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### Associations of risk factors of e-cigarette and cigarette use and susceptibility to use among baseline PATH study youth participants (2013–2014)

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## Associations of risk factors of e-cigarette and cigarette use and susceptibility to use among baseline PATH study youth participants (2013–2014)



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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Dual users had higher odds of reporting traditional risk factors for smoking, followed by single product users.
- Youth susceptible to both products had stronger associations with risk factors than those susceptible to one product.
- Between Wave 1 and 2, compared to continued non-users, a significantly higher proportion of new users reported being older, ever using marijuana and alcohol, having more internalizing, externalizing, and sensation seeking behaviors, having lower grades, and having someone in the household who uses tobacco.

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Keywords:

E-cigarettes  
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Susceptibility

### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Improved understanding of the distribution of traditional risk factors of cigarette smoking among youth who have ever used or are susceptible to e-cigarettes and cigarettes will inform future longitudinal studies examining transitions in use.

**Methods:** Multiple logistic regression analysis was conducted using data from youth (ages 12–17 years) who had ever heard of e-cigarettes at baseline of the PATH Study ( $n = 12,460$ ) to compare the distribution of risk factors for cigarette smoking among seven mutually exclusive groups based on ever cigarette/e-cigarette use and susceptibility status.

**Results:** Compared to committed never users, youth susceptible to e-cigarettes, cigarettes, or both had increasing odds of risk factors for cigarette smoking, with those susceptible to both products at highest risk, followed by cigarettes and e-cigarettes. Compared to e-cigarette only users, dual users had higher odds of nearly all risk factors (aOR range = 1.6–6.8) and cigarette only smokers had higher odds of other (non-e-cigarette) tobacco use (aOR range = 1.5–2.3), marijuana use (aOR = 1.9, 95%CI = 1.4–2.5), a high GAIN substance use score (aOR = 1.9, 95%CI = 1.1–3.4), low academic achievement (aOR range = 1.6–3.4), and exposure to smoking (aOR range = 1.8–2.1). No differences were observed for externalizing factors (depression, anxiety, etc.), sensation seeking, or household use of non-cigarette tobacco.

**Conclusions:** Among ever cigarette and e-cigarette users, dual users had higher odds of reporting traditional risk

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factors for smoking, followed by single product cigarette smokers and e-cigarette users. Understanding how e-cigarette and cigarette users differ may inform youth tobacco use prevention efforts and advise future studies assessing probability of progression of cigarette and e-cigarette use.

## 1. Background

In the United States (U.S.), the prevalence of e-cigarette use among youth dramatically increased from 2011 to 2016, with e-cigarettes becoming the most commonly used tobacco product. (Jamal, Gentzke, Hu, et al., 2017; Miech, Johnston, O'Malley, Bachman, & Schulenberg, 2016) Concurrently, youth cigarette smoking declined to historic lows. (Jamal et al., 2017; Miech et al., 2016) The trends of increased e-cigarette use and declining smoking could indicate that youth at risk for tobacco use are replacing cigarettes with e-cigarettes; (Kozlowski & Warner, 2017) however, it is also possible that youth who otherwise might have never smoked conventional cigarettes are trying e-cigarettes. (Barrington-Trimis, Berhane, Unger, et al., 2015; Soneji, Barrington-Trimis, Wills, et al., 2017; Soneji, Sung, Primack, Pierce, & Sargent, 2018; Wills et al., 2017) The 2018 National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine Report summarized three hypotheses explaining the relationship between youth e-cigarette use and cigarette smoking: (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2018) 1) the diversion hypothesis suggests that high-risk youth with a proclivity for risk-taking behavior who might otherwise smoke cigarettes now use e-cigarettes instead; 2) the common liability hypothesis suggests that positive associations between e-cigarette use and cigarette smoking are due to shared risk factors; and 3) the catalyst hypothesis suggests that low-risk youth, who would otherwise not be susceptible to cigarette smoking, are drawn to e-cigarette use, which in turn increases proclivity for cigarette smoking. As a foundational first step in testing these hypotheses, a comprehensive baseline assessment of how traditional risk factors for cigarette smoking apply to youth who have ever used, or are susceptible to e-cigarette use, provides evidence of the feasibility of these theories. For instance, similar baseline risk profiles between e-cigarette and cigarette users could support the notion of shared vulnerability driving product use.

PATH data (Waves 1 and 2) has demonstrated that susceptibility to e-cigarettes and cigarettes predicts use one year later. (Pierce, Sargent, White, et al., 2017) however, information on the role individual risk factors play in the pathway between susceptibility and use is limited. Analyses of baseline PATH data suggests that minority youth have greater susceptibility to e-cigarettes and that most youth ever users of e-cigarettes are susceptible to cigarettes. (Hampson, Andrews, Severson, & Barkley, 2015) A study of youth susceptible to e-cigarettes suggested that psychological problems, rebelliousness, other substance use, and household exposure to smoking are determinants of e-cigarette use susceptibility. (Kwon, Seo, Lin, & Chen, 2018) Additionally, studies have documented similarities and differences in risk factors associated with e-cigarette and cigarette use. (Barrington-Trimis et al., 2015; Wills, Knight, Williams, Pagano, & Sargent, 2015) E-cigarette use and cigarette smoking may be associated with similar psychosocial factors such as: use among friends, use among people at home, friends' attitudes, sensation seeking, substance use, and internalizing/externalizing behaviors; (Barrington-Trimis et al., 2015; Wills et al., 2015) however, both e-cigarette and cigarette single product users may have fewer risk factors compared to those who report using both products (i.e., dual users). (Barrington-Trimis et al., 2015; Leventhal, Strong, Sussman, et al., 2016; Wills et al., 2015) For example, a study of 9th and 10th graders in Hawaii found e-cigarette only users were distinct from non-users, but similar to cigarette only smokers, although e-cigarette users consistently had lower risk status compared to dual users. (Wills et al., 2015; Wills et al., 2017)

Using baseline youth data from the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study, this study provides a detailed

description of the distribution of traditional risk factors for cigarette smoking, comparing seven mutually exclusive groups based on cigarette smoking, e-cigarette use, and susceptibility status. This manuscript differs from previous work examining susceptibility and risk factors of smoking by presenting a wider range of factors specific to cigarette smokers alongside e-cigarette users, and explores how risk factors differ between susceptibility and ever use groups. By providing a comprehensive characterization of traditional risk factors for smoking among youth who at baseline exhibited susceptibility or ever use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes or both, this analysis provides a descriptive foundation from which future PATH use trajectory analyses can build from (whether assessing risk for progression among ever users or initiation among susceptibles). Lastly, to further describe youth e-cigarette users, we assessed lifetime history of use, frequency of e-cigarette use, and reasons for use among youth past 30-day e-cigarette users at study baseline.

## 2. Methods

The study population for this analysis includes 12,460 youth (ages 12–17 years) who reported having ever heard of e-cigarettes out of a total of 13,651 PATH Study Wave 1 (September 2013–December 2014) youth participants (N = 11,978 for Wave 1 to Wave 2 analysis). In the survey instrument, youth who had not heard of e-cigarettes were skipped out of questions pertaining to ever use and susceptibility, so they could not be classified for this analysis. Detailed sampling and study methodology have been published elsewhere. (Hyland, Ambrose, Conway, et al., 2017; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services et al., 2017) The PATH Study is a nationally representative household-based longitudinal study sponsored by the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Drug Abuse and the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Tobacco Products and implemented by Westat. The PATH Study utilizes Audio-Computer Assisted Self-Interviews (ACASI) available in English and Spanish to collect information on tobacco use patterns and associated behaviors on youth and parent use of tobacco products, and provides images, text descriptors, and brand examples to aid in product recognition. The weighted response rate for the household screener was 54%, and among households completing the screener, the youth weighted response rate in Wave 1 was 78.4%. Weighting procedures further adjust for nonresponse. Parents/guardians provided consent and youth assented to study participation. Westat's Institutional Review Board approved the study design and protocol and the Office of Management and Budget approved the data collection.

