping products.

Methods: In collaboration with Chestnut Health, SIUE's Health Services, the Meridian Society, SIUE SOP APhA-ASP's Operation Heart, and SIUE School of Pharmacy, a pilot program six online interactive video modules were created. These modules discussed the fundamentals of vaping and its effects on the body and how to be a peer mentor in the community. Students took pre- and post-surveys to assess their knowledge around vaping.

Results: In the pilot year of the program, there was low enrollment due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the survey results showed positive change in both students understanding of content and their confidence in the subject material.

Conclusion: We believe this program has the potential to positively impact the community by education student pharmacists who will in turn educate their future patients and their local community.

Funding: A \$4,300 grant was awarded by the SIUE Meridian Society to help develop this program.