



SPECIAL E-CIGARETTES

Imprint

BfR Consumer Monitor 2019 | Special E-cigarettes

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Foreword

Dear Readers,

The electronic cigarette, or e-cigarette for short, has enjoyed a surge in popularity in recent years. When e-cigarettes are vaped, liquids containing nicotine in cartridges are vaporised. In the present BfR study, six percent of respondents stated that they currently use e-cigarettes.

In 2012, BfR scientists already assessed some ingredients typically found in e-cigarette liquids with regard to health risks, including nicotine, fumigation agents as well as additives and flavouring substances. The vapours of these substances can impair users' health. There may also be risks to bystanders who inhale the vapours produced.

The BfR commissioned a nationwide, representative survey to find out about the population's attitudes towards e-cigarettes and about their perception of the associated health risks. The results of the survey can be found in this special issue of the BfR Consumer Monitor.



Professor Dr. Dr. Andreas Hensel

President German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)



Have you used e-cigarettes in the past?

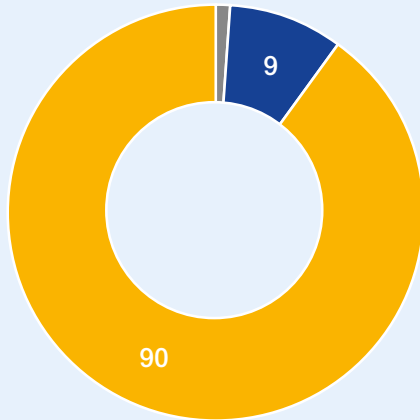
Have you smoked cigarettes in the past?

By **the past**, we mean before the beginning of the year 2019.

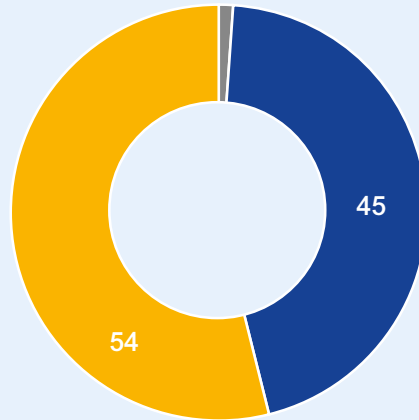
By **e-cigarettes**, we mean electronic devices through which a fluid (the “liquid”) is vaporised and inhaled by the consumer.

By **cigarettes**, we mean ready-made or self-rolled tobacco cigarettes, which are smoked. This does not include related products, such as cigars, cigarillos or pipes.

Previous usage



E-cigarettes



Cigarettes

Basis: 952 respondents aged 18 and over; Figures given in percentages

Yes

No

Don't know, no answer

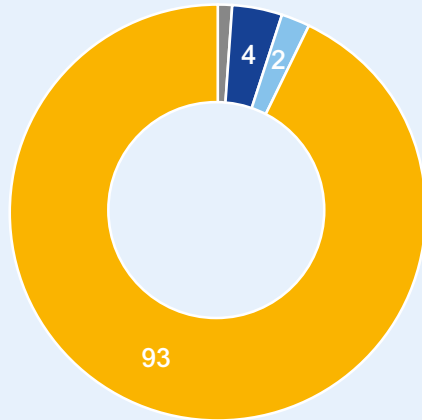


How often do you currently use e-cigarettes?

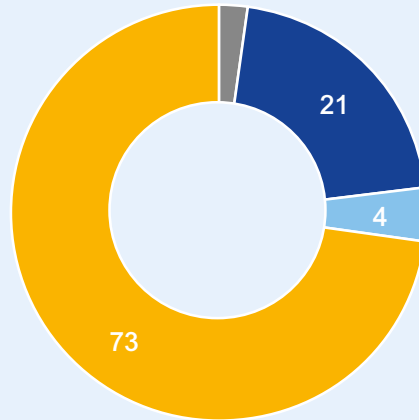
How often do you currently smoke cigarettes?