### 2.1. Measures

#### 2.1.1. E-cigarette susceptibility and use

Youth respondents who had heard of e-cigarettes were asked if they had ever used e-cigarettes, even one or two times. Susceptibility to future use was assessed among never users who reported having heard of the product using a three-item enhanced susceptibility scale: (Pierce et al., 2017; Pierce, Choi, Gilpin, Farkas, & Merritt, 1996) “Have you ever been curious about using e-cigarettes?” (response options: *very curious*; *somewhat curious*; *a little curious*; *not at all curious*); “Do you think you will try an e-cigarette soon?” and “If one of your best friends were to offer you an e-cigarette, would you use it?” (response options for both: *definitely yes*; *probably yes*; *probably not*; *definitely not*). Responses signifying the strongest rejection (not at all curious/definitely not) on all three measures were considered committed never users;

respondents with a combination of missing information and responses other than the strongest rejection of the three susceptibility responses were classified as susceptible. Respondents with a combination of the strongest rejection plus missing information were classified as missing.

### 2.1.2. Cigarette smoking susceptibility and use

All respondents were asked whether they had ever smoked a cigarette, even one or two times. Susceptibility to future cigarette smoking was assessed among never smokers utilizing three items. Two of the items were identical to those asked for e-cigarettes: “Have you ever been curious about using cigarettes?” and “If one of your best friends were to offer you a cigarette, would you use it?” (Pierce et al., 2017) The third question for cigarettes was: “Do you think you will smoke a cigarette in the next year? (response options: *definitely yes*; *probably yes*; *probably not*; *definitely not*). (Pierce et al., 2017) Responses signifying other than the strongest rejection (not at all curious/definitely not) on all three measures were considered susceptible to future cigarette smoking; missing responses were handled similarly to e-cigarette susceptibility.

### 2.1.3. Definitions of e-cigarette and cigarette susceptibility and ever use

Based on the criteria above, respondents were classified into one of seven mutually exclusive groups: 1) not susceptible to and have never tried e-cigarettes or cigarettes (*committed never users*), 2) never users susceptible to e-cigarettes, but not cigarettes (*susceptible to e-cigarettes only*), 3) never users susceptible to cigarettes, but not e-cigarettes (*susceptible to cigarettes only*), 4) never users susceptible to both e-cigarettes and cigarettes (*susceptible to e-cigarettes and cigarettes*), 5) ever e-cigarette users who have never tried cigarettes (*e-cigarette only users*), 6) ever cigarette smokers who have never tried e-cigarettes (*cigarette only users*), and 7) dual e-cigarette and cigarette ever users/smokers (*dual users*). Other tobacco use was not taken into consideration in creating these groups.

### 2.1.4. Past 30-day e-cigarette and cigarette use

To further characterize e-cigarette use among youth at baseline, patterns of e-cigarette use among those who had ever heard of e-cigarettes and reported use in the past 30-days were explored. Detailed patterns of current e-cigarette use including duration of use, frequency of use, and use of flavors were compared among: (1) current e-cigarette only users; (2) current e-cigarette and ever cigarette users (who may also have used other products); (3) and current e-cigarette users and ever users of at least one other non-cigarette tobacco product (including: traditional cigars, cigarillos, filtered cigars, snus pouches, smokeless, hookah, pipe, dissolvables, bidis, or kreteks). Additionally, past 30-day e-cigarette users who reported having used a lifetime equivalent of at least one disposable e-cigarette or cartridge and had used an e-cigarette in the past 30 days were asked about their reasons for use, stratified by cigarette smoking status.

### 2.1.5. Known risk factors for cigarette smoking

Covariates for analysis were selected based on known risk factors for youth cigarette smoking. (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2018; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016; Conway et al., 2018) Demographic variables included age, sex, and race/ethnicity. Missing data on demographics and education were imputed as described in the PATH Study Restricted Use Files User Guide. Household exposure to tobacco use was explored by assessing cigarette smoking and tobacco use among household members, as well as any exposure to others smoking within the past seven days. Ever use of marijuana and alcohol were assessed. Internalizing factors (depression, anxiety, distress, and trouble sleeping) and externalizing factors (having a hard time paying attention, having a hard time listening to directions, lying to get what you want, bullied or threatened others, started a physical fight, felt restless, and answered before the other person finished asking the question) were also assessed. Severity of

substance abuse symptoms, internalizing, and externalizing disorders were assessed using subscales of the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Short Screener (GAIN-SS) (Dennis et al., 2006). Problems experienced within the past year were tallied and dichotomized by severity, with four or more problems reported in the past year categorized as a high substance use, internalizing, and externalizing disorder score. Sensation-seeking was assessed via three modified items from the Brief Sensation Seeking Scale: 1) “I like to do frightening things”, 2) “I like new and exciting experiences even if I have to break the rules”, and 3) “I prefer friends who are exciting and unpredictable” (Hoyle et al., 2002). Response options ranged from strongly disagree (0) to strongly agree (4) and were summed to create an overall score (range: 0–12), which was dichotomized at the upper quartile for analysis (score  $\geq 6$  indicated high sensation seeking). The Brief Sensation Seeking Scale was found to be internally consistent in the PATH Study (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.76$ ). Parent-reported past-year academic achievement was categorized into four grade levels: mostly A's or A's and B's; mostly B's or B's and C's; mostly C's or C's and D's; or lower.

## 2.2. Statistical analysis

Analyses were conducted using SAS 9.4, utilizing replicate weights and balanced repeated replication to account for the PATH Study's complex survey design. At baseline, descriptive statistics were used to explore the distribution of known risk factors by susceptibility and ever use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes. Multinomial logistic regression, adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, and sex, was used to evaluate associations between known risk factors for cigarette smoking and susceptibility to or ever use of e-cigarettes and cigarettes. In the first model, those susceptible to e-cigarettes only, cigarettes only, or both products were compared to committed never users. In the second model, committed never users, cigarette only smokers, and dual users were compared to e-cigarette only users. Characteristics and patterns of e-cigarette use in the past 30-days, in addition to reasons for use, were then examined by current tobacco use status. Lastly, we explored the distribution of known risk factors among youth who were never tobacco users at baseline (Wave 1) who either continued to be never users or became new users of e-cigarettes only, cigarettes only, or both products at follow-up (Wave 2). Rao-Scott chi-squares were used to test for significant differences where appropriate.

## 3. Results

Among all youth at PATH Study Wave 1, 91.4% ( $n = 12,460$ ) had heard of e-cigarettes (all percentages are weighted; all n's are unweighted). Of these, 81.4% were non-users of e-cigarettes or cigarettes, with 46.0% committed never users ( $n = 5701$ ), 7.2% susceptible to e-cigarettes ( $n = 894$ ), 10.1% susceptible to cigarettes ( $n = 1263$ ), and 18.1% susceptible to both e-cigarettes and cigarettes ( $n = 2276$ ). Additionally, 18.5% of youth were ever users of either product, with 3.9% e-cigarette only users ( $n = 488$ ), 6.9% cigarette only smokers ( $n = 875$ ), and 7.7% dual users ( $n = 963$ ). Detailed information on the distribution of demographic, behavioral, and psychosocial characteristics is presented in Supplemental Table 1.

