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# BU QUARTERLY

## A Team That Works

Addressing large-scale challenges requires strong, intentional partnerships. The BU Youth Tobacco and Vaping Prevention Program demonstrates this by working with schools to educate youth and reduce tobacco and vaping use.

A key example is the partnership with JROTC units at Forest Hill High School and Hazlehurst High School in the Central Region. This collaboration empowers students to take active roles in prevention efforts within their schools.

During each unit's JROTC Program for Accreditation (JPA), cadets who also serve as BU youth leaders presented community service projects focused on tobacco and vaping prevention.

Their presentations were confident and impactful, clearly showing their knowledge and commitment. They also effectively responded to questions from evaluators.

The partnership made a strong impression on state evaluators, who encouraged national submission. It highlights how equipping youth and working together can create meaningful change.



## Take Down Tobacco 2026

Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action will take place on **April 1, 2026**, uniting youth, educators, and communities across the country to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and vaping.

Although progress has been made in reducing youth smoking, e-cigarettes and flavored vapes continue to pose serious risks. Many young people are drawn to these products without fully understanding the dangers of nicotine addiction and its long-term effects.

This day serves as a reminder that everyone has a role to play. Join us in taking a stand—spread awareness, start conversations, and support efforts that help protect the next generation from the harmful effects of tobacco use.

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**04.01.26**

JOIN US AS WE STAND UP TO BIG TOBACCO AND FIGHT FOR A TOBACCO-FREE GENERATION!

## FDA Reexamines Flavored Vapes

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is considering new guidance that could allow certain flavored e-cigarettes—such as mint, coffee, and spice flavors—if they are shown to help adult smokers quit traditional cigarettes.

While sweet and fruit flavors that appeal to teens are still expected to face strict limits, public health experts remain concerned. Flavored vapes have been a major factor in youth vaping, and expanding flavor options could unintentionally attract younger users.

Although teen vaping rates have declined, it continues to be a serious concern. Experts emphasize the importance of maintaining strong regulations to protect youth while exploring safer alternatives for adults. *STAT News (2026, March 13)*



Reference: STAT News. (2026, March 13). FDA guidance on flavored vapes raises concerns about teen vaping risks. <https://www.statnews.com/2026/03/13/fda-guidance-flavored-vapes-teen-vaping-risks/>



On **No Menthol Sunday, May 17, 2026**, communities across the nation are encouraged to unite and take a stand against menthol tobacco products. Menthol makes it easier to start smoking and harder to quit, contributing to addiction and serious health risks—especially in Black and underserved communities.

This day is about more than awareness. It's a call to action: to educate, support one another, and commit to healthier choices. Together, we can protect future generations and break the cycle of tobacco addiction. Take a stand. Choose health. Choose life.

### CONTACT US

Contact us with your questions, concerns, or testimonies. For additional updates on the Youth Tobacco & Vaping Prevention Program, follow us on social media.

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### TEEN VAPING: WHAT PARENTS & TEENS NEED TO KNOW (CDC GUIDANCE)

**E-cigarettes contain nicotine**, which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development.

**No level of youth tobacco use is safe.** This includes all e-cigarettes and vaping products.

#### Factors that contribute to teen vaping:

- Social influences from friends or online trends
- Flavored products that appeal to young users
- Easy access to vaping devices

**Good news:** Most teens who vape want to quit. Dependence can develop quickly, but support and resources make a difference.

#### Resources for Parents & Educators:

- CDC guide: *E-Cigarettes and Youth: What Parents Need to Know*
- Tips on how to start conversations with teens about vaping
- Strategies for preventing youth nicotine use in schools