By **currently**, we mean since the beginning of the year 2019.

Current usage



E-cigarettes



Cigarettes

Basis: 952 respondents aged 18 and over; Figures given in percentages

Several times a day

Less frequently

Never

Don't know, no answer

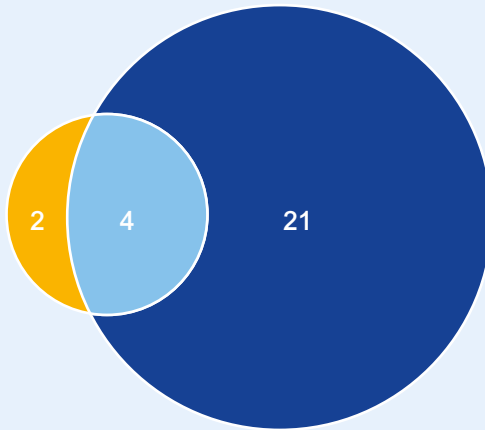


How often do you currently use e-cigarettes?

How often do you currently smoke cigarettes?

By **currently**, we mean since the beginning of the year 2019.

Overlaps in current usage




Only smoke cigarettes

Only use e-cigarettes

Use both

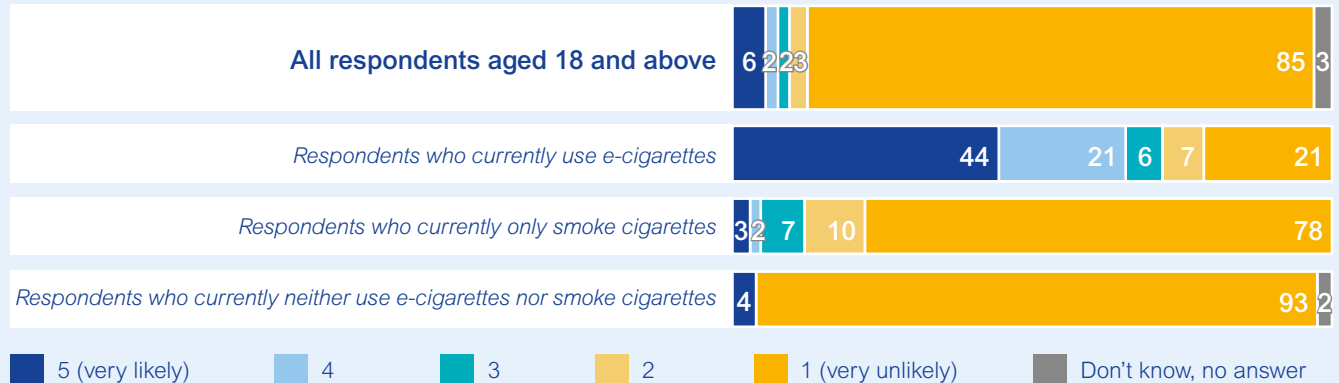
Basis: 952 respondents aged 18 and over; Figures given in percentages




How likely is it that you will (continue to) use e-cigarettes in the future?

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 for your answer, with 1 representing “very unlikely” and 5 representing “very likely”. You can graduate your opinion with the values in between.

Future usage of e-cigarettes



Basis: 952 Respondents aged 18 and over | 57 respondents who currently use e-cigarettes | 205 respondents who currently only smoke cigarettes | 672 respondents who currently neither use e-cigarettes nor smoke cigarettes; Figures given in percentages




How would you rate the health risk of e-cigarettes in comparison to cigarettes?

Comparison of health risks: E-cigarettes versus cigarettes



Basis: 1,006 respondents | 57 respondents who currently use e-cigarettes | 205 respondents who currently only smoke cigarettes | 672 respondents who currently neither use e-cigarettes nor smoke cigarettes; Figures given in percentages




Do you associate possible health risks
with e-cigarettes?

