

Information brochure

Flape study

Contact

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<https://www.wur.nl/en/show/flape-study.htm>

Disclaimer: WUR aims to discourage tobacco and related product use and prevent nicotine addiction. This study contributes to achieving this goal.

Subject information for participation in scientific research

Flape Study

To describe the flavor and appeal of e-cigarettes

Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are kindly asked to take part in a scientific study. Your participation is voluntary. If you choose to participate, we will ask for your consent. Before making a decision, you will receive a detailed explanation about the study and what your participation entails. Please take your time to carefully read this information. If you have any questions or need further clarification, do not hesitate to ask our investigators. If you want, you can also discuss your participation with your partner, friends, or family. This study is carried out by the Division of Human Nutrition and Health at Wageningen University. The WUR Research Ethics Committee for non-medical studies involving human subjects (WUR-REC) has granted approval for this study. This approval indicates that the research complies with the Dutch Code of Conduct for Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences involving human participants.

1. General information

This study is being conducted by the Division of Human Nutrition and Health at Wageningen University in collaboration with the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) is covering the costs of this research.

2. Study aim

The aim of this study is to characterize the flavor and appeal of different e-cigarettes (vapes).

3. Background of study

E-cigarettes (vapes) are harmful and popular. Although a few studies show that they may help some cigarette smokers quit, they are not without dangers and could potentially lead some to start smoking. A particular concern is the high rate of e-cigarette use among the youth, pointing to the risk of a new generation becoming addicted to nicotine.

Flavors are a key factor in the popularity of e-cigarettes. To address this, the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport has commissioned Wageningen University (WUR) and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) to study the appeal of e-cigarette flavors across different demographic groups. This study aims to identify flavor preferences and assess their appeal. The findings will guide the Ministry of VWS on strategies to prevent nicotine addiction.

4. What your participation entails

To participate, you are asked to join 3 experimental sessions, all at or around the campus of WUR. There should be at least one day between each test session (e.g. you can have sessions on Monday – Wednesday – Friday).

- In the first session you will receive further information about the study. If you want to participate, you will sign a consent form. After signing the form, you will fill in a screening questionnaire and your sense of smell will be tested. During the smell test you will smell 16 different odors and choose the correct description for each odor. Based on the screening, it will be determined whether you can participate in the study. If you can participate, you will then visually inspect different e-cigarettes and answer questions about them.
- In the following test session you will smell (nicotine-free) e-cigarette flavors and evaluate their flavor.
- In the last session you will vape (nicotine-free) e-cigarette flavors and evaluate their flavor.

Each of the sessions takes approximately 30 minutes. If during the first session it becomes apparent that you are not eligible for study participation because your smell-score is too low, you will receive a €5 gift voucher.

5. What is expected of you

It's important that you adhere to the following guidelines:

- Do not use scented creams, perfumes, deodorants, soaps or hair products on the day of the testing session.
- Refrain from using any hallucinogenic drugs on the day of the test and the day before.
- Refrain from smoking, vaping, brushing your teeth, eating or drinking anything other than water for 1 hour prior to the test sessions (this also means no chewing gum). Do not drink alcohol on the day of the test session.
- Attend scheduled visits or notify us in time if you are unable to attend.

6. Who can participate in the study?

You are eligible to participate if you:

- Vape at least once a month (with or without nicotine).
- Are aged between 18 and 55 years.
- Are in good general health.
- Understand English without difficulty.
- Have a normal sense of smell and taste
- Are not currently pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning to become pregnant.
- Are not allergic to any of the components of the products we will be testing.

- Are not employed by the Department of Human Nutrition at Wageningen University, nor are you conducting an MSc thesis or internship at the Chair Group of Sensory Science and Eating Behavior at Wageningen University.
- Are not currently participating in medical scientific research.

It is important that you contact the researcher if you:

- Are sick or have a cold during the week of a test session
- No longer wish to participate in the study
- Change your contact details
- Discover that you are pregnant

7. Possible discomforts

Because you will vape during one of the test sessions, you will be exposed to a low-toxicity risk due to the inhalation of e-cigarette vapor. This will be temporary (around 18 - 24 puffs within 30 minutes.)

8. Possible advantages and disadvantages of participation

It is important that you carefully weigh the possible advantages and disadvantages before deciding to participate. You will not personally benefit from participating in this study. However, your participation can contribute to a better understanding of the popularity of e-cigarettes. Ultimately, the findings will be reported back to the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) regarding the role of different flavors in e-cigarette appeal. This knowledge could be used to discourage-cigarette use. You will receive a financial compensation for participating in this study.

Disadvantages of participating in the study include:

- The need to adhere to specific appointments and guidelines.
- The exposure to a low toxicity risk due to inhalation of approximately 18 puffs of e-cigarette vapor

9. If you do not want to participate or wish to stop participating in the study

You decide whether or not to participate in the study. Participation is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you can change your mind and stop at any time, even during the study. You do not need to provide a reason for stopping. However, you must immediately inform the researcher of your decision. The data collected up to that point may be used for the study. If there is new information about the study that is important for you, the researcher will inform you. You will then be asked whether you wish to continue participating.

10. Use and storage of your data

For this study, your personal data are collected, used, and stored. This includes information such as your name, address, date of birth, and vaping-related data. Collecting, using, and storing your data is necessary to answer the research questions and publish the results. To protect your data, your data will be coded. That entails that you will be assigned a number for identification and reference purposes. If your data is used in scientific publications, it cannot be traced back to you. We ask for your consent to use your data.

Access to your data for verification

Certain individuals may access all your data at the research site, including data that is not coded. This is necessary to verify that the study is conducted properly and reliably. The individuals are part of the research team. They are required to keep your data confidential. We ask for your consent to allow this access.

Data Retention Period

The researcher will retain the key to the code until the PhD contract of Ina Hellmich ended. After this period, your data will be anonymized. These anonymous research data will be stored for up to 10 years following the conclusion of the study. Additionally, anonymous data may be shared in an online database for further scientific publications and research. Anonymous data cannot be traced back to you.

14. Compensation for Participation

If you participate in the entire study, you will receive a compensation of €25. If it is determined after the screening session that your smell-score is too low and therefore you are not suitable to participate in the study, you will receive a €5 compensation in the form of a gift voucher. If you stop participating before the study is completed, you will receive a €5 for every completed session.

The compensation (but not the gift voucher) is reported to the Tax Service as income. You should expect the payment to be deposited into your account approximately 2-4 months after the completion of the study.

15. Do you have any questions?

Questions about participating in the study can be directed to Ina Hellmich (ina.hellmich@wur.nl). For any ethical issues concerning the research, you can contact Professor Moore, Chair of the WUR Committee for Research Ethics (rec@wur.nl).

Coordinating researcher: Ina Hellmich

Research assistants : Ferry Kalthof & Mayly van Leeuwen

Project lead: assoc. Prof. Sanne Boesveldt

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Location of first and second session:

Wageningen University

Helix (gebouw 124)

Stippeneng 4

6708 WE Wageningen

Location of third session:

Droevendaalsesteeg 77

6708 PN Wageningen

Website:

<https://www.wur.nl/en/show/flape-study.htm>