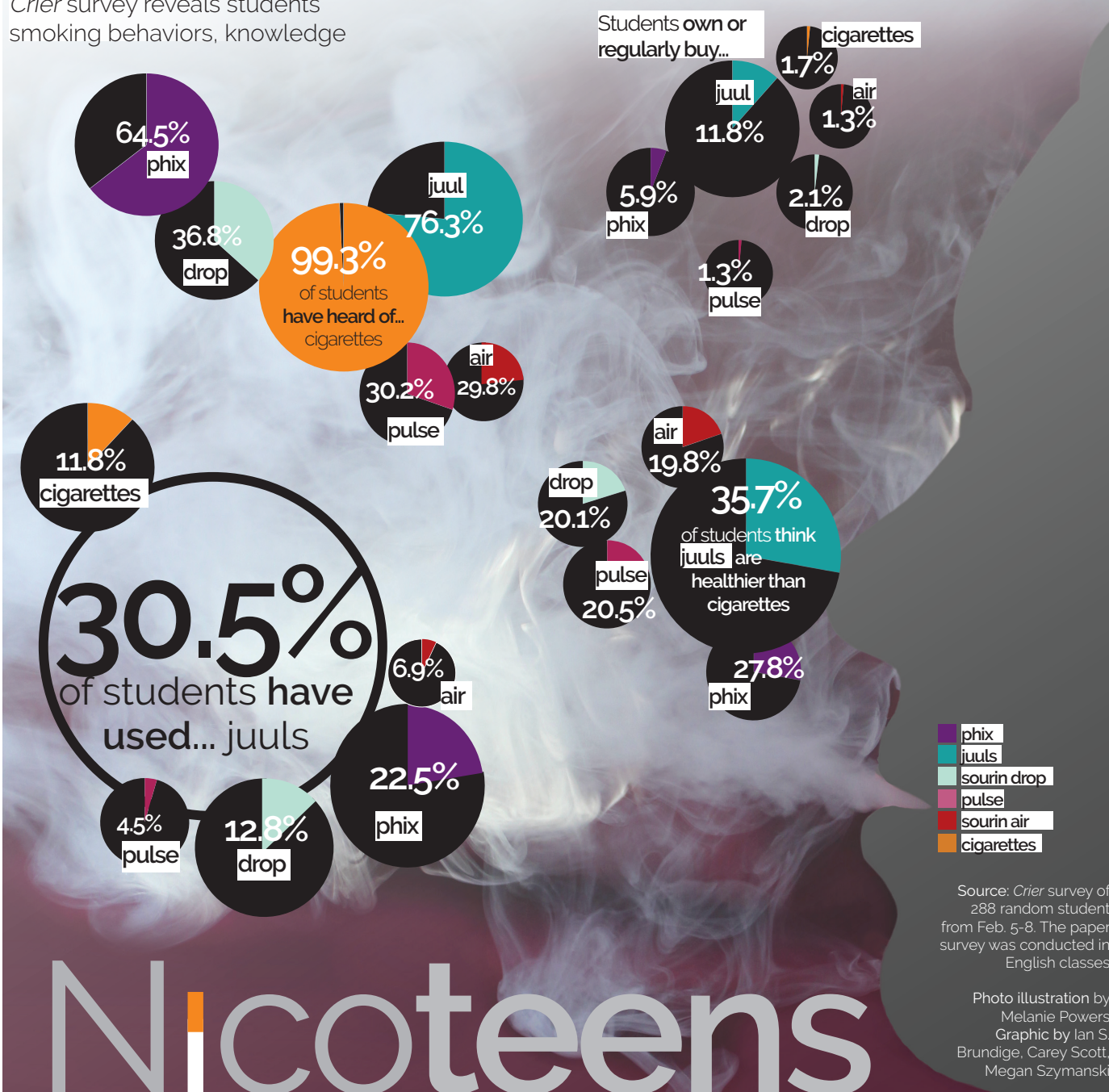


Smoke signals

Crier survey reveals students' smoking behaviors, knowledge



Nicoteens

Hopes of a tobacco-free generation go up in smoke as alternative nicotine products gain popularity

Story by Ian S. Brundige and Carey Scott
Editor-in-Chief, People Editor

Nine states ban electronic smoking devices in the same places smoking is banned. Indiana is not one of those states.