Perceived health risks

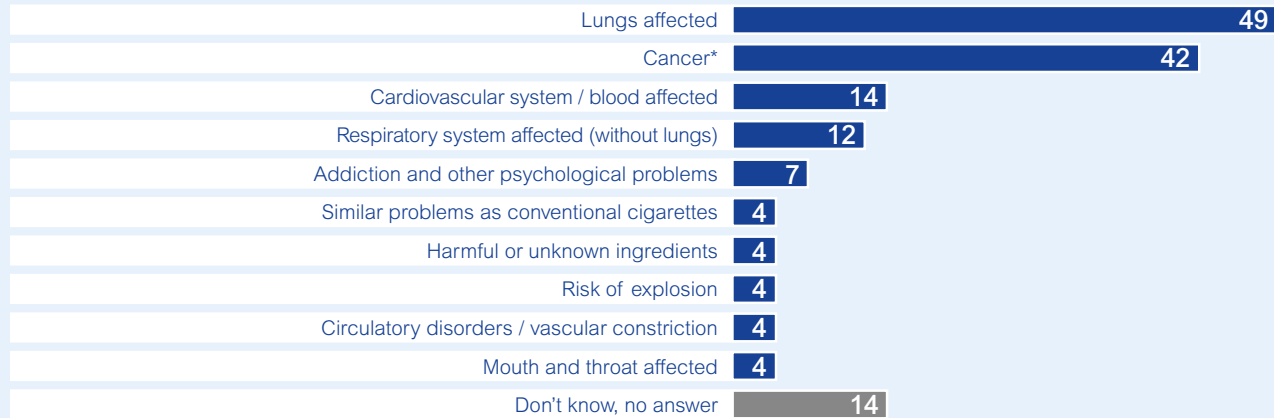


Basis: 1,006 respondents | 57 respondents who currently use e-cigarettes | 205 respondents who currently only smoke cigarettes | 672 respondents who currently neither use e-cigarettes nor smoke cigarettes; Figures given in percentages



What potential health risks of e-cigarettes
can you think of?

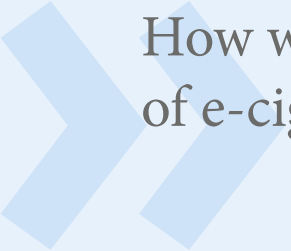
Possible health risks



Shown: The ten most frequently mentioned topics

*includes mentions from other categories (e. g. "lungs affected")

Basis: 848 respondents who associate possible health risks with e-cigarettes; Figures given in percentages




How would you rate the health risks of e-cigarettes?

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 for your answer, with 1 representing “very low” and 5 representing “very high”. You can graduate your opinion with the values in between.

