

Smoking and Vaping Reports at Two Smoke and Vape Free Universities from 2023-2024: Recommendations for Education and Surveillance

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Background

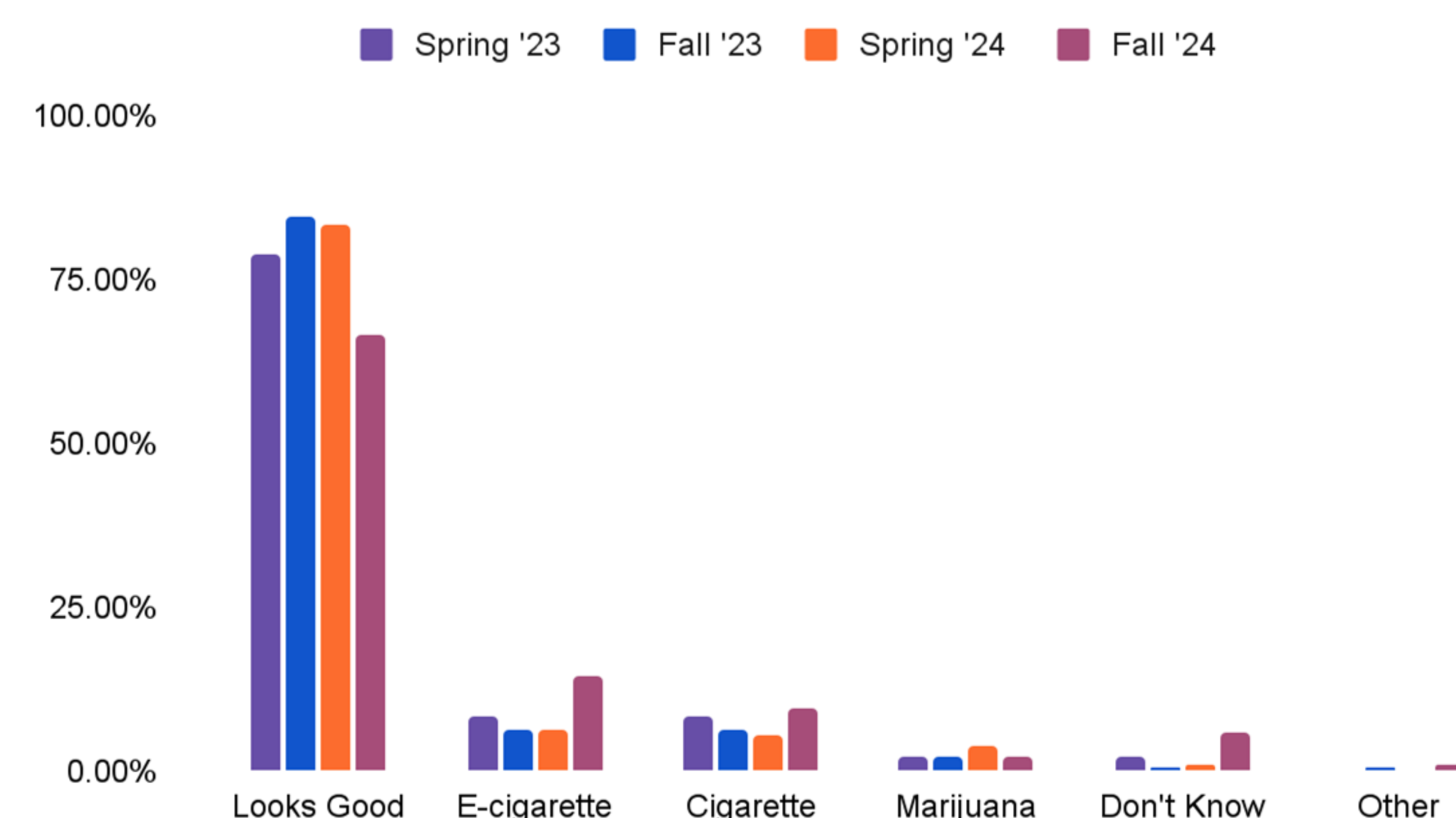
- Smoking and vaping can result in severe health consequences by containing cancer-causing chemicals, several heavy metals, and nicotine (CDC, 2025).
- Benzene, toluene, hydrogen cyanide, and approximately 70 more harmful chemicals are exhaled into the environment and can be consumed as second hand smoke (SHS) (CDC, 2024).
- There is no safe level of SHS exposure. It can cause diseases such as: lung cancer, coronary heart disease, and stroke (CDC, 2024).
- From February 2020 and June 2024, the amount of disposable e-cigarettes purchased more than doubled (26.0% to 58.1%) (CDC, 2024).
- The present study aims to investigate smoking and vaping on a CSU and UC California university campus and provide education on the consequences of smoking/vaping. Both campuses are a 100% smoke and vape free.
- Campus policy compliance information was gathered through citizen scientists reports using a publicly available, ArcGIS-based tobacco tracker.

