Nearly nine out of ten current smokers start smoking by age 18, and 98% start by age 26.¹ Youth tobacco use has negative health consequences including addiction and lifelong chronic disease.² More than 60,000 Kansans currently under 18 years of age will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.³ Although we have seen a decline in the use of conventional cigarettes among Kansas youth, 5.8 percent of Kansas high school students still smoke, and emerging products including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) highlight the continued need for youth tobacco control and prevention programs.

### E-Cigarette Use

- **Nearly half** (48.6%) of Kansas high school students have **ever tried** e-cigarettes, and **22.0% currently use** e-cigarettes.⁴

### Depression

- **Almost half** (44.4%) of Kansas high school students who **currently use** e-cigarettes report symptoms of depression.

- **Only about a quarter** (26.4%) of Kansas high school students who **never used** e-cigarettes report symptoms of depression.

### Reasons Why Youth Use E-Cigarettes

When asked to report the main reason they have used e-cigarettes, the three most common reasons selected by Kansas high school students who have ever or currently use e-cigarettes were:⁴

- **Friend or family member uses** (40.2%)
- **Available in flavors, such as mint, candy, fruit, or chocolate** (10.7%)
- **Less harmful than other forms of tobacco** (7.7%)
Youth who currently use e-cigarettes are more likely to **self-harm** (32.5%), **consider** (30.7%), **plan** (19.0%), and **attempt** (19.1%) suicide than youth who have never used e-cigarettes.

Youth who currently use e-cigarettes are more likely to **use alcohol** (69.2%) and **use marijuana** (52.0%) than youth who have never used e-cigarettes.