Perceived level of health risks

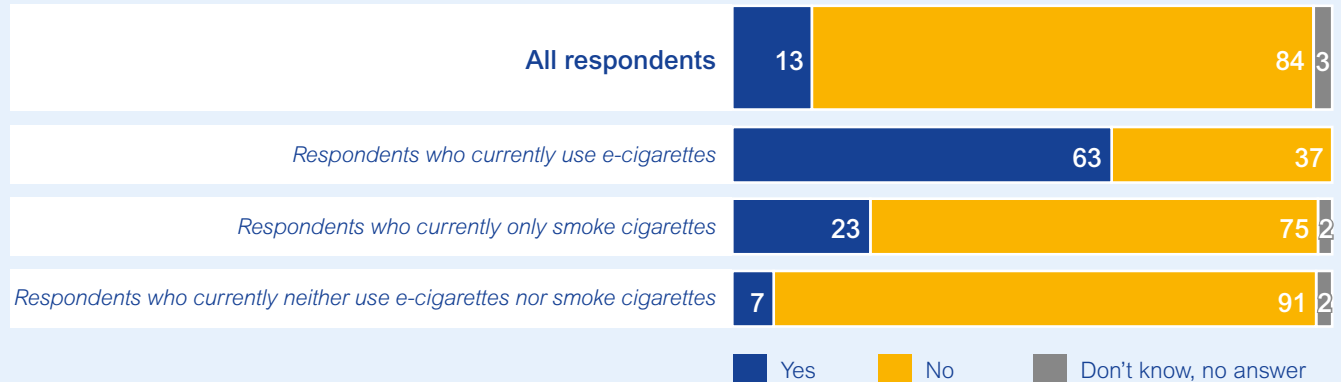


Basis: 848 respondents who associate possible health risks with e-cigarettes | 37 respondents who currently use e-cigarettes and associate possible health risks with e-cigarettes | 176 respondents who currently only smoke cigarettes and associate possible health risks with e-cigarettes | 591 respondents who currently neither use e-cigarettes nor smoke cigarettes and associate possible health risks with e-cigarettes; Figures given in percentages



Do you associate any positive aspects
with e-cigarettes?

Perceived positive aspects

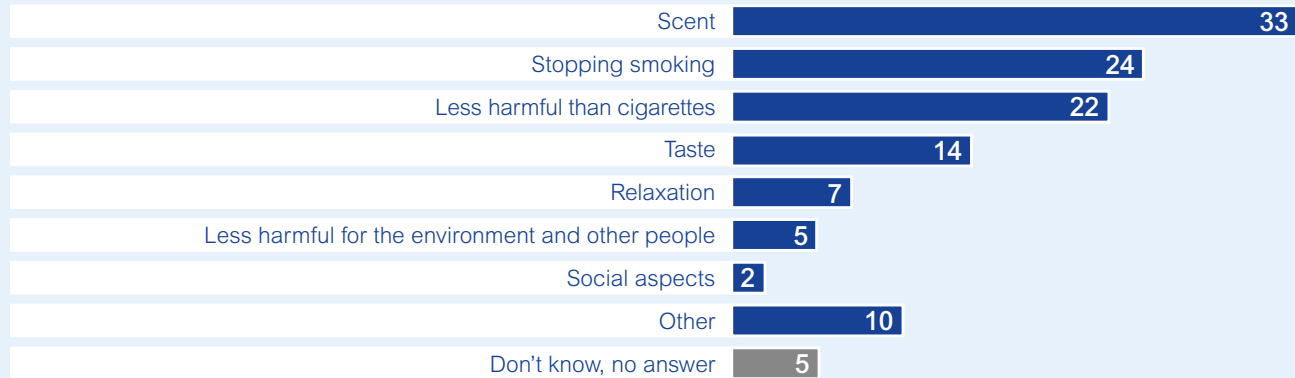


Basis: 1,006 respondents | 57 respondents who currently use e-cigarettes | 205 respondents who currently only smoke cigarettes | 672 respondents who currently neither use e-cigarettes nor smoke cigarettes; Figures given in percentages




Which positive aspects do you associate with e-cigarettes?

Possible positive aspects



Shown: Only relevant mentions with a response rate of at least 2%

Basis: 131 respondents who associate positive aspects with e-cigarettes; Figures given in percentages




How high or low is your confidence in the state authorities in Germany that they will protect the health of consumers against health risks of e-cigarettes?

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 for your answer, with 1 representing “very low” and 5 representing “very high”. You can graduate your opinion with the values in between.

