

# **School Health Officer Report**

**to:**

## **SD 69 Board Meeting**

### **June 25, 2019**

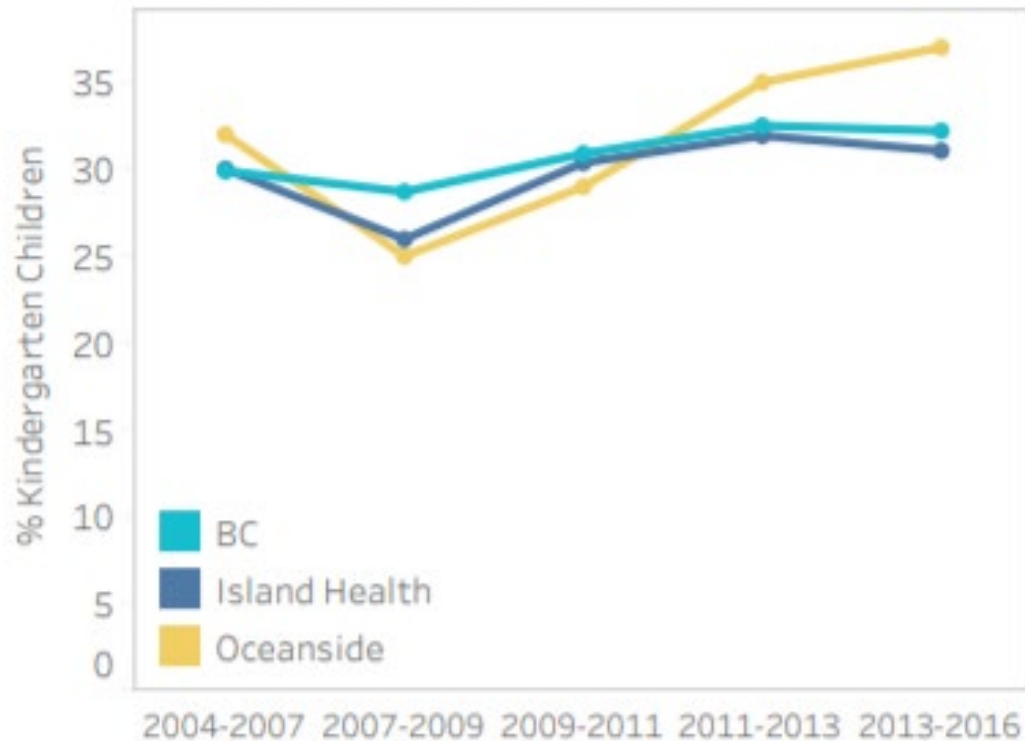
Paul Hasselback MD MSc FCRPC  
Medical Health Officer  
Central Vancouver Island

