

HEALTH EQUITY DATA ANALYSIS

Partners in Healthy Living

Mille Lacs

Isanti

Kanabec

Pine

- Partners in Healthy Living (PiHL) began working on a health equity data analysis (HEDA) in the Fall of 2017. Throughout the HEDA process, input was gathered from Local Public Health Directors based out of Mille Lacs, Isanti, Kanabec and Pine counties, along with members of PiHL's Community Leadership Team (CLT). After reviewing various quantitative data sources PiHL's HEDA team members chose to focus this HEDA on e-cigarette usage among youth within Mille Lacs, Isanti, Kanabec and Pine counties, looking at the differences between usage rates in low vs. high income youth.

- Technical assistance was provided by Minnesota Department of Health staff throughout the entirety of this HEDA.

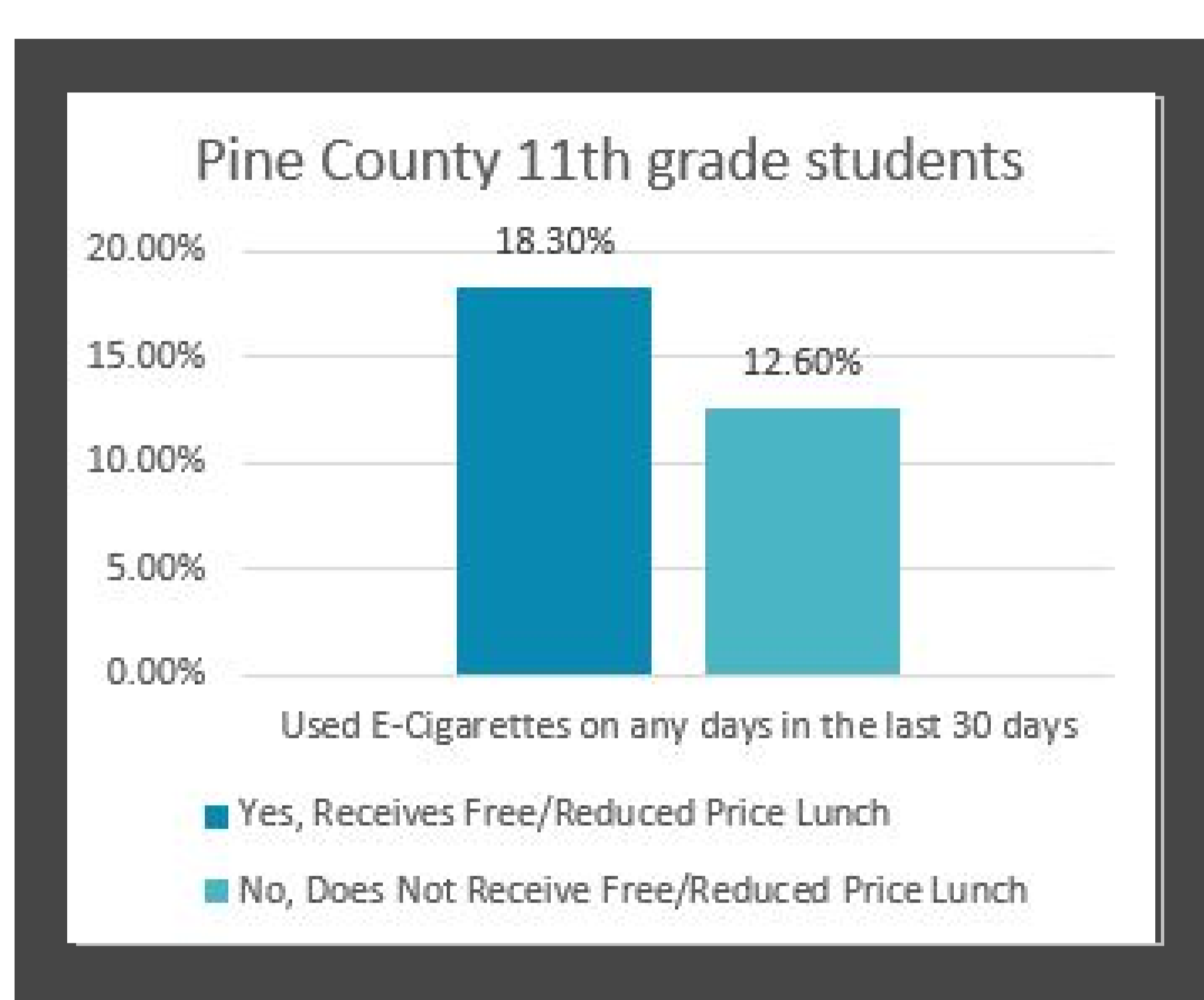
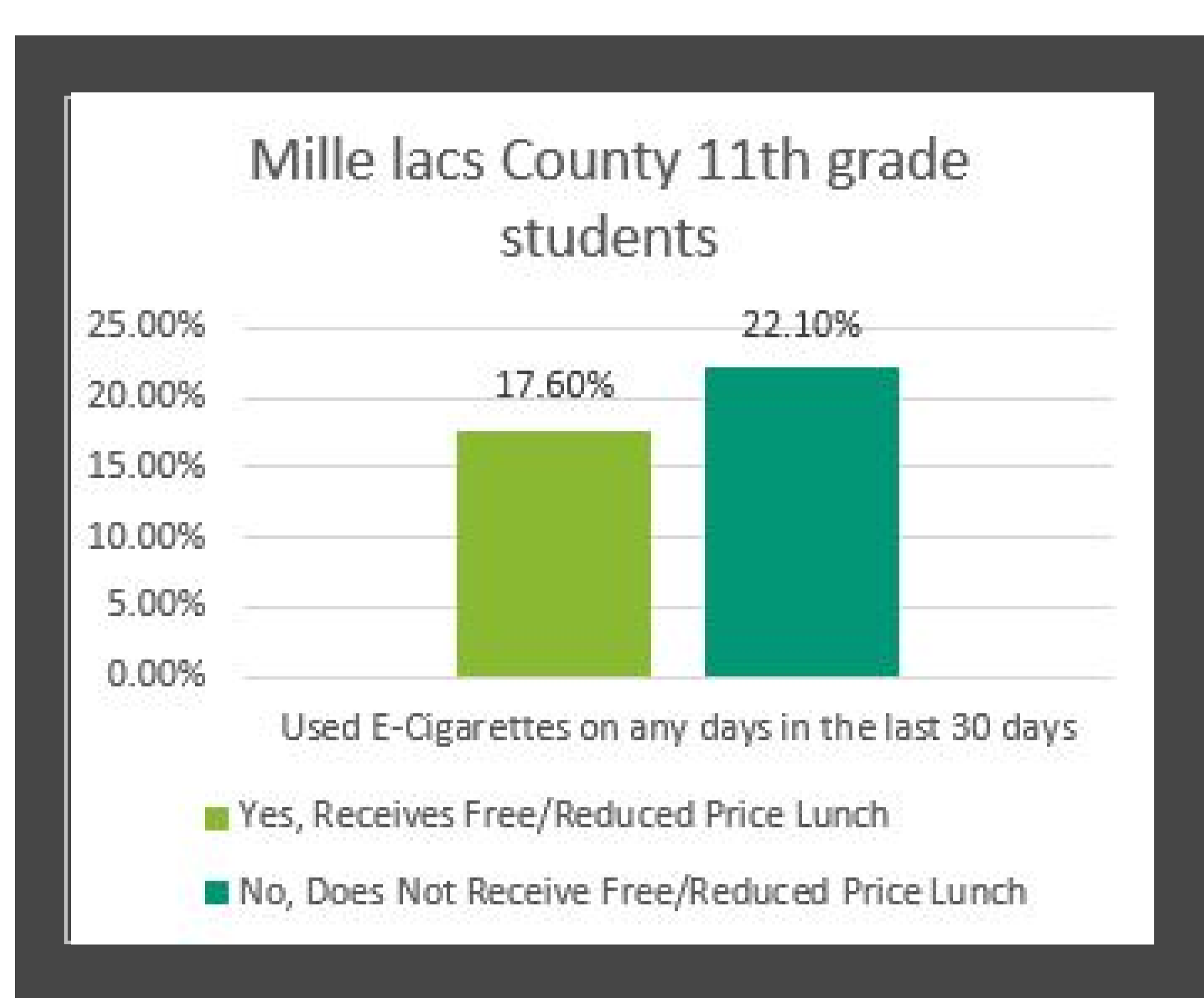
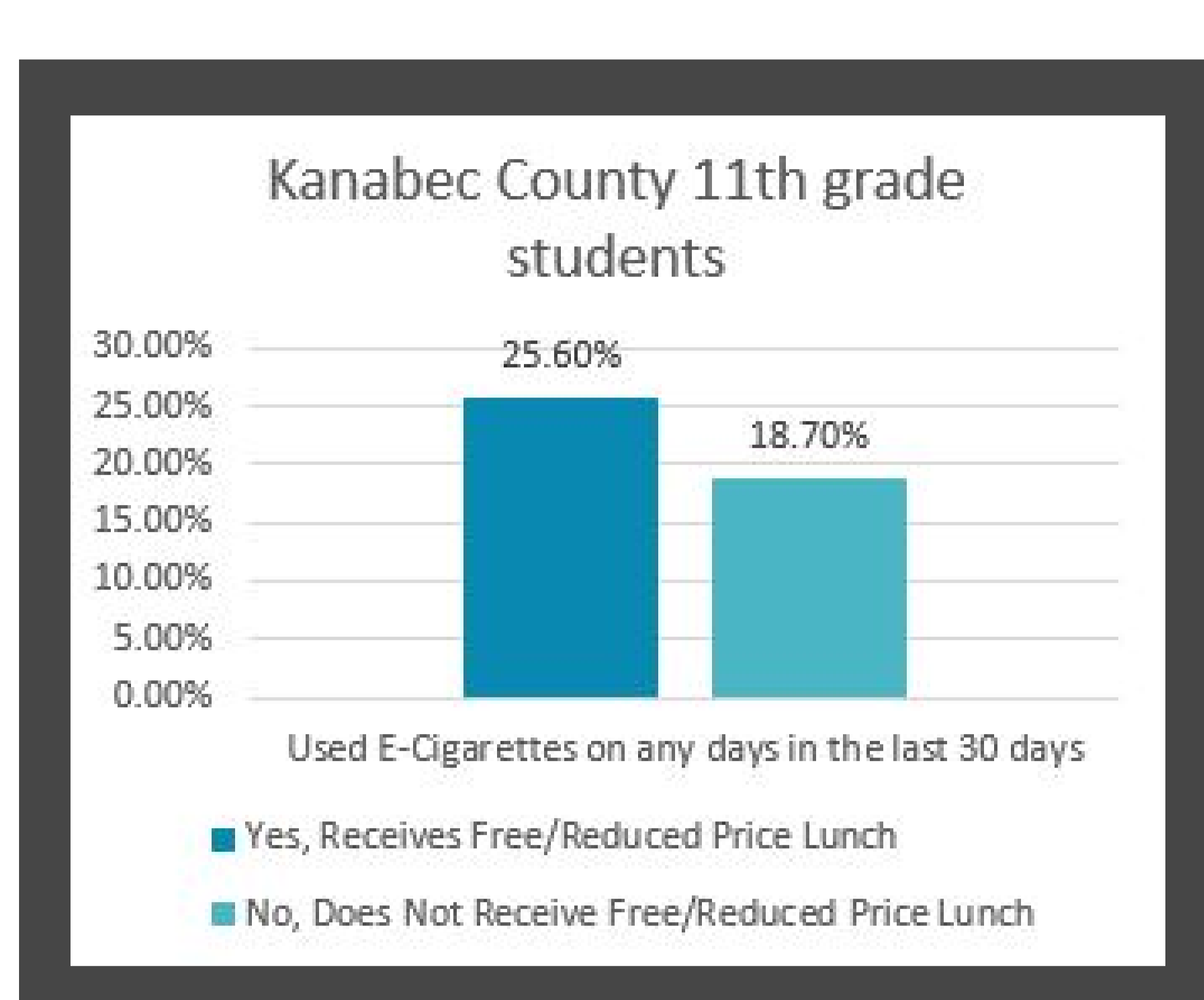
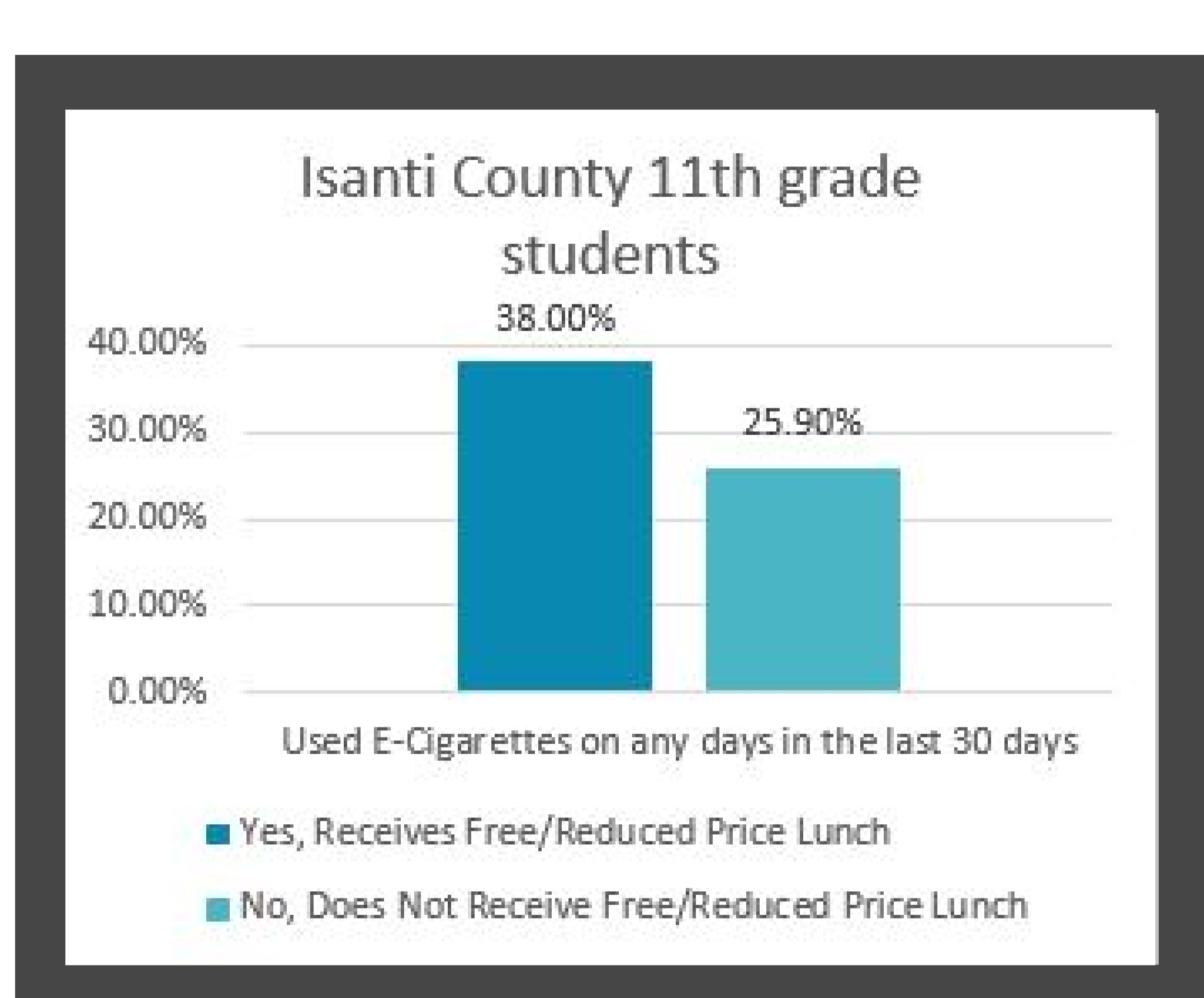
HEDA GOAL:

