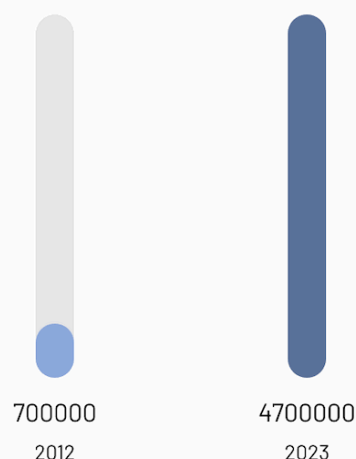


Single-use cigarettes: From exponential growth to permanent ban

Commonly known as ‘vapes’ have reached significant highs in popularity since their birth, although are about to flatline

The rainbow assorted tobacco alternatives are seemingly harmless; they were originally designed to aid the rapid growth of tobacco consumption by Chinese pharmacist Hon Lik, following the death of his father from lung cancer. This creation transgressed into what we now know as the vape- again, seemingly harmless, although following a recent Government press release, single-use vapes are to be banned from 1 June 2025. As much as the vape has been effective in helping smokers quit with high success rates, offering a “less harmful” addiction, the harm lies elsewhere according to a report by [Material Focus](#). It was revealed that last year almost five million vapes per week were thrown away in the UK, comparable to 1.3 million the year prior, the equivalent to 8 vapes being thrown away per second. 7.7 million single-use vapes are said to be bought per week, most of which are being thrown away in lieu of recycling, and are now causing serious damages to the environment. Material Focus uncovered more than 40 tonnes of lithium in 2022, the environmental damage in question, on par with powering 5,000 electric vehicles: still harmless, right?

Number of e-cigarette users in Great Britain



The teenage craze did see crazy heights, though, even when the disposables’ popularity first commenced according

Number of e-cigarette users in Great Britain



to the [Mirror](#), an article now over ten years old. The sale of e-cigarettes rose an almost unbelievable 340% in a year, the article stated; “beating nicotine patches, lozenges and gum for the first time”, seeing a total sales increase of £193million in 2013 comparable to *just* £44million in 2012. A significant rise in sales comes with a rise in e-cigarette users, according to research conducted by [ASH](#) last year; which saw the number of e-cigarette users

rise from 700,000 in 2012 to 4.7 million in 2023. The percentage of the population who vape saw gradual increases throughout the years between 2012 and 2023, reaching a vast 9.1% last year, only 2.7% of which were ex-smokers.