### 3.1. Risk factors and susceptibility to e-cigarettes, cigarettes, or both products

Committed never users had the lowest percentage of youth reporting all risk factors (Supplemental Table 1). Compared to committed never users, those susceptible to e-cigarettes only, cigarettes only, or both products had significantly higher odds of each risk factor assessed after controlling for age, race/ethnicity, and sex (Table 1). In many instances, the magnitude of the observed associations was similar between those susceptible to e-cigarettes only and cigarettes only compared to committed never users, and larger for those susceptible to both

**Table 1**Multinomial logistic regression of demographic and psychosocial correlates related to tobacco use by susceptibility to cigarettes and e-cigarettes—PATH Study Wave 1 Data (2013–2014).<sup>1</sup>

	Non-Users (N = 10,134)							
	Committed Never Users: Cigarettes and E-cigarettes <sup>2</sup> n = 5701		Susceptible to E-cigarettes <sup>3</sup> n = 894		Susceptible to Cigarettes <sup>3</sup> n = 1263		Susceptible to E-cigarettes + Cigarettes <sup>3</sup> n = 2276	
	n (%) [95% CI]		n (%) [95% CI]	aOR [95% CI] <sup>3</sup>	n (%) [95% CI]	aOR [95% CI] <sup>3</sup>	n (%) [95% CI]	aOR [95% CI] <sup>3</sup>
<b>Other Tobacco Use</b>								
Ever non-cigarette combustible tobacco use <sup>4</sup>	117 (2.1%) [1.8–2.6]	REF	69 (8.7%) [6.8–11.1]	<b>3.7</b> (2.7–5.2)**	72 (6.5%) [5.1–8.2]	<b>2.9</b> (2.1–4.1)**	160 (7.5%) [6.3–8.8]	<b>3.1</b> (2.5–3.9)**
Ever smokeless tobacco use <sup>5</sup> (excluding E-cigarettes)	47 (0.9%) [0.6–1.2]	REF	— <sup>†</sup>	1.6 (0.7–3.3)	15 (1.4%) [0.8–2.2]	<b>1.8</b> (1.0–3.1)*	62 (3.1%) [2.3–4.0]	<b>3.4</b> (2.3–5.1)**
<b>Other Substance Use</b>								
Ever use of marijuana <sup>5</sup>	152 (2.8%) [2.3–3.3]	REF	73 (9.0%) [7.3–11.2]	<b>3.0</b> (2.2–4.0)**	85 (7.3%) [5.8–9.2]	<b>2.6</b> (1.9–3.5)**	212 (10.1%) [8.9–11.5]	<b>3.3</b> (2.6–4.3)**
Ever alcohol use <sup>7</sup>	437 (8.4%) [7.5–9.3]	REF	150 (19.2%) [16.5–22.4]	<b>2.5</b> (2.0–3.1)**	212 (18.9%) [16.7–21.2]	<b>2.6</b> (2.2–3.1)**	572 (28.1%) [25.9–30.4]	<b>4.1</b> (3.4–4.9)**
<b>Psychosocial Factors</b>								
High GAIN Substance Use Scale score <sup>8</sup>	13 (0.2%) [0.1–0.4]	REF	— <sup>†</sup>	3.2 (1.0–10.5)	— <sup>†</sup>	<b>2.9</b> (1.0–8.0)*	23 (1.1%) [0.7–1.6]	<b>4.3</b> (2.0–8.9)**
High GAIN Internalizing Scale score <sup>9</sup>	794 (15.4%) [14.2–16.7]	REF	177 (21.7%) [18.7–24.9]	<b>1.5</b> (1.3–1.9)**	252 (22.7%) [20.0–25.6]	<b>1.5</b> (1.3–1.9)**	673 (33.6%) [31.3–35.9]	<b>2.8</b> (2.4–3.2)**
High GAIN Externalizing Scale score <sup>10</sup>	1186 (23.3%) [22.0–24.6]	REF	299 (37.0%) [33.7–40.4]	<b>2.0</b> (1.7–2.3)**	414 (37.6%) [34.7–40.7]	<b>2.0</b> (1.7–2.3)**	957 (48.9%) [46.7–51.1]	<b>3.2</b> (2.9–3.6)**
High Sensation Seeking score <sup>11</sup>	1523 (29.2%) [27.8–30.8]	REF	366 (45.1%) [41.3–49.0]	<b>1.9</b> (1.6–2.3)**	516 (44.5%) [41.4–47.6]	<b>2.0</b> (1.7–2.2)**	1179 (57.7%) [55.5–59.9]	<b>3.2</b> (2.8–3.6)**
<b>Academic Achievement<sup>12</sup></b>								
Mostly B's or B's and C's compared to Mostly A's or A's and B's	1304 (23.7%) [22.4–25.1]	REF	242 (28.8%) [25.8–32.0]	<b>1.3</b> (1.1–1.5)**	306 (25.3%) [22.7–28.0]	1.1 (0.9–1.4)	603 (28.8%) [26.5–31.3]	<b>1.4</b> (1.2–1.6)**
Mostly C's or C's and D's compared to Mostly A's or A's and B's	379 (6.6%) [5.9–7.5]	REF	80 (9.2%) [7.4–11.4]	<b>1.5</b> (1.1–2.0)*	107 (8.7%) [7.2–10.5]	<b>1.4</b> (1.1–1.8)*	224 (10.1%) [8.9–11.5]	<b>1.8</b> (1.5–2.2)**
Mostly D's or D's and F's or mostly F's compared to Mostly A's or A's and B's	71 (1.2%) [0.9–1.7]	REF	16 (1.8%) [1.1–3.0]	1.5 (0.8–2.8)	23 (1.8%) [1.2–2.8]	1.6 (1.0–2.6)	49 (2.3%) [1.7–3.0]	<b>2.0</b> (1.3–3.1)*
<b>Household Tobacco Use</b>								
Household member smokes cigarettes (in addition to other forms of tobacco) <sup>13</sup> compared to no household use of any form of tobacco	1297 (22.9%) [21.1–24.9]	REF	239 (27.8%) [24.9–31.0]	<b>1.4</b> (1.2–1.6)**	319 (25.8%) [23.1–28.8]	<b>1.3</b> (1.1–1.6)*	596 (27.5%) [24.7–30.5]	<b>1.4</b> (1.2–1.6)**
Household member uses some other form of tobacco (without cigarettes) <sup>13</sup> compared to no household use of any form of tobacco	317 (6.3%) [5.5–7.2]	REF	62 (8.0%) [6.3–10.1]	<b>1.5</b> (1.1–1.9)*	85 (7.6%) [5.9–9.6]	1.4 (1.0–1.9)	181 (9.1%) [7.7–10.7]	<b>1.7</b> (1.3–2.1)**
Any exposure to others smoking within the past 7 days <sup>14</sup>	1608 (30.2%) [28.7–31.8]	REF	349 (43.8%) [40.2–47.6]	<b>1.8</b> (1.5–2.1)**	447 (37.5%) [34.6–40.6]	<b>1.4</b> (1.2–1.6)**	966 (47.6%) [45.3–49.9]	<b>2.1</b> (1.9–2.4)**

Estimates in bold are statistically significantly different, \* indicates  $p < 0.05$  and \*\* indicates  $p < 0.001$ ; <sup>†</sup> Estimate not presented because relative standard error  $\geq 30\%$  or denominator  $< 50$ .

<sup>1</sup> Covariates included in the multinomial logistic models include age, treated as a continuous variable; sex, treated dichotomously (male or female); race, categorized as white race alone, black race alone, Asian race alone, or other race, including multiracial; and Hispanic ethnicity, categorized as Hispanic or non-Hispanic.

<sup>2</sup> A total of 353 committed never users of cigarettes and e-cigarettes had missing covariates (i.e., age, sex, race, or ethnicity) and were dropped from the model.

<sup>3</sup> A total of 70 susceptible to e-cigarettes, 103 susceptible to cigarettes, and 205 susceptible to both cigarettes and e-cigarette users had missing covariates and were dropped from the model. Susceptibility to products other than e-cigarettes or cigarettes was not assessed.

