



## BACKGROUND

### E-CIGARETTE USAGE AMONG TEENAGERS



Vaping is increasingly popular among U.S. middle and high school students, with **youth in Kentucky** reporting higher trends of ever and current use.

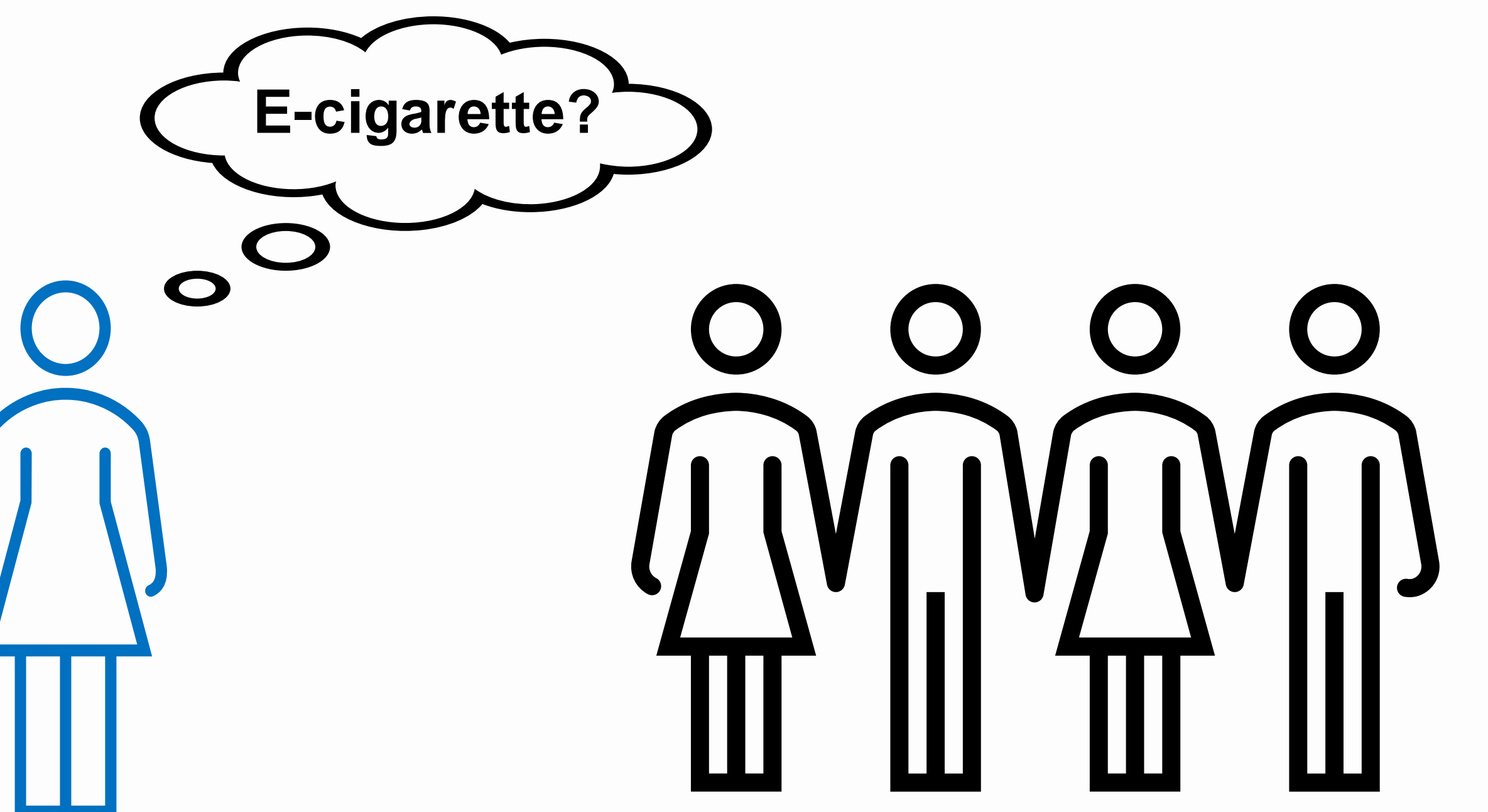
**Connectedness in school** has been shown to be essential in advancing students' wellbeing.

