THE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF A UNIVERSL SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION INTERVENTION TARGETING E-CIGARETTES: THE OURFUTURES VAPING MODULE

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Introduction and Aims: Adolescent e-cigarette use, commonly known as vaping, has become an issue of global public health concern due to the rapid increase in prevalence and emerging evidence of adverse physical and mental health effects. Effective behaviour change interventions are urgently needed, and school is an ideal setting for delivery. The aim of this presentation is to provide an overview of the development and evaluation of a universal school-based preventive intervention targeting e-cigarette use among Year 8 students (~13 years old).

Design and Methods: Built on the effective OurFutures model (formerly known as Climate Schools), the intervention will utilise web-based cartoon storyboards, quizzes and class activities to engage and educate students. Development activities include a systematic review of existing school-based preventive interventions targeting e-cigarettes and consultations with students, teachers and multidisciplinary experts. A cluster randomised controlled trial will be run in 2023 to evaluate the intervention.

Results: Development is underway and expected to be near completion by the time of the conference. This presentation will outline the results of the systematic review, findings from the consultations, and detail the co-development process and trial design.

Discussions and Conclusions: This study aims to bridge evidence gaps identified in the systematic review, and co-develop and evaluate an engaging educational module to combat the rapidly rising prevalence of e-cigarette use and related harms among adolescents.

Implications for Translational Research: If found to be effective, the OurFutures Vaping Module could be immediately disseminated via the existing OurFutures platform, which has reached >1,240 schools/organisations (>34,000 students and >3,000 teachers), and incorporated into health education classes nationwide.