# School Medical Officer

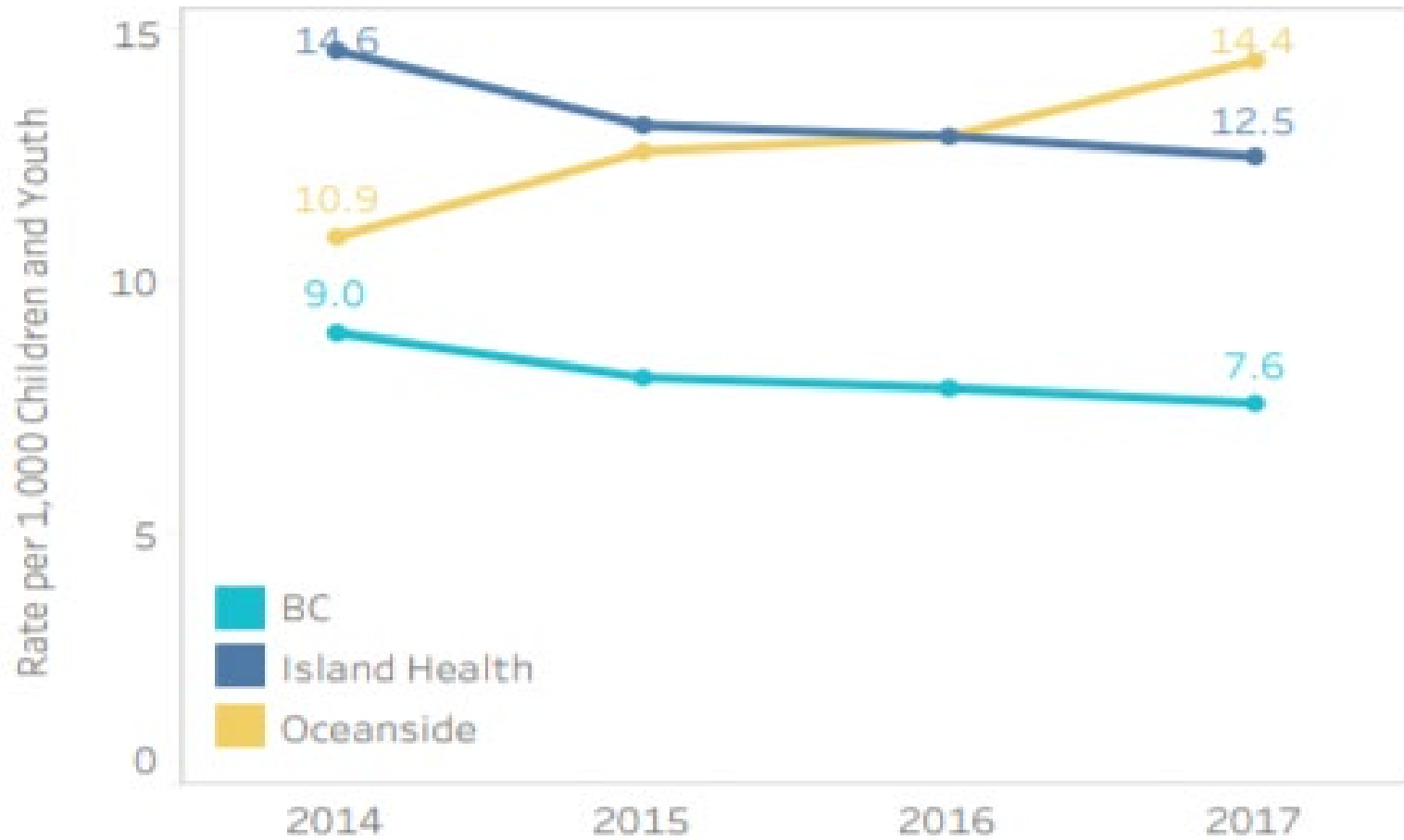
- *School Act* Section 89 – is a Medical Health Officer designated under *Public Health Act*.
- Section 90 – powers to inspect and close due to health or safety.
- Section 91
  - Examine general health of students.
  - Address where health of student may endanger other students or staff.
- Section 92 – advise school in relation to staff that may endanger.

# EDI Vulnerability on One or More Scales

Early Childhood Development Instrument (EDI)  
Percent of Preschool Children Vulnerable on  
EDI: Vulnerable on >1 Domains



## Children and Youth in Care per 1,000 Children and Youth



Child and Youth in Need of Protection Oceanside 24.5, Island 39.2, BC 27.7

# Child Health

Indicator Description	Time Period	BC	Island Health	Alberni-Clayoquot	
Lone-parent family households (% of census families with children)	2016	25.5	22.0	13.3	
Median lone-parent family income (\$)	2016	50,894.0	48,366.0	43,457.0	
Median household total income (\$)	2016	69,979.0	65,735.0	62,649.0	
Low income based on after-tax low-income measure, ages less than 18 years (%)	2016	18.4	19.2	21.5	
Low income based on after-tax low-income measure, ages less than 6 years (%)	2016	17.7	19.6	21.5	
Child Mental Diseases & Disorders Hospitalizations (age-standardized rate per 1,000 aged 0-14)	2017	1.6	1.9	1.9	
Youth Mental Dis. & Disorders Hospitalizations (age-standardized rate per 1,000 aged 15-24)	2017	11.3	11.9	14.8	
Child/Youth Mental Dis. & Disorders Hosp. (age-standardized rate per 1,000 aged 0-24)	2017	6.0	5.8	10.2	
Child hospitalizations - Injury/Poisoning (rate per 1,000 aged 0 to 14) - (2yr Agg)	2015-2017	4.5	5.4	6.6	
Child hospitalizations - Respiratory Dis. (rate per 1,000 aged 0 to 14) - (2yr Agg)	2015-2017	7.9	9.1	6.5	
Child hospitalizations - Dental Surgery (rate per 1,000 aged 0 to 14) - (2yr Agg)	2015-2017	7.1	9.5	8.5	
Pregnant women who reported smoking at any time during current pregnancy (%) (5yr Agg)	2012-2016	7.3	10.5	8.7	