<sup>4</sup> Youth who reported ever smoking a traditional cigar, cigarillo, or filtered cigar, even one or two times; ever smoking a pipe filled with tobacco, even one or two puffs; ever smoking tobacco in a hookah, even one or two puffs; or having tried a bidi or kretek, even one or two times were classified as ever non-cigarette combustible product users. A combination of missing data and “no’s” to any of the products included in this variable were counted as missing (n = 10).

<sup>5</sup> Youth who reported ever having used snus pouches, loose snus, moist snuff, dip, spit or chewing tobacco, or dissolvable tobacco products (such as Ariva, Stonewall or Camel Orbs, Sticks or Strips), even one or two times were classified as ever smokeless tobacco product users. A combination of missing data and “no’s” to any of the products included in this variable (i.e., YS1002\_01, YS1002\_02, YU1003, and YD1002) were counted as missing (n = 89).

<sup>6</sup> Youth were asked “Have you ever used marijuana, hash, THC, grass, pot or weed? (Yes/No)”, unless they had previously reported having ever smoked part or all of a cigar, cigarillo, or filtered cigar with marijuana in it. Affirmative responses to either question classified as an ever marijuana user (n = 35 missing).

<sup>7</sup> All youth were asked “Have you ever used alcohol at all, including sips of someone's drink or your own drink?” (Yes/No). Those that answered affirmatively were asked “About how old were you when you had your first alcoholic drink, other than small tastes or sips?” Those indicating that “I have never had an alcoholic drink other than small tastes or sips” were reclassified as never users for the purpose of this analysis. Those who did not know or refused to answer: 1) if they had ever used alcohol at all, or 2) the age when they first had an alcoholic drink were excluded from this variable (n = 49 missing).

<sup>8</sup> The GAIN-SS Substance Use subscale consists of seven items: (1) used alcohol or other drugs weekly or more often; (2) spent a lot of time getting alcohol or other drugs; (3) spent a lot of time using or recovering from alcohol or other drugs; (4) kept using alcohol or other drugs, even though it was causing social problems, leading to fights, or getting into trouble with other people; (5) use of alcohol or other drugs caused reduced involvement in activities at work, school, home, or social events; (6) withdrawal problems; and (7) use of alcohol or other drugs to stop being sick or avoid withdrawal problems. Youth were asked to report whether they had experienced each problem: within the past month; 2–12 months ago; over a year ago; never; or don't know/refused. Problems experienced within the past year were tallied and dichotomized by severity, with four or more problems reported in the past year categorized as a high score (n = 253 missing; includes those missing

responses for any of the scale items).

<sup>9</sup> The GAIN-SS Internalizing subscale consists of four items, asking about the last time you had significant problems with: (1) feeling very trapped, lonely, sad, blue, depressed, or hopeless about the future; (2) sleep trouble, such as bad dreams, sleeping restlessly, or falling asleep during the day; (3) feeling very anxious, nervous, tense, scared, panicked, or like something bad was going to happen; and (4) becoming very distressed and upset when something reminded you of the past. Youth were asked to report whether they had experienced each problem: within the past month; 2–12 months ago; over a year ago; never; or don't know/refused. Problems experienced within the past year were tallied and dichotomized by severity, with four problems reported in the past year categorized as a high score ( $n = 206$  missing; includes those missing responses for any of the scale items).

<sup>10</sup> The GAIN-SS Externalizing subscale consists of seven items, asking about the last time you did the following two or more times: (1) had a hard time paying attention at school, work, or home; (2) had a hard time listening to instructions at school, work, or home; (3) lied or conned to get things you wanted or to avoid having to do something; (4) were a bully or threatened other people; (5) started physical fights with other people; (6) felt restless or the need to run around or climb on things; and (7) gave answers before the other person finished asking the question. Youth were asked to report whether they had experienced each problem: within the past month; 2–12 months ago; over a year ago; never; or don't know/refused. Problems experienced within the past year were tallied and dichotomized by severity, with four or more problems reported in the past year categorized as a high score ( $n = 372$  missing; includes those missing responses for any of the scale items).

<sup>11</sup> Youth were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the following three measures regarding sensation seeking: (1) I like to do frightening things; (2) I like new and exciting experiences, even if I have to break the rules; and (3) I prefer friends who are exciting and unpredictable. Response options for each item were strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree. Responses were scored according to strength of agreement (4, 3, 2, 1, 0), and then summed to create an overall score. Based on the overall distribution of scores, the approximate upper quartile (75%) of six or higher was selected as the cut-off for high levels of sensation seeking. Scores were then dichotomized to indicate high ( $\geq 6$ ) versus low ( $< 6$ ) levels of sensation seeking ( $n = 152$  missing; includes those missing responses for any of the scale items).

<sup>12</sup> Academic achievement:  $n = 83$  missing (including  $n = 38$  where school was ungraded). This item was reported by parents in the parent interview.

<sup>13</sup> All youth were asked “Does anyone who lives with you now do any of the following? Choose all that apply: 1) Smoke cigarettes; 2) Use smokeless tobacco, such as chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, or snus; 3) Smoke cigars, cigarillos, or filtered cigars; 4) Use any other form of tobacco; 5) No one who lives with me now uses any form of tobacco; 6) Don't know/refused. Responses were categorized as no household use of any form of tobacco (option 5), household member smokes cigarettes (in addition to other forms of tobacco) (option 1), or household member uses some other form of tobacco (without cigarettes) (options 2, 3, or 4, and not 1) ( $n = 66$  missing).

<sup>14</sup> All youth were asked “During the past seven days, about how many hours were you around others who were smoking [whether or not you were smoking yourself]? Include time in your home, in a car, at school, or outdoors.” All responding with a value of  $> 0$  h were classified as exposed to others smoking in the past seven days ( $n = 251$  missing).

products compared to those susceptible to one (Table 1). For example, compared to committed never users, those susceptible to either e-cigarettes or cigarettes had approximately two and a half times the odds of ever trying alcohol (aOR e-cigarettes = 2.5, 95% CI = 2.0–3.1) (aOR cigarettes = 2.6, 95% CI = 2.2–3.1), whereas those susceptible to both had approximately four times the odds of ever trying alcohol (aOR = 4.1, 95% CI = 3.4–4.9) compared with committed never users.

### 3.2. Risk factors and ever use of e-cigarettes, cigarettes, or both products

Compared to e-cigarette only users, committed never users had lower odds of each risk factor after controlling for age, race/ethnicity, and sex (Table 2). Between the ever use groups, differences and similarities were observed and, for some factors, a risk gradient emerged. For example, compared to ever e-cigarette only users, ever cigarette only smokers had twice the odds of ever using marijuana (aOR = 1.9, 95% CI = 1.4–2.5); the association was even stronger for dual users (aOR = 5.5, 95% CI = 4.0–7.5). Similar results were seen for the GAIN Substance Use scale; compared to ever e-cigarette only users, ever cigarette only smokers (aOR = 1.9, 95% CI = 1.1–3.4) and dual users (aOR = 5.7, 95% CI = 3.5–9.3) had increased odds of having high scores.

Similarities were seen between ever e-cigarette only and cigarette only users on GAIN Internalizing scale scores and alcohol use, although dual users had increased odds of both risk factors, a finding that remained after controlling for age, race/ethnicity, and sex (Table 2). Specifically, for GAIN Internalizing, no difference was seen between ever cigarette only smokers and e-cigarette users, but dual users had slightly higher odds of high GAIN Internalizing scores (aOR = 1.6, 95% CI = 1.2–2.0) than ever e-cigarette users. Similar results were seen between ever cigarette only smokers and e-cigarette users, but dual users had higher odds of alcohol use than ever e-cigarette only users (aOR = 1.8, 95% CI = 1.4–2.4). No differences were seen between ever e-cigarette only, cigarette only, and dual users for low academic achievement, high GAIN Externalizing scores, and high sensation seeking scores, which persisted after adjusting for age, race/ethnicity,

and sex.

