



Are e-cigarette home bans associated with reduced frequency of e-cigarette use? A pilot study among young adults in southern California during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rohan Minocha¹, Saida Coreas, BS¹, Meghan E. Rebuli, PhD², Talat Islam, PhD¹, Alayna P. Tackett, PhD³

1. Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine; 2. Department of Pediatrics, University of North Carolina;
3. The Center for Tobacco Research, The Ohio State University

BACKGROUND

- Individual smoke-free home policies have almost doubled, from around 43% (1992-93) to 83% (2010-11).
- Recent literature suggests that current vapers are significantly more likely to allow vaping inside the home compared to never-users.
- In-home use of e-cigarettes exposes individuals in the home to constituents in e-liquid such as nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals.

OBJECTIVE

- To assess if individual e-cigarette home bans are associated with reduced frequency of e-cigarette use among young adult e-cigarette exclusive and dual users (e-cigarette + another product) in Southern California.

METHODS

Sample

- California cross-sectional sample of current exclusive e-cigarette users (n=11), dual users (n=23), and non-users (n=38) aged 21-23 (N=72; mean age=21.5 [SD=0.56]; 61.6% female; 54.2% Hispanic or Latinx; 76.4% residing with caregivers).

Measures

- Demographic questionnaire assessed age, sex at birth, race/ethnicity, and housing status.
- Home Ban questionnaire assessed the allowance or restriction of e-cigarettes, and other tobacco/products used in the home.
- Users were asked to report the number of days using the following products in the past 30-days: e-cigarettes, cigarettes, and other tobacco/products.

Statistical Analysis

- Independent sample t-tests were used to examine the association between household bans for e-cigarette use and frequency of use. A chi-square test was used to examine the association between household bans for users of tobacco products compared to non-users.

RESULTS

Figure 1. Home ban endorsement by tobacco use status.

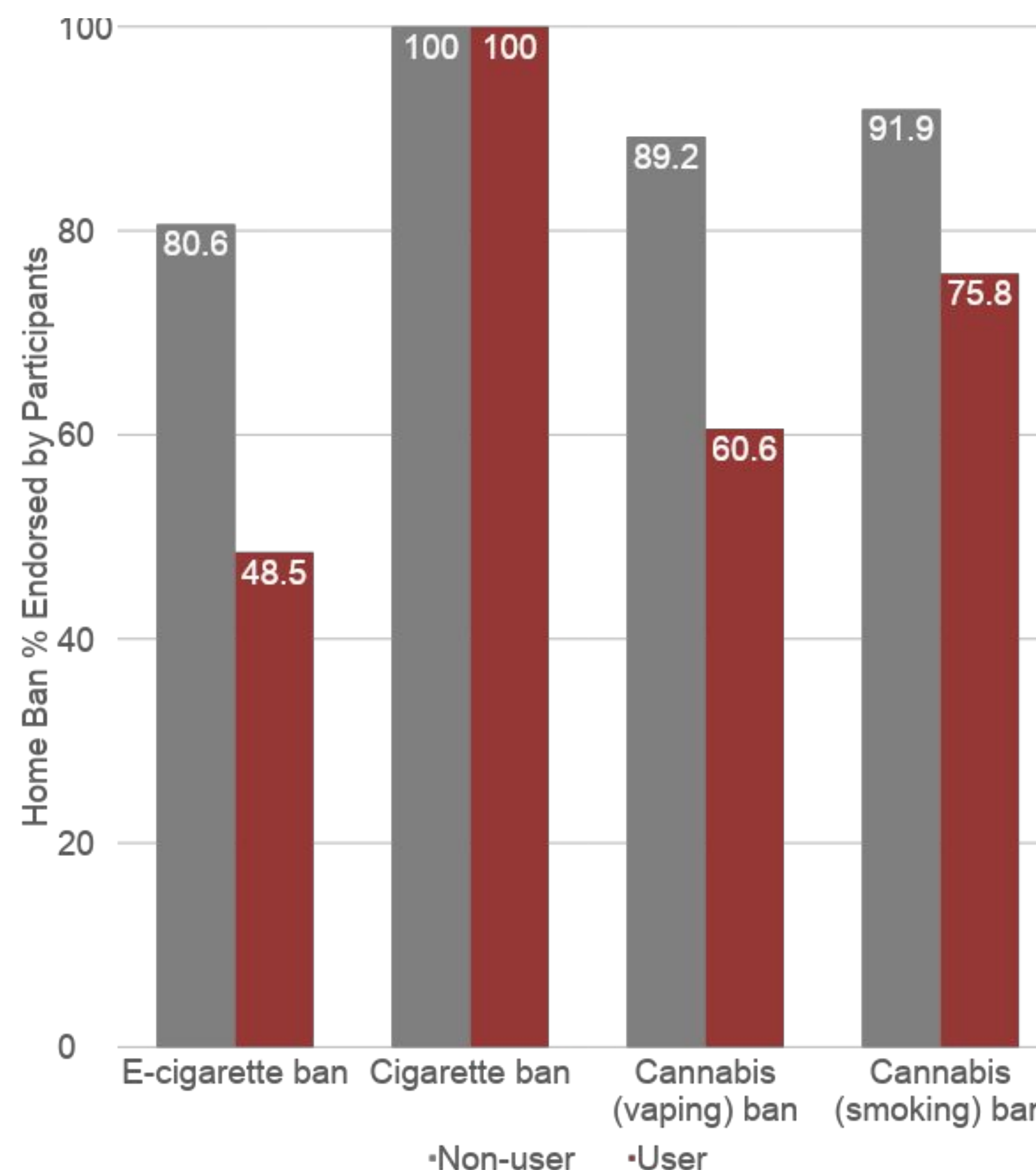


Table 1. Sample Descriptive Characteristics (N = 72).

	N (%) or M (SD)	
Age, Years	M = 21.5 (SD = 0.56)	
Sex		
Male	28	(38.9%)
Female	44	(61.1%)
Race/Ethnicity		
White	24	(33.3%)
Black	5	(6.9%)
Asian	21	(29.2%)
Hispanic/Latinx	39	(54.2%)
Other Racial Identity	14	(19.5%)
Housing Status		
With Caregiver(s)	55	(76.4%)
Independent Living	17	(23.6%)
Past 30 Day E-Cig Use (N = 34)	Home Ban	No Ban
	16.1 (SD =10.9)	22.3 (SD =10.4)

- E-cigarettes (33.3%, n=24) were the most commonly allowed product in participants home (Figure 1).
- No significant differences were observed for e-cigarette household ban and past 30-day frequency of e-cigarette use ($p = 0.11$; Table 1).
- A greater proportion of current e-cigarette exclusive and dual users (51.5%) reported having no household ban on e-cigarettes compared to non-users ($p = .01$; Figure 1).

IMPLICATIONS

- Consistent with past research, this study found that a higher proportion of e-cigarette exclusive and dual users allowed vaping inside the home compared to non-users.
- Future work should continue to examine individual and interpersonal level factors, like household home bans, which may help prevent and reduce e-cigarette use among young adults in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Cancer Institute and the FDA Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) under Award Number U54CA180905), and award number K01HL148907 (Tackett) from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the NIH. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH or the Food and Drug Administration.