# Other Issues

- Comprehensive School Health
- Cannabis
- Substance use
  - Opioids
  - Alprazolam (Xanax<sup>®</sup>)
- Vaping
- Immunization and records.



# *Vaping*

*School Board*

*SD 69*

*Thanks to Dr. C. Enns  
and Scott Riddell*

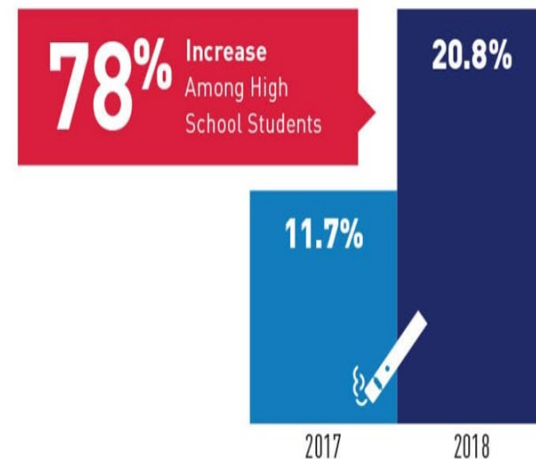
*June 25, 2019*



# E-Cigarette Epidemic in Adolescents

- The 2016-17 Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey: ever trying an e-cigarette increased to 23%
- Frequency of use is increasing amongst users.
- Potential for delivery of high level of nicotine – tasteless and odourless with even brief experimentation leading to dependency.

## SURGE IN YOUTH CURRENT E-CIGARETTE USE

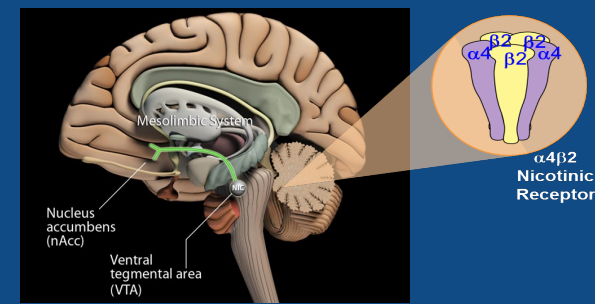


CENTER FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS





# Health Concerns: Nicotine



- Teens at risk due to developing brains – nicotine changes the way synapses are formed, that can last a life time.
- Brain risks: decreased attention, impulse control, decision making, cognitive performance, depression, nicotine withdrawal
- Nicotine dependence - No data on how to treat but if analogous to tobacco, a struggle with high relapse rate
- Increased risk to use other substances such as alcohol and cannabis.



*“e-cigarette use is associated with increased risk for cigarette initiation and use, particularly among low-risk youths”*