Lastly, we examined the distribution of risk factors among never tobacco users at Wave 1 who were new e-cigarette, cigarette, or dual users at Wave 2 (Supplemental Table 3). Among new users at Wave 2, the percent reporting each risk factor at Wave 1 were similar, as demonstrated by overlapping confidence intervals; however, there were significant differences in the proportion reporting each risk factor comparing continued never users and all new users. New users of either or both products were generally older, had ever used marijuana, had a high score for internalizing factors, externalizing factors, and sensation seeking, had lower academic achievement, were exposed to smoking or other tobacco use in the household, or had been exposed to smoking in the last 7 days. A higher proportion of Hispanic youth and youth reporting ever alcohol use were new cigarette smokers compared to e-cigarette only users.

### 3.3. Patterns of e-cigarette use in past 30 days and reasons for use by smoking status

Table 3 presents information for past 30-day e-cigarette use overall and by other tobacco use status (past 30-day: e-cigarette only use, e-cigarette and cigarette use [may have used other products], and e-cigarette and other [non-cigarette] tobacco product use). Among the 3.0% of past 30-day youth e-cigarette users ( $n = 398$ ), 37.0% used e-cigarettes only in the past 30 days, 45.1% used e-cigarettes and cigarettes, and 17.8% used e-cigarettes and at least one non-cigarette tobacco product. Frequency of past 30-day e-cigarette use was generally low, with 73.4% having used on five or fewer days. There were no differences in frequency of e-cigarette use by other tobacco use status. Among past 30-day e-cigarette and cigarette users, 40.8% smoked cigarettes 1–5 days and 39.6% smoked 20 or more days in past month. Furthermore, about half (50.6%) of past 30-day e-cigarette users (including users of additional products) started in the last year, but when stratified by other tobacco use status, 62.2% e-cigarette only users started in the last year compared to only 39.2% of dual e-cigarette and cigarette users.

**Table 2**  
Multinomial logistic regression of demographic and psychosocial correlates related to tobacco use by ever use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes—PATH Study Wave 1 Data (2013–2014).<sup>1</sup>

	Committed Never Users: Cigarettes and E-cigarettes <sup>2</sup> (n = 5701)		Ever Product Users (n = 2326)					
	n (%)	aOR [95% CI]	n (%)	Ever E-cigarette Only Users (no Cigarette Smoking) <sup>3</sup> (n = 488)	Ever Cigarette Only Smokers (No E-cigarette Use) <sup>3</sup> (n = 875)	Ever Dual E-cigarette and Cigarette Users <sup>3</sup> (n = 963)		
				n (%)	aOR [95% CI]	n (%)	aOR [95% CI]	
<b>Other Tobacco Use</b>								
Ever non-cigarette combustible tobacco use <sup>4</sup>	117 (2.1%) [1.8–2.6]	<b>0.06</b> <b>(0.05–0.08)**</b>	148 (32.9%) [28.1–38.0]	REF	340 (41.8%) [37.9–45.7]	<b>1.5</b> <b>(1.1–2.0)*</b>	670 (72.6%) [69.4–75.6]	<b>5.4</b> <b>(4.0–7.2)**</b>
Ever smokeless tobacco use <sup>5</sup> (excluding E-cigarettes)	47 (0.9%) [0.6–1.2]	<b>0.10</b> <b>(0.06–0.15)**</b>	39 (9.3%) [6.8–12.6]	REF	135 (16.7%) [14.3–19.4]	<b>2.3</b> <b>(1.5–3.3)**</b>	310 (34.5%) [30.5–38.8]	<b>4.9</b> <b>(3.2–7.5)**</b>
<b>Other Substance Use</b>								
Ever use of marijuana <sup>6</sup>	152 (2.8%) [2.3–3.3]	<b>0.08</b> <b>(0.06–0.11)**</b>	142 (32.0%) [27.9–36.5]	REF	394 (47.6%) [43.3–52.0]	<b>1.9</b> <b>(1.4–2.5)**</b>	656 (71.4%) [67.9–74.7]	<b>5.5</b> <b>(4.0–7.5)**</b>
Ever alcohol use <sup>7</sup>	437 (8.4%) [7.5–9.3]	<b>0.10</b> <b>(0.08–0.12)**</b>	233 (52.7%) [48.0–57.4]	REF	462 (56.6%) [52.7–60.5]	1.0 (0.8–1.4)	643 (71.3%) [68.2–74.3]	<b>1.8</b> <b>(1.4–2.4)**</b>
<b>Psychosocial Factors</b>								
High GAIN Substance Use Scale score <sup>8</sup>	13 (0.2%) [0.1–0.4]	<b>0.06</b> <b>(0.02–0.12)**</b>	20 (4.1%) [2.6–6.4]	REF	59 (7.8%) [5.9–10.1]	<b>1.9</b> <b>(1.1–3.4)*</b>	168 (18.9%) [16.1–22.0]	<b>5.7</b> <b>(3.5–9.3)**</b>
High GAIN Internalizing Scale score <sup>9</sup>	794 (15.4%) [14.2–16.7]	<b>0.39</b> <b>(0.31–0.49)**</b>	141 (30.9%) [26.8–35.3]	REF	315 (39.0%) [35.2–43.0]	1.3 (1.0–1.7)	375 (41.6%) [38.2–45.0]	<b>1.6</b> <b>(1.2–2.0)**</b>
High GAIN Externalizing Scale score <sup>10</sup>	1186 (23.3%) [22.0–24.6]	<b>0.32</b> <b>(0.26–0.40)**</b>	212 (47.7%) [42.6–52.8]	REF	373 (47.0%) [43.6–50.5]	1.0 (0.8–1.2)	457 (51.7%) [48.4–55.0]	1.2 (1.0–1.6)
High Sensation Seeking score <sup>11</sup>	1523 (29.2%) [27.8–30.8]	<b>0.24</b> <b>(0.19–0.30)**</b>	296 (66.0%) [60.9–70.6]	REF	484 (60.1%) [55.9–64.2]	0.8 (0.6–1.0)	637 (70.8%) [67.7–73.6]	1.2 (0.9–1.5)
<b>Academic Achievement<sup>12</sup></b>								
Mostly B's or B's and C's compared to Mostly A's or A's and B's	1304 (23.7%) [22.4–25.1]	<b>0.6</b> <b>(0.5–0.8)**</b>	153 (31.9%) [27.6–36.6]	REF	280 (35.6%) [32.2–39.2]	<b>1.6</b> <b>(1.2–2.1)*</b>	326 (36.8%) [33.5–40.4]	<b>2.1</b> <b>(1.5–2.8)**</b>
Mostly C's or C's and D's compared to Mostly A's or A's and B's	379 (6.6%) [5.9–7.5]	<b>0.5</b> <b>(0.3–0.7)**</b>	55 (11.8%) [9.1–15.1]	REF	145 (17.9%) [15.4–20.7]	<b>2.4</b> <b>(1.6–3.5)**</b>	191 (20.9%) [17.7–24.4]	<b>3.4</b> <b>(2.2–5.1)**</b>
Mostly D's or D's and F's or mostly F's compared to Mostly A's or A's and B's	71 (1.2%) [0.9–1.7]	<b>0.5</b> <b>(0.2–1.0)*</b>	— <sup>†</sup>	REF	44 (4.9%) [3.6–6.6]	<b>3.4</b> <b>[1.5–7.5]*</b>	76 (8.2%) [6.6–10.1]	<b>6.8</b> <b>[3.2–14.1]**</b>
<b>Household Tobacco Use</b>								
Household member smokes cigarettes (in addition to other forms of tobacco) <sup>13</sup> compared to no household use of any form of tobacco	1297 (22.9%) [21.1–24.9]	<b>0.5</b> <b>(0.4–0.7)**</b>	154 (31.3%) [26.5–36.4]	REF	412 (48.9%) [44.6–53.1]	<b>2.1</b> <b>(1.7–2.8)**</b>	508 (53.8%) [49.8–57.8]	<b>2.8</b> <b>(2.0–3.8)**</b>
Household member uses some other form of tobacco (without cigarettes) <sup>13</sup> compared to no household use of any form of tobacco	317 (6.3%) [5.5–7.2]	<b>0.4</b> <b>(0.3–0.5)**</b>	54 (12.8%) [9.6–16.8]	REF	82 (10.4%) [8.5–12.6]	1.1 (0.7–1.6)	75 (8.4%) [6.8–10.4]	0.9 (0.6–1.4)
Any exposure to others smoking within the past 7 days <sup>14</sup>	1608 (30.2%) [28.7–31.8]	<b>0.4</b> <b>(0.3–0.4)**</b>	253 (54.3%) [49.7–58.9]	REF	551 (68.1%) [64.8–71.3]	<b>1.8</b> <b>(1.4–2.2)**</b>	739 (82.8%) [79.9–85.4]	<b>4.2</b> <b>(3.2–5.4)**</b>

