

# Outdoor vaping prevalence



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# Aim

To observe the relative prevalence of:

- (i) smoking and vaping outside hospitality venues
- (ii) smoking and vaping among those walking in downtown pavement areas

# Background

- New Zealand does not regulate vaping in outdoor public places (there are some ‘educational’ policies)
- Organisations (e.g., individual businesses) may ban vaping on their properties

# Methods for hospitality venues

- 56 hospitality venues in central Wellington (capital of NZ) were selected
- 2422 venue observations recorded the number of seated:
  - patrons
  - smokers
  - vapers
  - children



Observations were made in May 2018, during:

- 3.30pm - 9pm on weekdays
- 12pm - 9pm on weekends

# Circuit of venues

New Zealand map



# Methods for downtown streets

In three defined pavement areas:

- 121 x ten minute observations
- Pedestrians passing within a 5m radius of observer
- Recorded:
  - Time
  - Number of active smokers and active vapers



# Results: Hospitality venues

- 10 active smokers to 1 active vaper
- *Point prevalence* of vaping = 1.4% of patrons
- Active vapers were 6 times more likely to be observed at venues *without* children present, compared to venues with children  
(95%CI: 1.9 to 19.2)



# Results: Downtown streets

- 2.9 active smokers to 1 active vaper
- On average, six active vapers and 17 active smokers were observed per hour across the 3 locations



# Discussion: Methods issues

- Sometimes **difficult to distinguish** vaping devices from other items, such as phones and keys
- Issue **increasing** with discrete pod-style devices
- Vaping may be more **intermittent** than smoking (e-cigarettes may be pocketed between puffs)
- So observations of active vaping less likely, compared to active smoking?



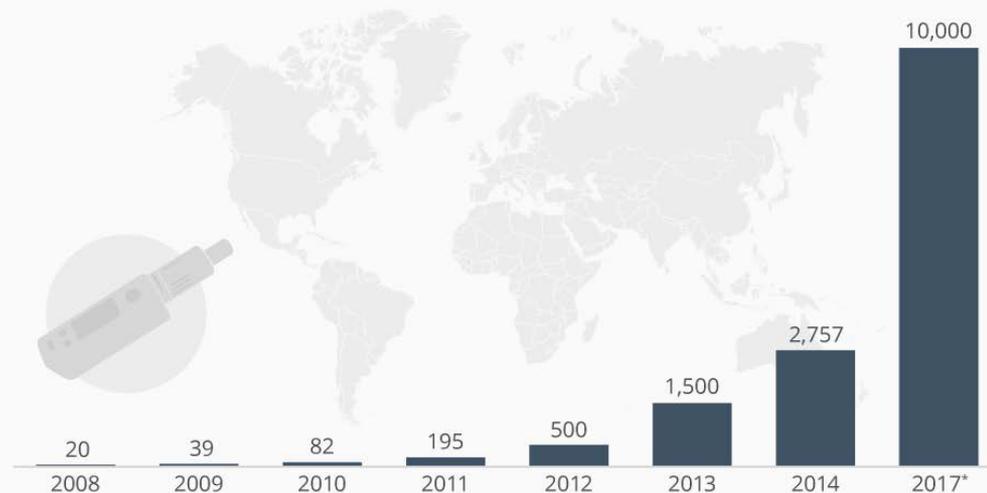
# Discussion: Research implications

Fieldwork required to assess:

- Vaping in other settings and jurisdictions
- Trends in visible vaping over time
- Policy effects  
with before/after  
observations

## Vast Vaping

Electronic cigarettes dollar sales worldwide from 2008 to 2017 (in million U.S. dollars)



# Discussion: Policies?

- Secondhand vapour in proximity to:
  - Seating
  - Crowded sidewalks
  - Entrances and windows
- Vape industry stances
  - ‘Courtesy’ v rules
- Normalisation of nicotine use?