Students with **lower peer and school connectedness** were **more likely to use vaping products** as a coping mechanism.

More research is needed to **understand the relationship** between connectedness, other demographic factors, and vaping among Kentucky 8th-12th graders.

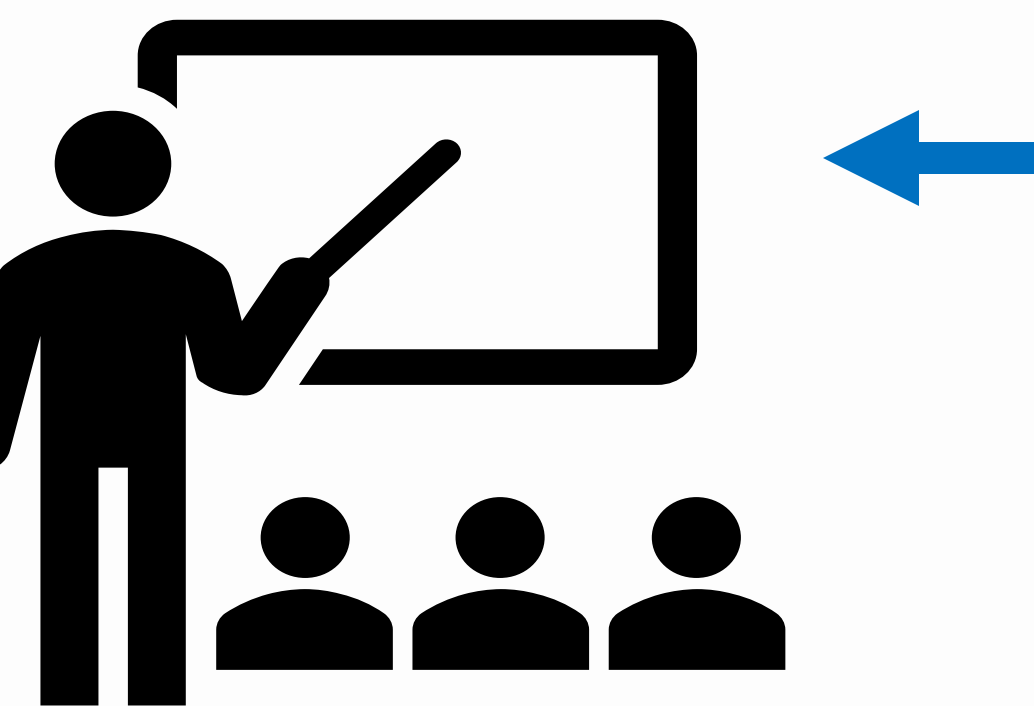
## PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to examine whether school connectedness can predict vaping behavior and vaping susceptibility among Kentucky youth. The study also examined vaping use and susceptibility among different race and gender.



## METHODS

Baseline data were collected between August and December 2022 from middle and high school students in Kentucky.