Estimates in bold are statistically significantly different, \* indicates p < 0.05 and \*\* indicates p < 0.001; <sup>†</sup> Estimate not presented because relative standard error ≥ 30% or denominator < 50.

<sup>1</sup> Covariates included in the multinomial logistic models include age, treated as a continuous variable; sex, treated dichotomously (male or female); race, categorized as white race alone, black race alone, Asian race alone, or other race, including multiracial; and Hispanic ethnicity, categorized as Hispanic or non-Hispanic.

<sup>2</sup> A total of 353 committed never users of cigarettes and e-cigarettes had missing covariates (i.e., age, sex, race, or ethnicity) and were dropped from the model.

<sup>3</sup> A total of 33 ever e-cigarette, no cigarette users, 50 ever cigarette, no e-cigarette users, and 45 ever cigarette and e-cigarette users had missing covariates and were dropped from the model. Use of other tobacco products was not assessed in these groups.

<sup>4</sup> Youth who reported ever smoking a traditional cigar, cigarillo, or filtered cigar, even one or two times; ever smoking a pipe filled with tobacco, even one or two puffs; ever smoking tobacco in a hookah, even one or two puffs; or having tried a bidi or kretek, even one or two times were classified as ever non-cigarette combustible product users. A combination of missing data and “no’s” to any of the products included in this variable were counted as missing (n = 10).

<sup>5</sup> Youth who reported ever having used snus pouches, loose snus, moist snuff, dip, spit or chewing tobacco, or dissolvable tobacco products (such as Ariva, Stonewall or Camel Orbs, Sticks or Strips), even one or two times were classified as ever smokeless tobacco product users. A combination of missing data and “no’s” to any of the products included in this variable (i.e., YS1002\_01, YS1002\_02, YU1003, and YD1002) were counted as missing (n = 89).

<sup>6</sup> Youth were asked “Have you ever used marijuana, hash, THC, grass, pot or weed? (Yes/No)”, unless they had previously reported having ever smoked part or all of a cigar, cigarillo, or filtered cigar with marijuana in it. Affirmative responses to either question classified as an ever marijuana user (n = 35 missing).

<sup>7</sup> All youth were asked “Have you ever used alcohol at all, including sips of someone’s drink or your own drink?” (Yes/No). Those that answered affirmatively were asked “About how old were you when you had your first alcoholic drink, other than small tastes or sips?” Those indicating that “I have never had an alcoholic drink other than small tastes or sips” were reclassified as never users for the purpose of this analysis. Those who did not know or refused to answer: 1) if they had ever used alcohol at all, or 2) the age when they first had an alcoholic drink were excluded from this variable (n = 49 missing).

<sup>8</sup> The GAIN-SS Substance Use subscale consists of seven items: (1) used alcohol or other drugs weekly or more often; (2) spent a lot of time getting alcohol or other drugs; (3) spent a lot of time using or recovering from alcohol or other drugs; (4) kept using alcohol or other drugs, even though it was causing social problems, leading to fights, or getting into trouble with other people; (5) use of alcohol or other drugs caused reduced involvement in activities at work, school, home, or social



events; (6) withdrawal problems; and (7) use of alcohol or other drugs to stop being sick or avoid withdrawal problems. Youth were asked to report whether they had experienced each problem: within the past month; 2–12 months ago; over a year ago; never; or don't know/refused. Problems experienced within the past year were tallied and dichotomized by severity, with four or more problems reported in the past year categorized as a high score ( $n = 253$  missing; includes those missing responses for any of the scale items).

<sup>9</sup> The GAIN-SS Internalizing subscale consists of four items, asking about the last time you had significant problems with: (1) feeling very trapped, lonely, sad, blue, depressed, or hopeless about the future; (2) sleep trouble, such as bad dreams, sleeping restlessly, or falling asleep during the day; (3) feeling very anxious, nervous, tense, scared, panicked, or like something bad was going to happen; and (4) becoming very distressed and upset when something reminded you of the past. Youth were asked to report whether they had experienced each problem: within the past month; 2–12 months ago; over a year ago; never; or don't know/refused. Problems experienced within the past year were tallied and dichotomized by severity, with four problems reported in the past year categorized as a high score ( $n = 206$  missing; includes those missing responses for any of the scale items).

<sup>10</sup> The GAIN-SS Externalizing subscale consists of seven items, asking about the last time you did the following two or more times: (1) had a hard time paying attention at school, work, or home; (2) had a hard time listening to instructions at school, work, or home; (3) lied or conned to get things you wanted or to avoid having to do something; (4) were a bully or threatened other people; (5) started physical fights with other people; (6) felt restless or the need to run around or climb on things; and (7) gave answers before the other person finished asking the question. Youth were asked to report whether they had experienced each problem: within the past month; 2–12 months ago; over a year ago; never; or don't know/refused. Problems experienced within the past year were tallied and dichotomized by severity, with four or more problems reported in the past year categorized as a high score ( $n = 372$  missing; includes those missing responses for any of the scale items).

<sup>11</sup> Youth were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the following three measures regarding sensation seeking: (1) I like to do frightening things; (2) I like new and exciting experiences, even if I have to break the rules; and (3) I prefer friends who are exciting and unpredictable. Response options for each item were strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree. Responses were scored according to strength of agreement (4, 3, 2, 1, 0), and then summed to create an overall score. Based on the overall distribution of scores, the approximate upper quartile (75%) of six or higher was selected as the cut-off for high levels of sensation seeking. Scores were then dichotomized to indicate high ( $\geq 6$ ) versus low ( $< 6$ ) levels of sensation seeking ( $n = 152$  missing; includes those missing responses for any of the scale items).

<sup>12</sup> Academic achievement:  $n = 83$  missing (including  $n = 38$  where school was ungraded). This item was reported by parents in the parent interview.

<sup>13</sup> All youth were asked “Does anyone who lives with you now do any of the following? Choose all that apply: 1) Smoke cigarettes; 2) Use smokeless tobacco, such as chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, or snus; 3) Smoke cigars, cigarillos, or filtered cigars; 4) Use any other form of tobacco; 5) No one who lives with me now uses any form of tobacco; 6) Don't know/refused. Responses were categorized as no household use of any form of tobacco (option 5), household member smokes cigarettes (in addition to other forms of tobacco) (option 1), or household member uses some other form of tobacco (without cigarettes) (options 2, 3, or 4, and not 1) ( $n = 66$  missing).