*JAMA, 2019*



island health

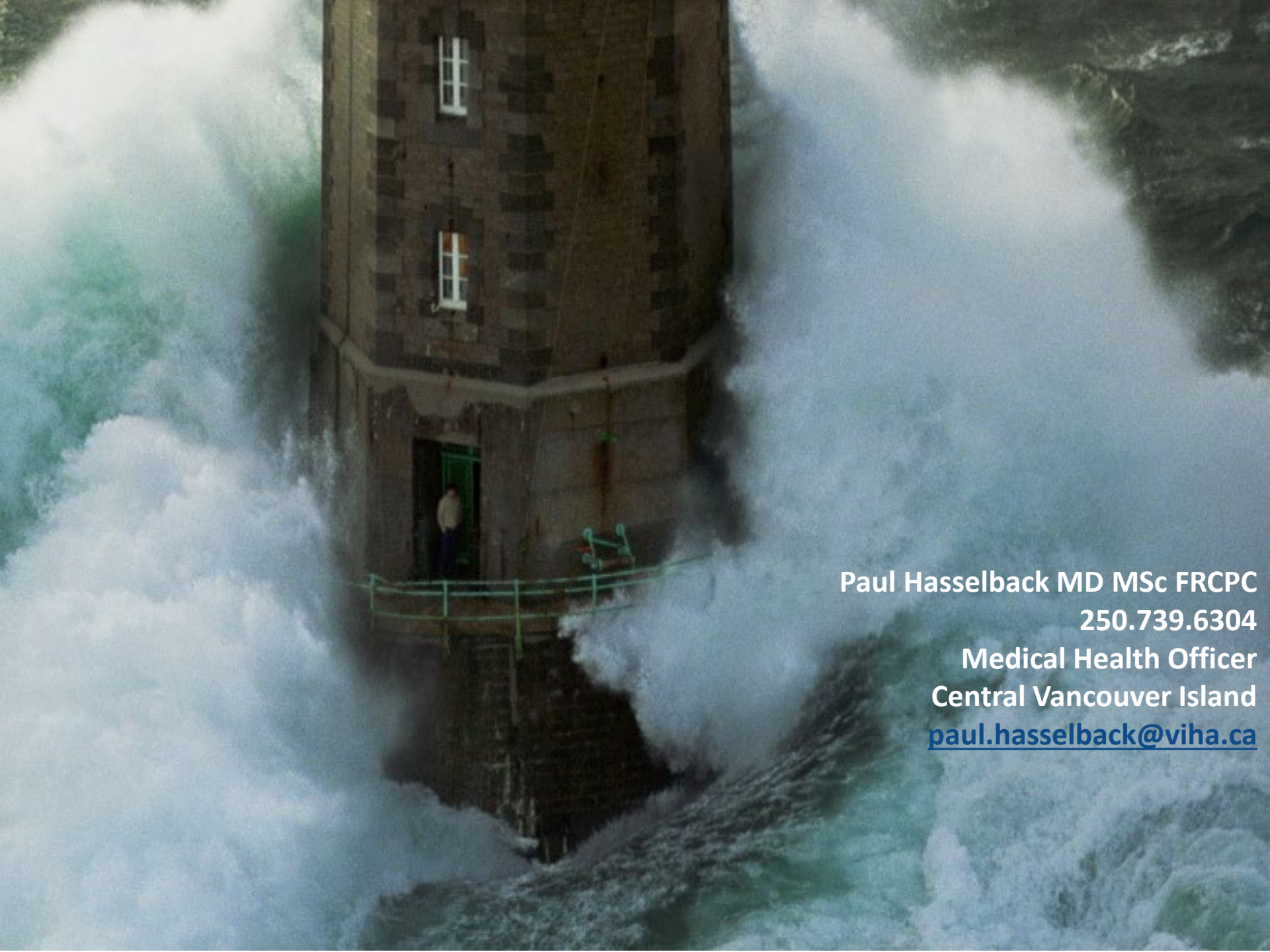
# Tobacco Cigarette Initiation

- “E-cigarette use was strongly associated with cigarette smoking behaviour, including smoking initiation at follow-up.”

*Hammond D, Reid J, Cole A, Leatherdale S, Electronic cigarette use and smoking initiation among youth: a longitudinal cohort study, CMAJ October 30, 2017 189 (43) E1328-E1336*

# Summary

- 1. Vaping amongst youth is a rapidly growing phenomenon*
- 2. Vaping is not harmless. Long term health risks will become clearer with time.*
- 3. Addiction to nicotine may have a dramatic effect on public health*
- 4. Vaping may have a role in smoking cessation*
- 5. “Big Tobacco” is quickly becoming the main promoter and seller*
- 6. E-cigarettes are now regulated by the Health Canada TVPA*



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# Resources

- Health Canada, talking with teens about vaping, <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/publications/healthy-living/talking-teen-vaping-tip-sheet-parents.html>
- Island Health, Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping, <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/smoking-tobacco/electronic-cigarettes-vaping>
- Surgeon General, Know the Risks e-cigs and young people, <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/>