Trust in state authorities in matters of health protection



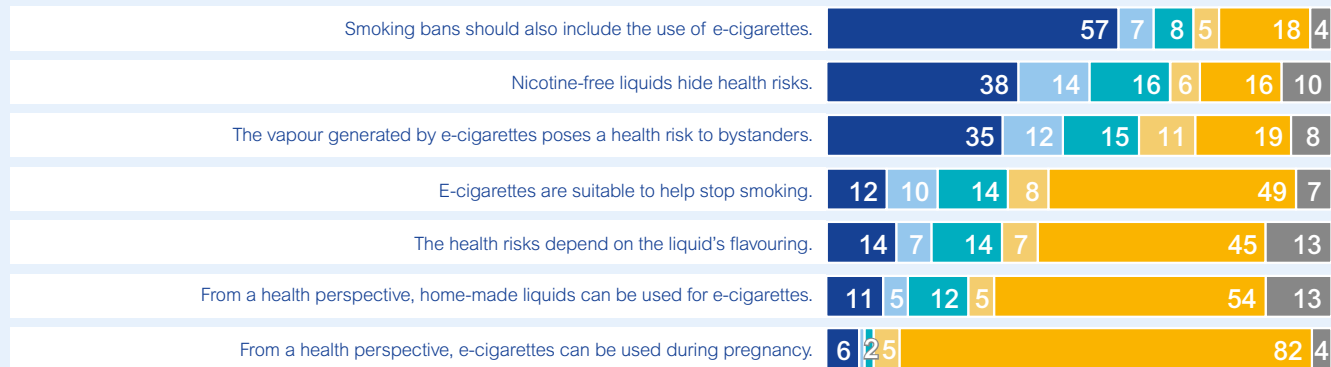
Basis: 1,006 respondents | 57 respondents who currently use e-cigarettes | 205 respondents who currently only smoke cigarettes | 672 respondents who currently neither use e-cigarettes nor smoke cigarettes; Figures given in percentages



Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements on the use of e-cigarettes.

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 for your answer, with 1 representing “strongly disagree” and 5 representing “strongly agree”. You can graduate your opinion with the values in between.

Assessment of statements on e-cigarettes



Basis: 1,006; Figures given in percentages

How were the data collected?

Date of the survey:	6 to 16 December 2019
Random sample:	1,006
Presentation of results:	All figures in percent, rounding differences possible
Population:	German-speaking population aged 14 years and over in private households in the Federal Republic of Germany
Sampling:	Samples drawn at random from land line and mobile telephone numbers which can also include telephone numbers not listed in directories (in line with standards set by the Association of German Market Research Institutes – ADM)
Data weighting:	Data was weighted according to gender, education, age, employment, size of city and German federal state to guarantee representativeness
Method:	Telephone interview (CATI omnibus survey, Dual Frame)
Conducted by:	Kantar

E-cigarettes

The electronic cigarette, or e-cigarette, is similar to a conventional cigarette but it comes with a cartridge of nicotine-containing liquid instead of tobacco. Furthermore, no tobacco is burned; instead, the liquids are heated via a battery-operated heating element and then vaporised. E-cigarette users can replace the cartridges or fill them themselves.

The range of liquids on offer is very wide and consequently, their composition is also very different. The basic mixture usu-

ally consists of propyleneglycol and glycerine solutions. These substances serve as fumigation agents and carriers for other elements. In addition to nicotine, other liquid ingredients and possible impurities can lead to health risks for e-cigarette users. Additionally, the vapour produced contains substances that are harmful to health and that can also be inhaled by bystanders. Generally, very little is known about the long-term health consequences of e-cigarettes.

About the BfR

Do nanoparticles promote the occurrence of allergies? Does apple juice contain too much aluminium? The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, or BfR for short, is responsible for answering questions on all aspects of the health assessment of foods and feeds, consumer products and chemicals. Through its work, it makes a decisive contribution towards ensuring that food, products and the use of chemicals have become safer in Germany. The Institute's main tasks comprise the assessment of existing health risks and identification of new ones, the development of recommendations to limit risks and the transparent communication of this process. This work results in the scientific advice given to political decision makers. To help with the strategic alignment of its risk communication, the BfR conducts its own research in the field of risk perception. The Institute is independent in its scientific assessments, research and communication. The BfR belongs to the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

- i** More information at: www.bfr.bund.de/en
E-cigarettes:
 - > [A-Z Index > E > electronic cigarette](#)
 - > [FAQ > E-cigarettes](#)

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