<sup>14</sup> All youth were asked “During the past seven days, about how many hours were you around others who were smoking [whether or not you were smoking yourself]? Include time in your home, in a car, at school, or outdoors.” All responding with a value of  $> 0$  h were classified as exposed to others smoking in the past seven days ( $n = 251$  missing).

#### 4. Discussion

The public health consequences of e-cigarettes in the U.S. rests in large part on *how* youth are using the product and the subsequent effect on long-term tobacco use behaviors. In the current analysis, we: (1) observed differences and similarities for known cigarette smoking risk factors across mutually exclusive groups of susceptibility and ever use of e-cigarettes and cigarettes; (2) describe patterns of use among current e-cigarette users at Wave 1; and (3) describe the baseline risk factors among new users at follow up.

At baseline, youth susceptible to both products reported more and stronger associations with traditional risk factors than those susceptible to one product. Those susceptible to a single product, however, still showed increased risk status compared to committed never users. In general, committed never users had the lowest odds of any of the studied risk factors, while selected risk factors (ever other tobacco/ marijuana/ alcohol use, low academic achievement, and exposure to tobacco use) were significantly associated with single product use (e-cigarette or cigarette), consistent with previously reported research. (Leventhal et al., 2016; Wills et al., 2015) Ever dual users had higher odds of nearly all risk factors compared to ever e-cigarette only use. We examined baseline risk factor distributions among groups defined by Wave 1 to Wave 2 transitions. Compared to continued non-users, a significantly higher proportion of new users reported being older, ever using marijuana and alcohol, having more internalizing, externalizing, and sensation seeking behaviors, having lower grades, and having someone in the household who uses tobacco.

The intent of this paper was to compare the distribution of traditional risk factors among e-cigarette and cigarette susceptibility and ever user groups at baseline to provide in-depth comparison of such risk factors, which provides pertinent information for future longitudinal analyses of the PATH Study data. At baseline, while ever dual users had increased odds of reporting all risk factors compared to ever e-cigarette only users, ever cigarette only users either had similar odds (no significant difference) of reporting each risk factor or the effect was small

(e.g., the borderline significant findings could be influenced by further adjustment rendering non-significant differences). Therefore, we examined the distribution of the traditional cigarette smoking risk factors among youth who had never used tobacco at baseline, but were new e-cigarette, cigarette, and dual users at Wave 2 follow-up. These new users demonstrated similar distributions for each risk factor among three new user groups, and in conjunction with the non-significant findings for some risk factors among ever users groups at baseline, suggests a shared vulnerability for tobacco product use between the user groups.

Given the purpose of this manuscript, we did not intend to make causal interpretations in this study. The overlap in known risk factors among ever e-cigarette and cigarette users (such as ever marijuana and other tobacco use) suggest single product users are similar on some risk factors. Additionally, similarities in scores on the psychosocial scales (GAIN Internalizing, GAIN Externalizing, and Sensation seeking) could support the notion that youth who participate in high-risk behaviors and may otherwise have smoked cigarettes may be using e-cigarettes instead. Nonetheless, some differences were observed between ever e-cigarette and cigarette users on other risk factors, which may suggest that e-cigarettes could be attracting youth with lower risk status.

Previous studies have assessed similarities and differences in risk factors associated with ever e-cigarette and cigarette use, and have highlighted the importance of internalizing, externalizing, and substance use behaviors among youth tobacco users. In our large, nationally representative study, consistent with prior research. (Barrington-Trimis et al., 2015; Leventhal et al., 2016; Wills et al., 2015) we found higher internalizing scores among dual users, but similar scores among ever e-cigarette and cigarette users. (Leventhal et al., 2016) We saw no differences in externalizing scores by user group. Lastly, sensation seeking had an ordered pattern, with ever dual users having the greatest percentage of high sensation-seeking scores, followed by ever cigarette users and e-cigarette users, consistent with previous results. (Wills et al., 2015)

Ever dual users and cigarette smokers had higher odds of high GAIN

**Table 3**  
 Characterization of duration, intensity, and frequency of e-cigarette use among youth past 30-day e-cigarette users, overall and by current tobacco use status—PATH Study Wave 1 Data (2013–2014).

	Overall <sup>1</sup> n = 398 (3.0% of full sample)	Past 30-Day E-Cigarette Only Users <sup>2</sup> n = 141 (37.0%)	Past 30-Day E-Cigarette Users + Cigarette Smokers <sup>3</sup> n = 190 (45.1%)	Past 30-Day E-Cigarette + Other (Non-Cigarette) Tobacco Users <sup>4</sup> n = 67 (17.8%)	Chi-Square <sup>11</sup>
	n (%) [95% CI]	n (%) [95% CI]	n (%) [95% CI]	n (%) [95% CI]	
<b>Current Age</b>					0.6747
12–14 years	73 (16.6%) [13.2–20.6]	30 (18.9%) [13.3–26.3]	31 (15.2%) [10.5–21.4]	12 (15.4%) [8.5–26.3]	
15–17 years	325 (83.4%) [79.4–86.8]	111 (81.1%) [73.7–86.7]	159 (84.8%) [78.6–89.5]	55 (84.6%) [73.7–91.5]	
<b>Cumulative History of E-cigarette Use<sup>5</sup></b>					0.0108
1 puff, never a whole e-cigarette	121 (31.1%) [26.4–36.2]	57 (40.3%) [30.9–50.5]	43 (23.9%) [18.2–30.7]	21 (30.1%) [20.4–42.1]	
1–10 e-cigarette(s)	208 (52.7%) [47.1–58.3]	68 (50.0%) [39.6–60.4]	108 (56.8%) [49.7–63.7]	32 (47.8%) [34.8–61.1]	
11+ e-cigarettes	67 (16.2%) [12.7–20.5]	15 (9.7%) [5.8–15.7]	39 (19.3%) [14.0–26.0]	13 (22.1%) [13.8–33.5]	
<b>Time Since First E-cigarette Use<sup>6</sup></b>					0.0014
< 1 year	193 (50.6%) [45.3–55.9]	84 (62.2%) [53.4–70.2]	73 (39.2%) [32.4–46.5]	36 (55.6%) [43.1–67.3]	
1- < 2 years	143 (34.4%) [29.7–39.4]	41 (28.3%) [20.8–37.3]	79 (39.9%) [32.7–47.6]	23 (33.2%) [22.3–46.1]	
≥ 2 years	61 (15.0%) [11.8–18.8]	15 (9.5%) [5.7–15.5]	38 (20.9%) [15.2–28.0]	¶ [13.5–35.5]	
<b>Frequency of Past 30-Day E-cigarette Use<sup>7</sup></b>					0.0612
1 day	121 (30.8%) [26.1–36.0]	56 (40.4%) [32.1–49.2]	47 (25.2%) [19.3–32.2]	18 (25.4%) [16.0–37.9]	
2–5 days	165 (42.6%) [37.0–48.3]	53 (38.2%) [30.1–46.9]	84 (46.0%) [38.8–53.5]	28 (42.8%) [30.4–56.1]	
6–20 days	74 (18.5%) [14.8–22.9]	24 (17.2%) [11.6–24.8]	36 (17.9%) [13.1–24.0]	14 (22.7%) [13.5–35.5]	
21–30 days	33 (8.1%) [5.4–11.9]	¶ [5.4–11.9]	22 (10.8%) [7.0–16.4]	¶ [7.0–16.4]	
<b>Owns an E-cigarette<sup>8</sup></b>	125 (31.6%) [27.2–36.5]	34 (23.6%) [17.3–31.2]	66 (34.0%) [27.6–41.0]	25 (42.5%) [30.8–55.1]	0.0132
<b>Cigarette Smoking Status</b>					n/a
Never smoker	90 (23.6%) [19.4–28.3]	67 (46.7%) [38.6–55.1]	–	23 (35.1%) [23.1–49.2]	
Ever smoked a cigarette, but not within past month	118 (31.3%) [26.2–36.9]	74 (53.3%) [44.9–61.4]	–	44 (64.9%) [50.8–76.9]	
<b>Current Smoker<sup>9</sup></b>	190 (45.1%) [40.2–50.1]	–	190 (100.0%)	–	n/a
Past 30-day smoker, smoked 1–5 days during past month	–	–	73 (40.8%) [32.4–49.8]	–	
Past 30-day smoker, smoked 6–19 days during past month	–	–	38 (19.6%) [14.5–25.9]	–	
Past 30-day smoker, smoked ≥ 20 days during past month	–	–	74 (39.6%) [31.6–48.3]	–	
<b>Use of Flavored E-cigarettes</b>					
First e-cigarette tried was flavored <sup>10</sup>	340 (86.6%) [82.7–89.8]	127 (90.3%) [83.9–94.4]	153 (82.0%) [75.9–86.8]	60 (90.7%) [81.1–95.7]	0.0565
E-cigarette currently/most recently used was flavored <sup>10</sup>	341 (86.2%) [81.3–90.0]	125 (88.2%) [80.4–93.1]	156 (83.2%) [76.0–88.6]	60 (89.7%) [78.5–95.4]	0.3658