**1,951 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students**

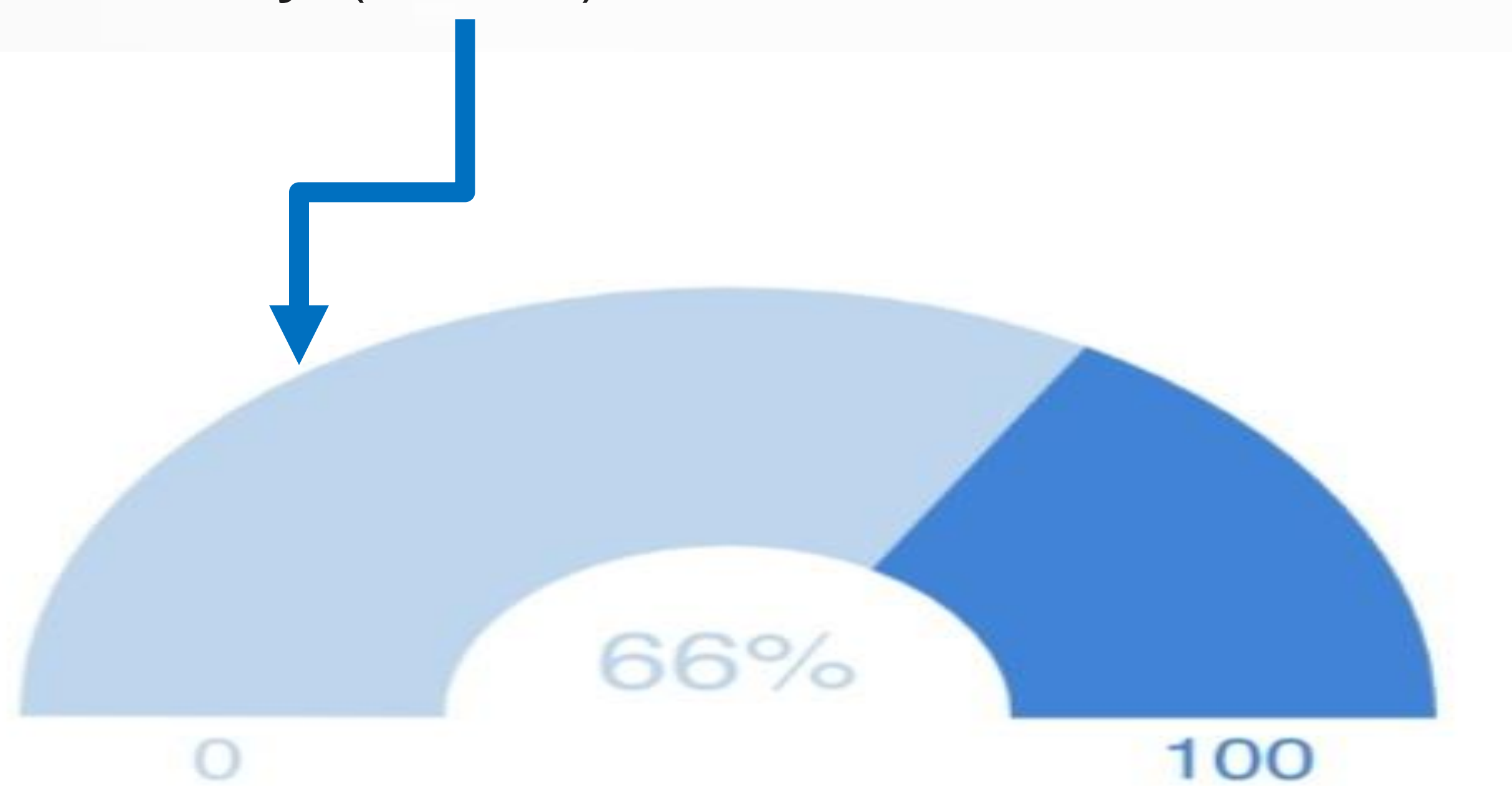
Demographic: **83.26%** students identify as White and **16.74%** are Non-white. **99.74%** are aged **10 to 19** while **0.26%** are above **19 years**. **49.16%** are male while **45.52%** are female.

Analysis was conducted in SPSS to determine relationship between outcome variables.