Methods

- Citizen scientists used a publicly available tracker to report smoking from tobacco, e-cigarette, and cannabis (TEC) on campus from March 2023 to December 2024. This is a part of an ongoing study (NCT 05751369).
- Smoking/vaping reports include product images along with the options for citizen scientists to choose from:
 - ◆ Cigarette
 - ◆ E-cigarette or JUUL
 - ◆ Marijuana (including blunts)
 - ◆ Don't know
 - ◆ Other
- There is also a report option for Looks Good - No smoking/vaping or related litter

Results

Reports of Smoking, Vaping, and Looks Good Over Time

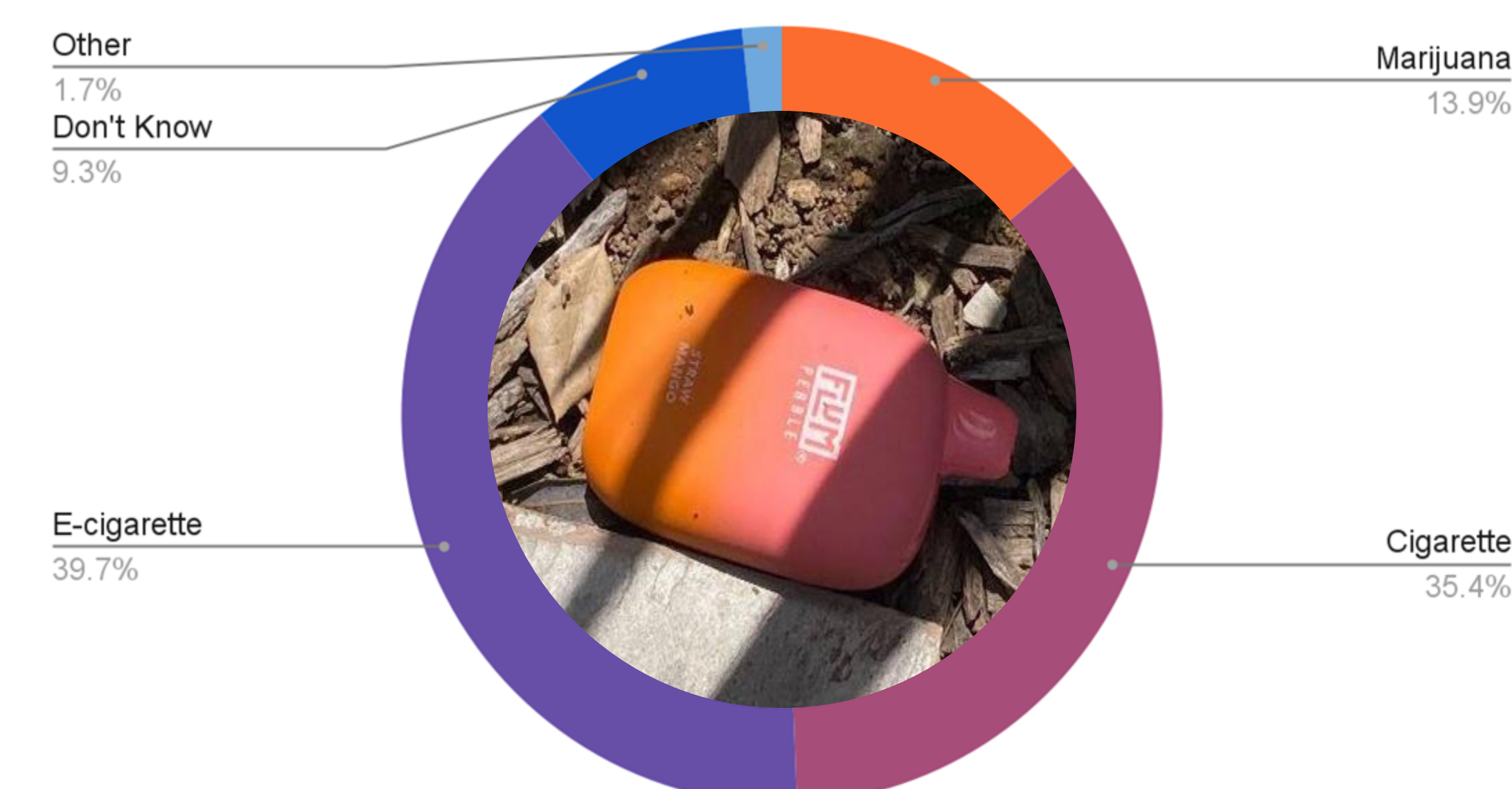


- There were a total of 1,177 reports (March 2023 to December 2024)
 - ◆ 318 reports in Spring 2023 (March to June)
 - ◆ 241 reports in Fall 2023 (July to December)
 - ◆ 445 reports in Winter/Spring 2024 (January to June)
 - ◆ 173 reports in Fall 2024 (July to December)

- Overall, 940 (79.9%) of reports were “Looks Good - No Smoking, Vaping, or Related Litter” and 237 (20.1%) of reports were of “Smoking or Vaping”.
 - ◆ “Looks Good” was the most common report, ranging from 66.5% - 84.7%
 - ◆ Reports of “Marijuana Smoking” were relatively less common, ranging from 2.1% - 3.8%
 - ◆ Reports of “E-cigarette Vaping”, 6.2% - 14.5%, and “Cigarette Smoking”, 5.6% - 9.8%, were comparable during most observation periods

