

Vaping-Related Lung Injury in Vermont: Documenting the Harms

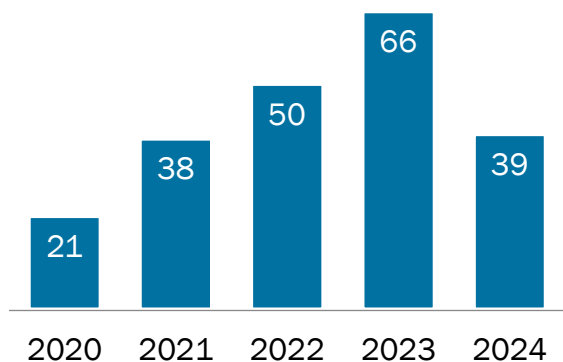
Despite mixed messaging, vaping is not harmless.

Vaping can lead to severe adverse health effects in the short-term and long-term, which includes injury to the lungs and pulmonary system. The rise of cases of e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury in 2019 led to the development of a medical code in 2020 (U07.0) that health care practitioners can use to **diagnose, treat or manage dabbing or vaping related lung injury**. This brief documents the use of the vaping-related injury claim code in Vermont from 2020 - 2024 using data from Komodo's Healthcare Map[®]. The Komodo Healthcare Map[®] is limited to patients that have at least two tobacco and nicotine dependence codes, so the number of patients and claims included in these analyses may represent an undercount of the number of vaping-related injury claims and patients, especially among youth.

Vaping-related injury health care claims have increased since 2020.

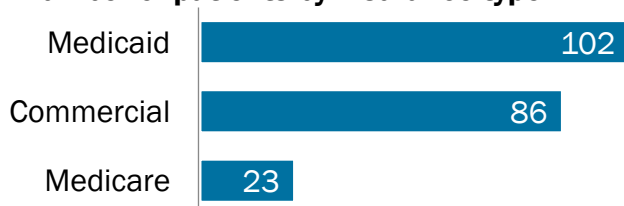
There have been **214 patients** across five years who have received at least one vaping-related injury code in Vermont.

Number of patients in Vermont with at least one vaping-related disorder claim



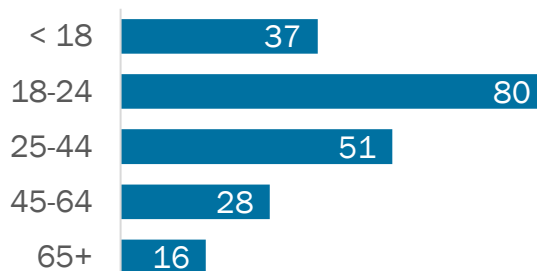
Over half of patients (55%) were insured through government insurance programs.

Number of patients by insurance type*



*Insurance type was missing for 3 patients

Age at first vaping-related injury code*



*Age was missing for 2 patients

58 patients (**27%**) had at least two health care visits where they received the vaping injury related claim, and of those, 31 patients (15%) had at least three visits.

Commercial Insurer Makeup

Individuals insured by the Veterans Health Administration and those who are uninsured are missing from this analysis. The most frequently used commercial providers in Vermont are included in the claims data, including Blue Cross Blue Shied VT, Cigna and MVP.

