

Differences in Tobacco Use Behaviors Among Youth Between the United States, Latvia, and the Republic of Moldova

Anita Wang¹, Gabina Moreno¹, & Emily Kim¹

University of California, San Diego, Department of Family Medicine and Public Health¹

Introduction

- ❖ Tobacco kills nearly 8 million people a year around the world.⁶
- ❖ The U.S Surgeon General declared e-cigarette use among youth an epidemic in 2018.¹
- ❖ More than 45 million American adults still smoke and more than 8 million are living with a serious illness caused by smoking.¹
- ❖ Among the WHO regions, Europe has one of the highest overall prevalence rates of smoking at 28%. Male prevalence is 38% and female prevalence is 19%.⁶

Objectives

- ❖ Determine if there is a difference in tobacco consumption behaviors and attitudes between American and European adolescents considering laws, policies, and socioeconomic status

Methodology

- ❖ We performed a secondary data analysis on the National Youth Tobacco Survey performed in the U.S and the Global Youth Tobacco Survey performed in two European countries, Latvia and the Republic of Moldova.
- ❖ We looked for similarities and differences between the participants and created diagrams to visually represent the meaningful differences between their responses.

Results

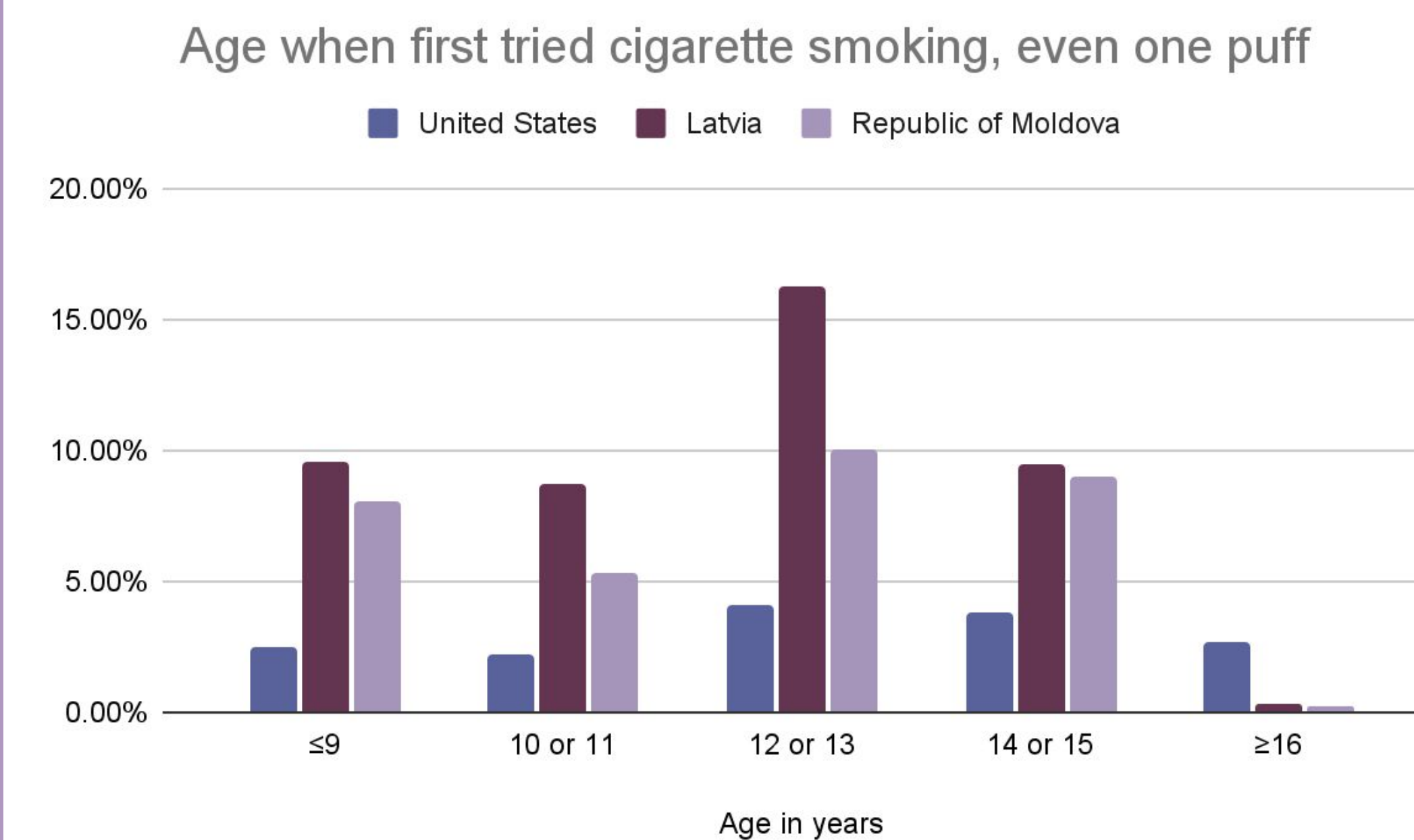


Table 1. Age of Initiation for Cigarette Use in the United States, Latvia, and the Republic of Moldova

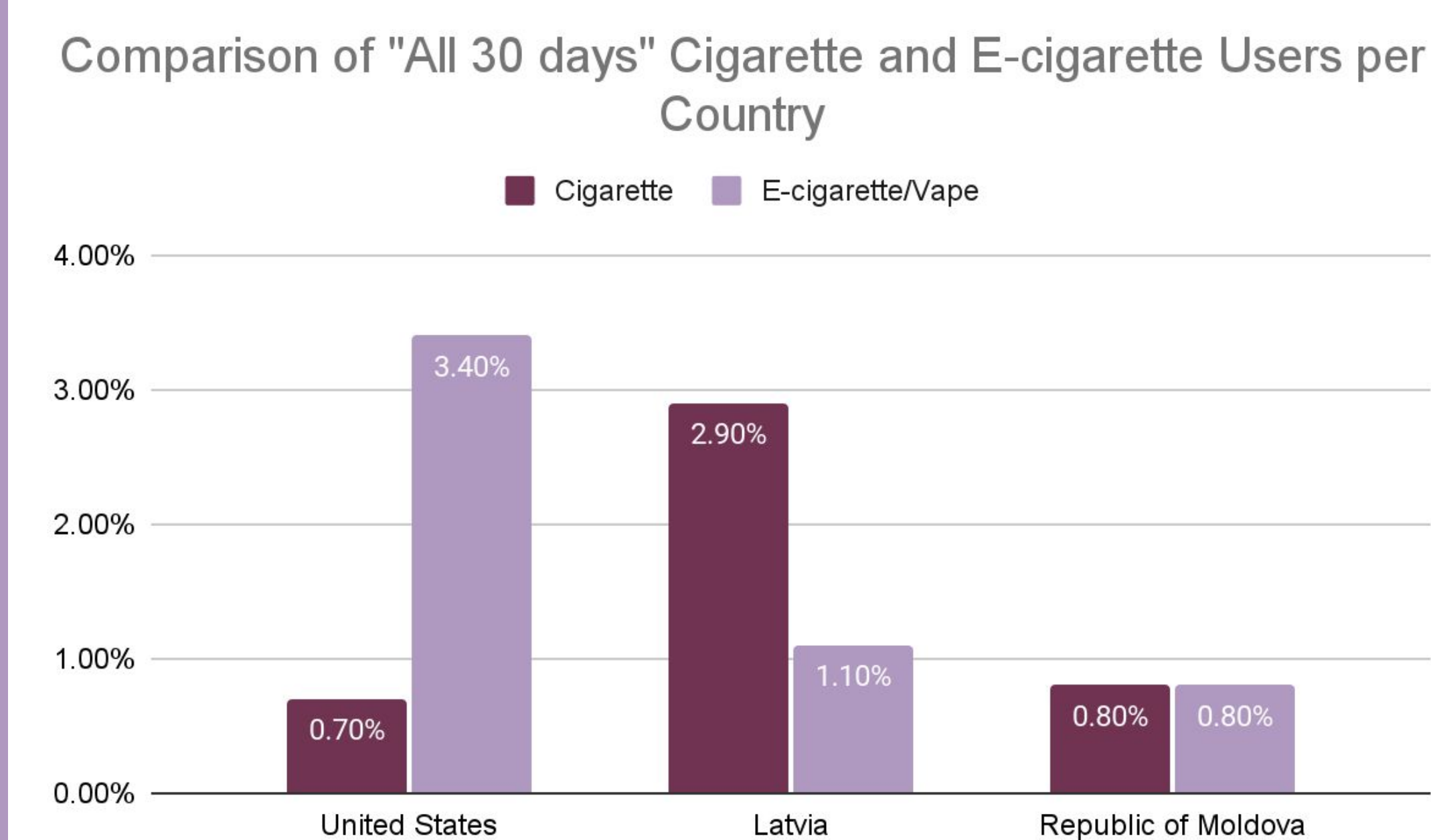



Table 2. Number of Respondents Reporting Use of Cigarette/E-cigarette in the Past 30 days from Taking Survey



European youth were initiating use of traditional cigarettes at a younger age compared to the United States - Latvia had the highest rates of young initiation with 9.6% of respondents marking they began smoking at 9 years or younger.