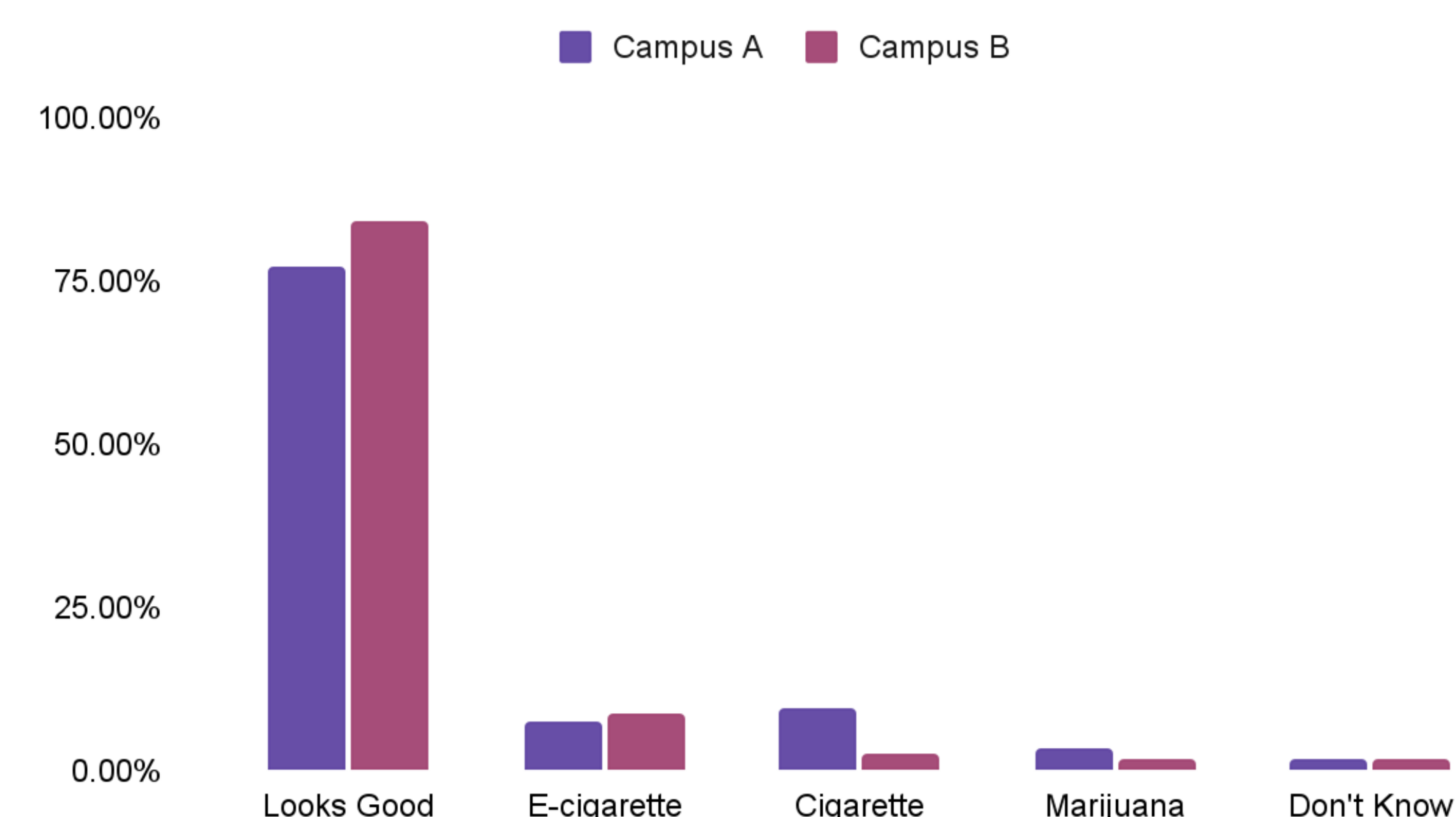
- In the observation period with the lowest number of reports (Fall 2024), smoking/vaping reports were at a peak:
 - ◆ “E-cigarette Vaping” reports were 14.5%, followed by “Cigarette Smoking”, 9.8%, and “Don't Know”, 5.8%
 - ◆ “Looks Good” reports were the lowest proportion of reports, 66.5%, in Fall 2024 than other periods

Total Smoking and Vaping Reports



- Over a third, 39.7%, of the 237 total “Smoking or Vaping” reports were “E-cigarette Vaping” (94)
- About a third, 35.4%, were of “Cigarette Smoking” (84)
- Less than a quarter, 13.9%, were “Marijuana Smoking” (33)
- Around a tenth, 11%, reported “Don't Know”, (22/9.3%), and “Other” (4/1.7%)

Reports by Campus



- “Looks Good - No Smoking/Vaping or Related Litter” was the primary report at both campuses
 - ◆ Campus A, 77.2%, had a lower proportion vs. Campus B, 84.1%
- “Cigarette Smoking” reports were 3x more frequent at Campus A, 9.7%, vs. Campus B, 2.8%
- “Marijuana Smoking” reports were nearly 2x as frequent at Campus A, 3.4%, vs. Campus B, 1.8%
- “E-cigarette Vaping” reports were slightly higher at Campus B, 8.8%, vs. Campus A, 7.5%
- “Don't Know” reports were comparable at Campus A, 1.9%, and Campus B, 1.8%
- “Other” reports were comparable at Campus A, 0.4%, and Campus B, 0.7%

Conclusion

- Despite having established smoke, vape, and tobacco free policies, and readily available cessation resources on campuses, smoking and vaping noncompliance is still being reported.
- Using the trends of smoking and vaping reports at each campus, education can be geared towards the products commonly used.
- New products, such as nicotine pouches, have made it easier to conceal the use of tobacco and marijuana in spaces with smoke and vape free policies.
 - ◆ Therefore, surveillance of tobacco use using additional methods should be used to comprehensively inform cessation education and treatment efforts.



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References