¶ Estimate not presented because relative standard error ≥ 30% or denominator < 50; -- not applicable.  
<sup>1</sup> n = 20 who responded they had used in the past 30 days, but later reported using 0 out of the past 30 days are excluded from this table.  
<sup>2</sup> Any past 30-day e-cigarette user who reported also using cigarettes, any type of cigar, snus, smokeless, hookah, pipe, dissolvables, bidis or kreteks in the past 30 days was excluded from this column. One past 30-day e-cigarette user refused to answer whether they had smoked a cigarette in the past 30 days and one reported that they didn't know if they had used a cigarillo in the past 30 days. These two respondents are currently included in this column. (i.e., treating don't know or refused as no's).  
<sup>3</sup> Any past 30-day e-cigarette users who also reported past 30-day cigarette smoking and past 30-day use of any type of cigar, snus, smokeless, hookah, pipe, dissolvables, bidis or kreteks were included in this column.  
<sup>4</sup> Any past 30-day e-cigarette user who reported NO past 30-day use of cigarettes, but past-30-day use of any type of cigar, snus, smokeless, hookah, pipe, dissolvables, bidis or kreteks were included in this column.  
<sup>5</sup> Cumulative history of e-cigarette use: n = 2 missing/don't know/refused.  
<sup>6</sup> Time since first use of an e-cigarette was calculated by subtracting YE1006 (“How old were you when you first tried an e-cigarette, even one or two times?”) from current age. N = 1 reported don't know to age started using.  
<sup>7</sup> Frequency of past 30-day e-cigarette use: n = 2 refused to answer, n = 2 replied “don't know” and n = 1 was coded as “improbable response removed.”  
<sup>8</sup> “Do you own your own e-cigarette?” (YE1090): n = 3 missing (refused to answer).

<sup>9</sup> Current smoking status (past 30-days): n = 5 missing smoking status (n = 2 don't know, n = 2 refused, and n = 1 improbable response removed), as these youth did not give an answer for the number of days smoked in the past 30 days.

<sup>10</sup> “Flavored to taste like menthol, mint, clove, spice, candy, fruit, chocolate, alcohol (such as wine or cognac), or other sweets?” (YE1108 and YE1130): n = 1 missing first e-cigarette was flavored, 0 missing e-cigarette used most recently was flavored.

<sup>11</sup> P-value is a Rao-Scott chi-square testing differences between groups. Bold = significant at p = 0.05.

substance use scores than ever e-cigarette users, with the largest percentage of high scores seen among ever dual users, which is a common theme in previous research.(Leventhal et al., 2016; Wills et al., 2015) There was a similar pattern observed for marijuana use, although findings in this area have been mixed in previous studies.(Leventhal et al., 2016; Wills et al., 2015) Our finding of ever dual users having the highest percentage of alcohol use, with similar use in cigarette and e-cigarette single product users, has been previously reported.(Leventhal et al., 2016; Wills et al., 2015) Ever cigarette only smokers and dual users had higher odds of being exposed to a household member who smokes compared to ever e-cigarette only users, as previously reported.(Barrington-Trimis et al., 2015)

In our study, about 74% of past 30-day e-cigarette users used e-cigarettes fewer than five days at baseline (2013–2014), similar to national data from both the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey(Neff, Arrazola, Caraballo, et al., 2015) and the 2014 Monitoring the Future survey,(Warner, 2016) and to regional data.(Bold, Kong, Camenga, et al., 2018) Among all past 30-day e-cigarette users, over 80% had used < 10 times ever, indicating that at baseline many youth users may have started in the past year. However, past 30-day e-cigarette users who also used other tobacco products appeared to be more consistent e-cigarette users. Past 30-day dual users reported a greater cumulative history of e-cigarette use (i.e., higher number used), a longer time since first using e-cigarettes, and more frequent e-cigarette use. Additionally, about half of past 30-day dual users also smoked cigarettes on > 15 days. Similar reasons for e-cigarette use were observed when stratified by smoking status; however, dual users were more likely to report items related to health effects or avoidance of detection of e-cigarette use.

This study has several limitations. First, this study did not address all factors associated with youth tobacco use (e.g. product availability in home, marketing exposure), some possibly unique to e-cigarette use. Subsequent waves of the PATH Study may capture such information. Second, tobacco use, including e-cigarette and cigarette use, is self-reported, which may be subject to biases (i.e., response or self-report bias); however, such measures have been shown to be valid and reliable among youth and adult cigarette smokers.(Brener, Billy, & Grady, 2003; Wong, Shields, Leatherdale, Malaisson, & Hammond, 2012) Third, the associations and significance tests were not adjusted for multiple comparisons. Based on the number of models conducted, a Bonferroni corrected p-value of p = 0.05 would be p = 0.004. Nonetheless, most odds ratios were significant at the p = 0.001. Fourth, Wave 1 of the PATH Study may not have captured the full range of electronic nicotine devices, which could result in underreporting of e-cigarette use. Lastly, susceptibility to and ever use of tobacco products other than e-cigarettes and cigarettes were not considered when defining the mutually exclusive groups.

## 5. Conclusion

This manuscript adds to the literature by describing the distribution of traditional risk factors for cigarette smoking among youth susceptible to or ever users of e-cigarettes or cigarettes using a nationally-representative sample. In this study, committed never users had the lowest odds of any risk factor, followed by those susceptible to single product use, then those susceptible to both products. Compared to e-cigarette only users, dual users had higher odds of other tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana use, internalizing problems, low academic achievement, and exposure to others' tobacco use. Ever cigarette smokers had higher odds of other tobacco use, marijuana use, high GAIN substance scores, lower academic achievement, and exposure to others

smoking than e-cigarette only users, but the increased odds were lower than those observed for dual users. No differences were observed in the ever use groups for GAIN externalizing, sensation seeking, or household use of other tobacco. This analysis may inform future studies examining transitions between products and assessing the influence of risk factors on the probability of progression to regular tobacco use.

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## Contributors

MDS, HRD, and BKA designed the study and directed its implementation. HRD, LDG, and HH conducted the data analysis, including quality assurance and control. SEJ, BC, JL, MLG, DBA, CAS, JLP, ARK, HLK, CDD, WMC, MB-T, RSN, AH, and BKA contributed to the conceptual design of the study and assisted with drafting of the manuscript (e.g., preparing the literature review, identifying key findings and interpretation of study findings in the Discussion section). All coauthors approved the final version of the manuscript prior to submission.

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## Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this manuscript are those of the authors only and do not necessarily represent the views, official policy or position of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or any of its affiliated institutions or agencies.

## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2018.11.027>.

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