

## