

## Attachment B2

### Summary of Public Comments and CDC Response

**Federal Register Notice:** A 60-day Notice was published in the *Federal Register* on June 25, 2014, Vol. 79, No. 122, pp. 36067-36068.

## **Public Comment #1**

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**From:** jean public [<mailto:jeanpublic1@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, June 28, 2014 9:52 AM

**To:** OMB-Comments (CDC); americanvoices; [vicepresident@whitehouse.gov](mailto:vicepresident@whitehouse.gov); INFO; media; [info@afphq.org](mailto:info@afphq.org); [info@njtaxes.org](mailto:info@njtaxes.org)

**Subject:** Re: dont need endless eons long tobacco surveys

public comment on federal register

when this survey expires, close it down. the taxpayers of this couitry are being gouged unmercifully to do stupid surveys like this. you will have enough information when this project ends. you are all just looking for work on tobacco to go on for another hundred years. its time to close this down. we have enough information to fill 20 football stadiums that taxpayers have paid for. its time to stop gouging American taxpayers for unnecessary surveys.

you get nothing out of a survey. and you have information already collected. stop the bureaucratic boondoggle at this agency. the cdc needs to investigate autism, why one out of 25 boys is autistic. they refuse to do that in any meaningful way.

this cmoment is for the public record. please receipt. jean public

On Wed, Jun 25, 2014 at 10:09 AM, jean public <[jeanpublic1@gmail.com](mailto:jeanpublic1@gmail.com)> wrote:

[Federal Register Volume 79, Number 122 (Wednesday, June 25, 2014)]

[Notices]

[Pages [36067-36068](#)]

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[FR Doc No: 2014-14789]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-14-0621]

## **CDC Response to Public Comment #1**

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CDC provided a courtesy reply.

**Public Comment #2**

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(see next page)

August 22, 2014

Leroy Richardson  
1600 Clifton Roads  
MS-D74  
Atlanta, GA 30333

RE: **Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations**  
(OMB No. 0920-0621, expires 01/31/2015)

PinneyAssociates appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 2015-2017 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). We recognize that the NYTS is vital for monitoring tobacco use knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors among middle and high school youth, as well as for informing tobacco prevention and control programs nationwide. Our team of scientists and health policy experts at PinneyAssociates has worked in smoking cessation and tobacco control for over 40 years. During that time, we have published extensively in this area and contributed to Surgeon General Reports and National Cancer Institute monographs.

PinneyAssociates suggests the following ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the 2015-2017 NYTS:

- 1) **Break out e-cigarettes into its own section and ask a series of questions about e-cigarettes, similar to those asked about cigarettes.** In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) introduced questions to the NYTS to obtain more detailed information on the use of newer types of tobacco products and nicotine delivery systems (e.g., e-cigarettes, hookahs, waterpipes). Therefore, the NYTS currently includes five sections which ask about use of different kinds of tobacco products: 1) cigarettes, 2) cigars/cigarillos/little cigars, 3) chewing tobacco/snuff/dip, 4) pipes, and 5) other tobacco products. E-cigarettes are currently included in the 'other tobacco products' section. However, for a number of reasons which are enumerated below, we recommend breaking out e-cigarettes into its own section and asking a series of questions specifically focused on e-cigarettes.

First, the 'other tobacco products' category into which e-cigarettes are grouped includes the following products: roll-your-own cigarettes, bidis, clove cigarettes, hookah or waterpipe, snus, dissolvable tobacco products, and other tobacco products not listed. All of these products differ from e-cigarettes in a number of ways, including their design and operation, how they are used, and the ingredients they contain.

Furthermore, awareness and use of e-cigarettes among youth has increased substantially in recent years. Ever and current use of e-cigarettes among middle and high school students doubled from 2011 to 2012.<sup>1</sup> Using 2012 NYTS data, Wang et al.<sup>2</sup> recently reported that 50.3% of students were aware of e-cigarettes, and the prevalence of ever and current use of e-cigarettes was 6.8% and 2.1%, respectively. Awareness, ever, and current use of e-cigarettes among students was higher relative to snus and dissolvables. For these and other reasons, the tobacco control and public health

communities have called for monitoring of awareness and uptake of e-cigarettes among youth<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>.

Finally, a key issue to consider is the terminology used by youth to describe e-cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes comprise a subcategory of a broader range of products that are referred to as personal vaporizers (PV), advanced personal vaporizers (APV), and/or vape pens. Due to rapid innovations in product design and the introduction of newer generation devices, a variety of different types of products are currently available<sup>7</sup>, and these products are very often referred to by different names<sup>8</sup>. Because the terminology used to describe e-cigarettes can vary, we recommend initial qualitative assessments with youth to determine the appropriate terminology to be included on the NYTS when referring to the broad category of products known as e-cigarettes.

*The suggested questions are as follows (with the same response options as those used for the corresponding questions about cigarettes):*

- *Have you **ever tried** an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette, even one or two puffs?*
  - *Do you think you will use an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette in the next year?*
  - *How old were you when you **first tried** an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette, even one or two puffs?*
  - *During the **past 30 days**, on how many days did you use an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette?*
  - *When was the last time you used an electronic cigarette or e-cigarette, even one or two puffs? (PLEASE CHOOSE THE FIRST ANSWER THAT FITS)*
  - *How likely is it that you will try to purchase electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes **within the next 30 days**?*
  - *During the past 30 days, how did you get your own electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes?*
  - *During the past 30 days, where did you buy your own electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)*
  - *During the past 30 days, did anyone **refuse** to sell you e-cigarettes because of your age?*
- 2) **Ask the current question about flavored tobacco products (Question 39) for each individual tobacco product.** Cigarettes with characterizing flavors other than menthol were banned under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Public Law 111-31, 2009) because such flavors were thought to attract youth to smoking<sup>9</sup>. Question 39 is not specific to any one type of tobacco product and thus it cannot be determined which specific flavored products are being used by youth. It is particularly important to have information about specific flavored products since some products may be substituted for others (e.g., use of flavored e-cigarettes or little cigars in place of cigarettes). Similarly, per our suggestion above to ask a series of questions about e-cigarettes, we suggest asking the question about flavors specifically for e-cigarettes since they are available in a variety of different flavors that may appeal to youth.

Question wording that parallels what is now asked is as follows:

- *Were any of the [INSERT TOBACCO PRODUCT] you used in the past 30 days flavored to taste like menthol (mint), clove, spice, alcohol (wine, cognac), candy, fruit, chocolate, or other sweets?*

However, we suggest that the wording be changed to recognize the very wide array of flavors now being used in e-cigarettes. According to Zhu et al.<sup>10</sup>, there are over 7,700 flavors being offered in e-cigarettes. The list of flavors in the current question, and the final class of “other sweets,” does not encompass this range of flavors, which includes flavors like coffee, popcorn, pizza, bacon, beer, pepper, and many others that are not captured or even suggested in the existing list or “other sweets.”

- 3) **Remove the brand names for e-cigarettes and include other names or terms used for e-cigarettes.** Questions 36 and 69 include the names of two brands of e-cigarettes (Ruyan and NJOY). Because of the rapid proliferation of so many new brands to the market in recent years, we suggest removing the brand names of e-cigarettes in Questions 36 and 69, which respondents might interpret restrictively. Instead, given the variety of names used to refer to e-cigarettes (e.g., electronic cigarettes, e-cigs, vaporizers, advanced personal vaporizers, personal vaporizers, vaping pens), we strongly recommend including additional names in any questions about e-cigarettes (see our comment above pertaining to this issue).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the future 2015-2017 National Youth Tobacco Survey and for your consideration of these suggestions. Please contact Karen Gerlach, Senior Scientist and Co-Director, Clinical and Behavioral Research at [kgerlach@pinneyassociates.com](mailto:kgerlach@pinneyassociates.com) or 724-749-5141 if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

John M. Pinney

Karen K. Gerlach, PhD, MPH

Joseph G. Gitchell

Janine L. Pillitteri, PhD

Saul Shiffman, PhD

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Electronic cigarette use among middle and high school students – United States, 2011-2012. *MMWR* 2013;62:729-730.

<sup>2</sup> Wang B, King BA, Corey CG, Arrazola RA, Johnson SE. Awareness and use of non-conventional tobacco products among U.S. students, 2012. *Am J Prev Med* 2014;47(2S1):S36-S52.

<sup>3</sup> Niaura RS, Glynn TJ, Abrams DB. Youth experimentation with e-cigarettes. Another interpretation of the data. *JAMA* 2014;312:641-642.

<sup>4</sup> Durmowicz EL. The impact of electronic cigarettes on the paediatric population. *Tob Control* 2014;23:ii41-ii46.

<sup>5</sup> Camenga DR, Delmerico J, Kong G, Cavallo D, Hyland A, Cummings KM, Krishnan-Sarin S. Trends in use of electronic nicotine delivery systems by adolescents. *Addict Behav* 2014;39:338-340.

<sup>6</sup> Lippert AM. Do adolescent smokers use e-cigarettes to help them quit? The sociodemographic correlates and cessation motivations of U.S. adolescent e-cigarette use. *Amer J Health Promotion* 2014 Jun 26. E-pub ahead of print.

<sup>7</sup> Zhu SH, Sun JY, Bonnevie E, Cummins SE, Gamst A, Yin L, Lee M. Four hundred and sixty brands of e-cigarettes and counting: Implications for product regulation. *Tob Control* 2014;23:iii3-iii9.

<sup>8</sup> McQueen A, Tower S, Sumner W. Interviews with “vapers”: Implications for future research with electronic cigarettes. *Nicotine Tob Res* 2011;13:860-867.

<sup>9</sup> Food and Drug Administration. September 22, 2009. Candy and fruit flavored cigarettes now illegal in United States; Step is first under new tobacco law. FDA news release. Accessed June 24, 2014. Available at: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm183211.htm>.

<sup>10</sup> Zhu S-H, Sun JY, Bonnevie E, Cummins SE, Gamst A, Yin L, Lee M. Four hundred and sixty brands of e-cigarettes and counting: Implications for product regulation. *Tob Control* 2014;23:iii3-iii9.

**CDC Response to Public Comment #2**

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(see next page)



December 9, 2014

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Dr. Gerlach and colleagues:

Thank you for your comments on the proposed 2015-2017 NYTS and the opportunity to provide you with additional information about the survey content.

There are several criteria that dictate the length of the NYTS survey, but the most important is the need to minimize respondent burden and survey length while ensuring that valid and reliable data are collected that can effectively inform ongoing and future tobacco prevention and control efforts at the national, state, and local levels.

We appreciate your attention to the NYTS and suggestions for potential questions. As with any data collection activity, we need to ensure that the NYTS is timely and relevant with the flexibility to revise the questionnaire to capture emerging issues and behaviors. For example, as the popularity of using electronic nicotine delivery systems has accelerated, we have added questions to the 2015 NYTS to obtain information about the ever use, past 30 day use, intention to use, and age of first use of electronic nicotine delivery systems. These questions will be included in a section dedicated specifically to these products, similar to that of cigarettes.

Additionally, the following question about the use of flavoring has been added, which allows the respondent to select from a list of nine different tobacco product types: *"Which of the following tobacco products that you used in the past 30 days were flavored to taste like menthol (mint), alcohol (wine, cognac), candy, fruit, chocolate or other sweets? (CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)"*

All of the 2015 NYTS questions specific to electronic cigarettes will be revised to remove explicit listings of brand names in the questions. Instead, a specific definition will be added prior to the section containing the questions on electronic cigarettes. Below is the definition that will be used in the 2015 NYTS: *"E-cigarettes are electronic devices that usually contain a nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled. You may also know them as vape-pens, hookah-pens, electronic hookahs (e-hookahs), electronic cigars (e-cigars), electronic pipes (e-pipes), or e-vaporizers. Some look like cigarettes and others look like pens or small pipes. These are battery-powered devices that produce vapor instead of smoke. Some brands examples are NJOY, Blu, VUSE, MarkTen, Finiti, Starbuzz, and Fantasia."*

We appreciate your interest and your suggestions for making the NYTS an effective and relevant data collection instrument. We will continue to explore the inclusion of new questions to capture information that is relevant to tobacco use and related behaviors among youth in the United States.