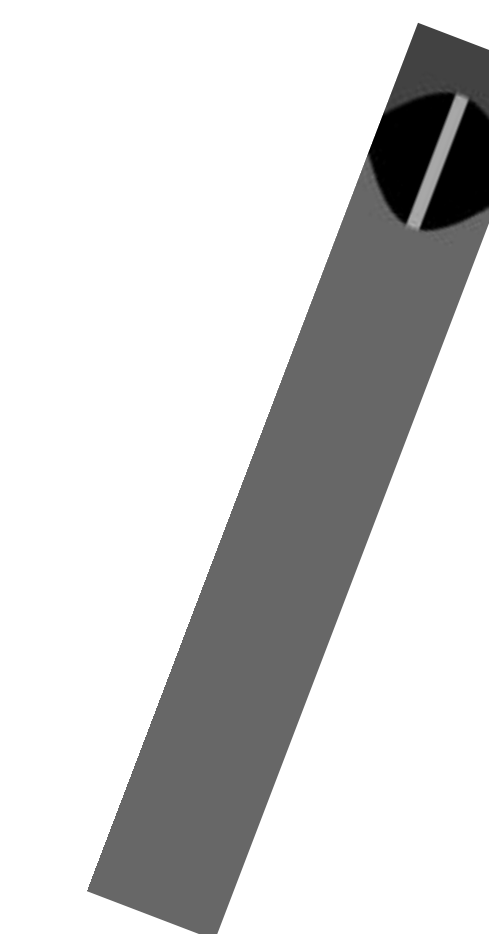

Results

When asked about the past 30 days of cigarette use, smoking rates of traditional cigarettes users were higher among responders from European countries.

When comparing the two European countries, Latvian youth had more spending money to use on themselves and subsequently had higher smoking rates.

European youth were more likely to use e-cigarettes for only one to five days but U.S. youth were more likely to use the device for 6 to 30 days. 3.4% of U.S. respondents said they used e-cigarettes for all 30 days.

Latvia and Moldova had higher rates of others smoking inside the home. 85% of American youth had reported seeing advertisements for tobacco products at points of sale.

Conclusion

- ❖ There does appear to be a difference in consumption of cigarettes and e-cigarettes in the United States compared to Europe. Factors that were explored in our secondary data analysis included laws, policies, and socioeconomic status.
- ❖ The NYTS and GYTS should be disseminated yearly in the two regions respectively to give an accurate representation of adolescent tobacco consumption trends.
- ❖ Conducting the GYTS across more European countries may also give picture of the youth tobacco trends in Europe.
- ❖ Preventing all tobacco consumption from a young age will help prevent a new generation from addiction and diminish the top preventable cause of death globally.

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019, November 15). History of the Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/history/index.htm.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, September 9). Youth e-cigarette use is down, but 3.6 million still use e-cigarettes [Press release]. [https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0909-youth-e-cigarette-use-down.html#:~:text=About%203.6%20million%20U.S.%20youth,and%20Drug%20Administration%20\(FDA\).](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0909-youth-e-cigarette-use-down.html#:~:text=About%203.6%20million%20U.S.%20youth,and%20Drug%20Administration%20(FDA).)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). GYTS EURO 2019 Latvia All Schools [Enhanced codebook]. <https://nccd.cdc.gov/GTSSDataSurveyResources/Ancillary/DataReports.aspx?CAID=2>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). 2019 NYTS Dataaset and Codebook [Dataset and Codebook]. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nyts/data/index.html
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). GYTS EURO 2019 Republic of Moldova All Schools [Enhanced codebook]. <https://nccd.cdc.gov/GTSSDataSurveyResources/Ancillary/DataReports.aspx?CAID=2>
- World Health Organization. (2020, May 27). Tobacco. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco> World Health Organization. (n.d.). Data and statistics. World Health Organization. <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/tobacco/data-and-statistics..>