With pleasant flavors like mango, mint and fruit medley juuls entered the market as a "nicotine-free alternative".

Now, the small USB-looking devices have found themselves hidden in the hands of students. Maty Nelson, senior has seen other students vaping throughout the school.

"I feel like people are trying to seem cool like 'Oh, I have a juul and I'm smoking it in school, look how devious I can be,'" Maty said.

Outside of school, Maty has seen a rise in popularity of juuls

While many alternative nicotine products brand themselves as different than cigarettes, inside the walls of school e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes are the same. Student caught with either products face the same consequences.

Morgan Hannenbergh, senior, has vaped before, but she does not understand why students are compelled to do it in school.

"I think it's disrespectful, like 'You can't wait eight hours to do it out of school?'" Morgan said.

While many seniors like Morgan are currently 18 and able to buy and use products like juuls, that may not last forever.

Last month, a panel of Indiana legislators approved moving the smoking age to 21. There are still a host of legal process that must take place before this becomes law but the legislation is being discussed.

"Probably the toughest thing with schools right now is some of our seniors are 18 they are able to buy or purchase tobacco products and juuls and that stuff," Mr. Morgan Nolan, assistant principal, said. "Then they bring them into school and pass them off to their 17-year-old or 16-year-old or 15-year-old friends. (The new law) would help create a buffer zone there."

According to the CDC, with 99 percent of smokers starting before reaching age 26. These alternative sources of nicotine just creating a new generation of smokers.

"I think it's gained steam in the youth culture as cigarettes kind of became a taboo thing," Mr. Nolan said.

In the past 20, years there has

been a decrease in cigarette use among teens, according to Mr. Nolan.

"Most recently in the last five years, the vaping it's become more popular," Mr. Nolan said. "Why? I think students, one, think its a safe alternative to smoking. I think most people understand the addictiveness, the side effects, the risk of cancer, some kids don't like the smell and all those things and it doesn't have that."

While alternative nicotine products like juuls or vapes do not carry the same negative stigma as cigarettes, the long term effects on the student's body are still unknown.

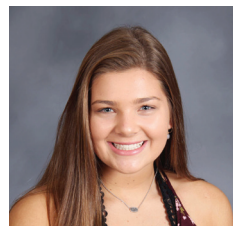
These devices are new technology whose long term effects on a population has never been tested.

Maty is aware that the effects of the trend which largely appeared from thin air, according to her, will not be known for years into the future; however, her peers still use the devices.

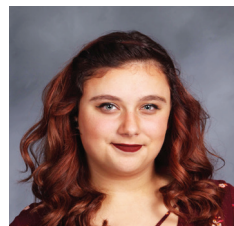
"It seemed to spring up all of a sudden. I didn't see a gradual rise of popularity," Maty said. "We're not going to start seeing the real effects until like ten years from now and that's when everyone will be regretting it."

BACKTALK

The creator of Vine announced that Vine 2 (V2) will debut by this summer. What is your favorite Vine?



"Kemmincollin come in here and get y'all juice."



"Two bros chillin' in a hot tub, five feet apart 'cause they're not gay!"

Savannah Kunas, freshman

Arielle Shoriak, freshman



"You almost made me drop my croissant."



"Hi my name is Trey, I have a basketball game tomorrow. I play point guard. I got shoe game."

James Shelton, sophomore

Annie Foreit, sophomore



"Welcome to my kitchen... We have bannanis and avocadis."



"It the fourth of July, I'm about to pop these firecrackers, don't pop 'em on me. Where da police at?"
Alyse Lepir, junior

Nicole Baginski, sophomore



"Girl, you thicker than a bowl of oatmeal."



"Say Colorado. I'm a giraffe."

Rachel Lyons, junior

Matt Tripenfeldas, junior



"Sugar sugar water mix mix like this. Do a little twist, it's all in the wrist. Man its hot outside, we can find no shade, step up in my house I know you thirsty, but please don't touch my Kool-aid."
Gregory Hester, senior



"Can I get a waffle? Can I please get a waffle?"
Abby Rivera, senior