**[Teens who vape are more likely to pick up cigarettes](http://nypost.com/2016/06/13/teens-who-vape-are-more-likely-to-pick-up-cigarettes/)**

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Teens who puff electronic cigarettes are six times more likely to graduate to traditional butts, compared to those who never vape, a new study revealed on Monday.

Researchers from the University of Southern California interviewed about 300 area high school juniors and seniors in 2014 and 2015, and found that in the 16 months between interviews, 40 percent of e-cig users had moved on to regular cigarettes.

“We can’t definitively conclude the e-cigarettes cause kids to smoke cigarettes,” University of Southern California researcher Jessica Barrington-Trimis wrote in the journal Pediatrics. But , “those who had used e-cigarettes at baseline were substantially more likely to begin smoking cigarettes.”

For those said they didn’t try an e-cig in the previous year study, the figure was 11 percent.

“We’re concerned that kids who experiment with e-cigarettes may be moving on to other types of tobacco products, like combustible cigarettes, which are arguably a lot more dangerous,” Barrington-Trimis writing in the journal Pediatrics.

Even if the hazards of e-cigs are not completely known, it’s connection to real cigarettes should be alarming, researchers said.

“The health hazards of e-cigarettes are not yet well studied, although the adverse health effects of nicotine, including neonatal, neurodevelopmental, and carcinogenic effects, are well established,” according to the study.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said cigarette smoking among high school students dropped to 11 percent– the lowest levels since its National Youth Risk Behavior Survey began in 1991, when the number was 28 percent.

But the CDC also found that 24 percent of high schoolers smoked “electronic vapor products” including e-cigs in the past 30 days.

And from 2013 to 2014, e-cig use among middle and high school students tripled, the agency said.