# JCSH News and Resource Bundle May 17 2023

Hello everyone

Here is the News and Resource bundle for this week.

Cheers

Susan

News Articles:  
1. 3337. Canada has some of the highest teen vaping rates in the world, new data shows

Health Canada's [Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/canadian-student-tobacco-alcohol-drugs-survey/2021-2022-summary.html) surveyed 61,096 teenagers in Grades 7 to 12 from nine provinces between September 2021 and June 2022. The results show that while the number of Canadian students who have ever tried an e-cigarette is down, the number of students in Grades 10-12 ever having vaped is 41 percent. And, the daily vaping rates in this group are among the highest in the world. "The numbers have confirmed that Canada has one of the highest youth vaping rates in the world, especially as it relates to daily vaping," said David Hammond, a public health professor at the University of Waterloo and a leading Canadian youth vaping researcher. “… this is maybe the best indication out there that we're in for a long haul of regular youth vaping — we've crossed the threshold of this being a fad."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/canada-teen-vaping-survey-e-cigarettes-1.6845408>

2. 3318. (March 20) Persistent absence from school is a threat to children’s education

Chronic [school absences](http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/ip61-combining-data-out-of-school-children-completion-learning-offer-more-comprehensive-view-sdg4.pdf) have increased since the pandemic, according to researchers from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland. Their work identified that absenteeism increases in the United Kingdom are most likely the result of [difficulties](https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/4075/schools_responses_to_covid_19_support_for_vulnerable_pupils_and_the_children_of_keyworkers.pdf) experienced by young people, a combination of home learning challenges and extended disengagement. Significant school absences are shown to result in [poorer academic results](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/23328584211071115) and hindered social and [emotional growth](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.3102/0013189X21994488). “Growing up in [socioeconomically disadvantaged circumstances](https://bera-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/rev3.3291) is a major cause of persistent school absenteeism,” the researchers found. They encouraged supportive rather than punitive responses by school systems: “This is partly because punitive approaches do not address the underlying causes of absences such as poverty or health difficulties.”

<https://theconversation.com/persistent-absence-from-school-is-a-growing-threat-to-childrens-education-201501>

3. 3312. (March 13) Suicide attempts rose among children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for girls

As these Canadian universities’ researchers note in this article, “An unfortunate, but commonly used, indicator of the state of children’s and adolescents’ mental health is suicide attempts.” They conducted a systematic review, published in [*Lancet Psychiatry*](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(23)00036-6/fulltext), of the literature on 11.1 million children’s and adolescents’ emergency department visits in 18 countries. Emergency room visits for suicidal behaviours in youth increased by 39 per cent for girls, and by six per cent for boys. Also, as previously reported in research, they found higher attempts by girls and higher rates of [deaths](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2764307) by suicide in boys. They call on countries and governments to prioritize the mental health of children and adolescents through prevention approaches: “There is very good evidence that it’s better to create [upstream solutions to prevent mental illness](https://cehd.uchicago.edu/?page_id=215), than costly downstream interventions to mitigate mental illness in individuals once it’s established.”

<https://theconversation.com/suicide-attempts-rose-among-children-and-adolescents-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-especially-for-girls-200229?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2010%202023&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2010%202023+CID_7181560f234f419b3bb7df844ef71286&utm_source=campaign_monitor_ca&utm_term=Suicide%20attempts%20rose%20among%20children%20and%20adolescents%20during%20the%20COVID-19%20pandemic%20especially%20for%20girls>

4. 3335. ‘We just know that they’re hungry’: High school principal sees bigger takeup on free lunches

School board trustees on Prince Edward Island have been advised that students are accessing the province’s free lunch program more than ever. Prof. Valerie Tarasuk, a University of Toronto researcher who specializes in food insecurity, cautions that school food programs treat symptoms, not underlying causes of food insecurity. PEI leads the country in food insecurity in three of the past four years, including this year. Nevertheless, the meal programs help students in school: "We are feeding more children than we have ever before," Montague Regional High School Principal Robyn MacDonald told trustees. “We don't ask. We don't care why. We just know that they're hungry and we're doing everything we can to make sure that need is met."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-montague-high-school-lunch-program-1.6839994>

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**Resources:**

**Resource 1.** (Resource) 3. 3301. 'Take It Down:' a tool for teens to remove explicit images

“Take It Down is made specifically for people who have an image that they have reason to believe is already out on the Web somewhere, or that it could be,” said Gavin Portnoy, a spokesman for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), a U.S. not for profit. “You’re a teen and you’re dating someone and you share the image. Or somebody extorted you and they said, ‘if you don’t give me an image, or another image of you, I’m going to do X, Y, Z.’” The [CyberTipline](https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline/cybertiplinedata) received 29.3 million reports in 2021, up 35% from 2020. The [site](https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/) offers FAQs, as well as resources and support.

<https://takeitdown.ncmec.org/>

<https://www.cp24.com/lifestyle/technology/take-it-down-a-tool-for-teens-to-remove-explicit-images-1.6290954?utm_source=The+Tyee&utm_campaign=a5b8bc8e3b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_03_01_04_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_979b7d233e-a5b8bc8e3b-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D>

**Resource 2.** 3233. (3338. (Resource) Research Letter: Changes in Prevalence of Vaping among Youth in United States, Canada, and England from 2017 to 2019

“There are concerns over increases in vaping among North American youths.[1](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2765159#pld200016r1)-[3](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2765159#pld200016r1) In the US in 2019, one-fifth of 10th-grade students and one-quarter of 12th-grade students reported using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days.[2](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2765159#pld200016r2) The extent to which similar increases have been observed in countries with different regulatory environments, such as Canada and England, is an important question. In 2018, Canada loosened restrictions on the sale and marketing of nicotine-containing e-cigarettes, whereas e-cigarettes in England are subject to more comprehensive regulations than in either Canada or the US.”

Conclusion: “Overall, the findings depict substantial increases in the percentage of youths who vape in the US and Canada. Given that e-cigarette use among adults has decreased over the same period, the findings suggest the growth of the US and Canadian e-cigarette markets since 2017 may have been driven primarily by consumption by young people.[6](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2765159#pld200016r6) The extent to which the lower vaping prevalence in England is associated with the different market and regulatory environment warrants close consideration.”

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2765159>