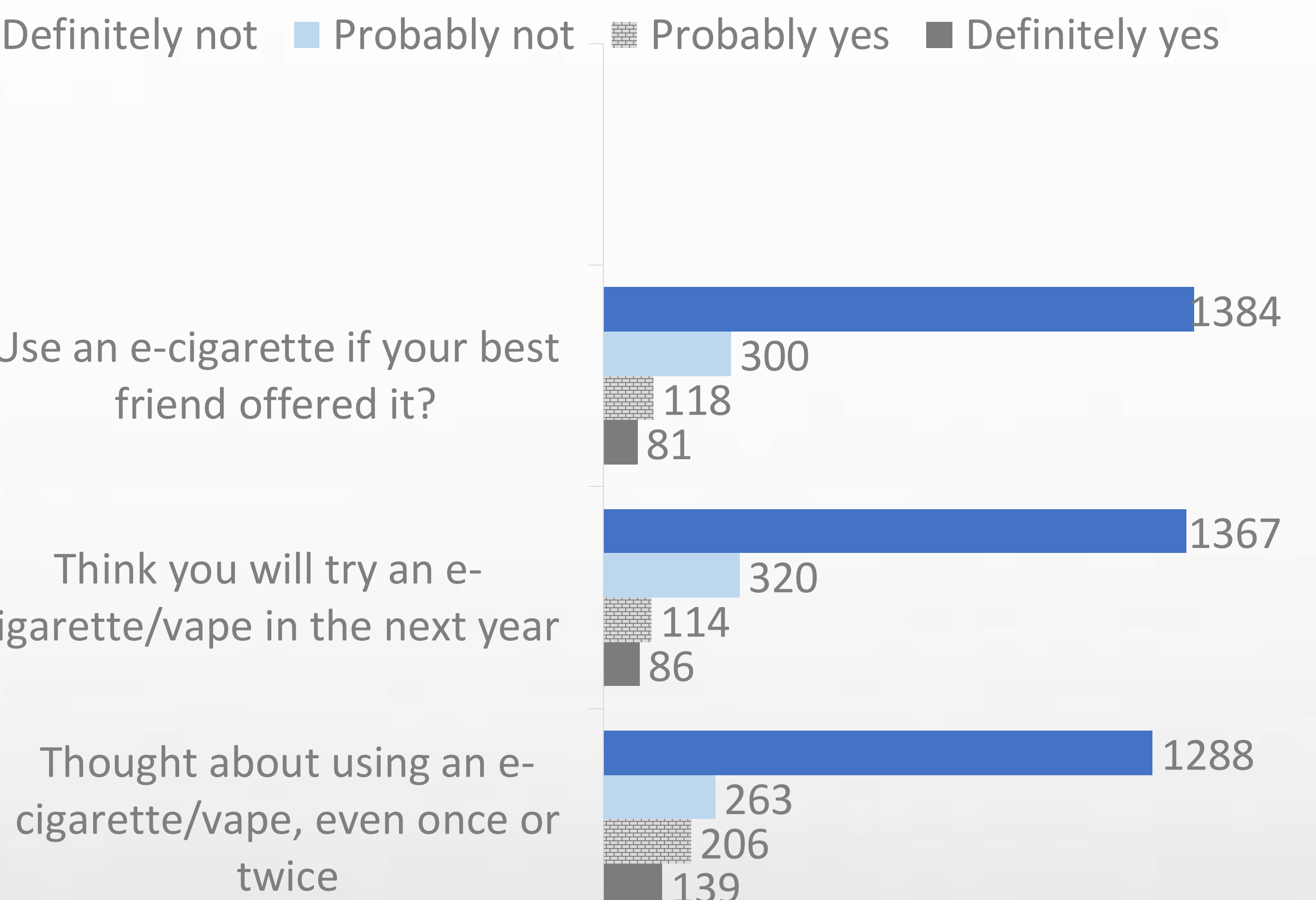
## RESULTS

### School Connectedness and Vaping

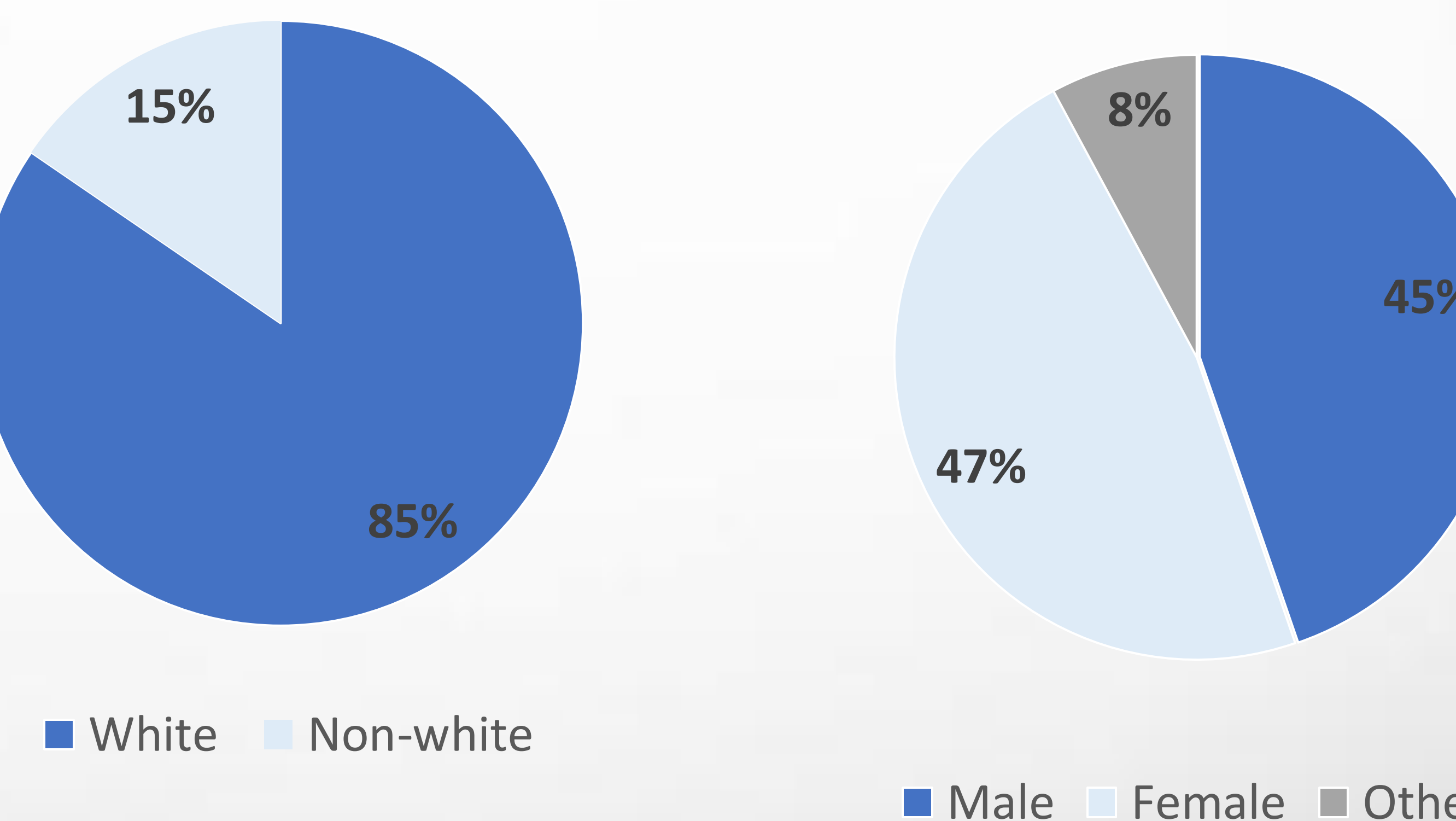
This represents the total percentage of students' agreement to the statement **"I believe staff members at this school treat students fairly"** (N=1897).



### School Connectedness and Susceptibility (N=1905)



### Students who ever tried Vapes by race and gender (N=369)



### Key findings:

- School connectedness is **associated** with vaping susceptibility.
- Students who had greater agreement to these statements **"I feel like i am part of this school"** and **"I believe staff member at this school treat students fairly,"** were less likely to vape and reported lower susceptibility (p=0.001).

## Conclusion

- School connectedness is important to **students' wellbeing** physically, mentally, and academically.
- Students' who feel connected in school or have a good relationship are less likely to vape.
- Further understanding **opportunities to support connectedness in school** may enhance prevention efforts.
- Parents, educators, and administrators should continue to advocate for a **supportive and inclusive environment**.



- There is a **negative relationship** between school connectedness and vaping.
- Students who choose agree or strongly agree to these statements are less likely to vape.
- The statement **"I believe staff members at this school treat students fairly"** was the most significant factor associated with vaping (r= -0.184, p= 0.001).
- No sufficient information on the impact of gender and race on vape use given the proportion.