Increase Local Public Health's knowledge as to why youth use e-cigarettes, and identify potential conditions and causes that create differences between e-cigarette usage rates among youth in low vs. high income families across Mille Lacs, Isanti, Kanabec and Pine counties.

2016 MINNESOTA STUDENT SURVEY

Have you used e-cigarettes on any days in the last 30 days?

Do you currently get free/reduced price lunch?



The graphs above show the difference of e-cigarette usage among high vs. low income 11th grade students across Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine counties. Out of all of the 8th, 9th, and 11th grade students who were surveyed, only 11th grade students from Mille Lacs County indicated a higher e-cigarette usage rate among high income youth vs. low income.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER SURVEY DATA 2018:

Students enrolled in the Alternative Learning Centers at Mora, Pine City, East Central, Princeton, Isle and Cambridge were surveyed in February 2018, using an open-ended survey which consisted of 16 questions. PiHL collected a total of 107 surveys across all four counties. The goal of this survey was to gain stronger youth perspective in regard to e-cigarette use among youth, and to identify possible causes as to why there are differences in e-cigarette usage rates among youth from low income families vs. high income families.

From those 16 questions, 3 questions gathered the most responses that identified individual factors for youth e-cigarette use and conditional factors for use.

The quotes below were the responses given for questions 1, 2, & 3, by some of the students who identified that they receive free/reduced price lunch and have used e-cigarettes.

Q. 2

"People's backgrounds have a lot of different outcomes. Wealthy kids don't live in the crappy part of town or the ghetto or the trailer park, so they don't have bad influences around them and their friends are most likely wealthy also, so they don't smoke either."

Q. 1

"E-cigarettes are very advertised, because so many people use them, and flavored e-cigarettes are very popular."

Q. 1

"They see others doing it. It's cheaper than cigarettes. It tastes better. Stress relief."

Q. 2

"Lower income means that life is rough and they would use for stress."

Q. 1

"They think it is better for them and it is easier to get them online."

Q. 3

"I started because all of my friends were."

Q. 1. Why do you think youth start using e-cigarettes?

Q. 2. Some studies show that youth from lower income families use e-cigarettes more than youth from higher income families. Why do you think that might be? Do youth from different backgrounds have different reasons for using e-cigarettes?

Q. 3. Why did you start using e-cigarettes? What was appealing about them?

KEY FACTORS/THEMES:

Individual Factors/Themes:

- Fun-play tricks (blow clouds)
- Flavoring is appealing
- Friends' use has impact on personal use
- Stress
- Identifies difference in use between low vs. high income households

Factors/Themes Related to Living Conditions:

- Less expensive than traditional cigarettes
- Think using e-cigarettes are cool because of advertising
- Viewed as safer than traditional tobacco products because of advertising.

*Individual factors/ themes reflect personal reasons young people use e-cigarettes.

*Factors/themes related to living conditions touch on potential causes that create differences in e-cigarette usage rates between low vs. high income youth.

NEXT STEPS:

#1

Present the results to PiHL's Community Leadership Team and discuss strategies to inform future work plans.

#2

Present the results back to the Alternative Learning Centers that participated in the HEDA.

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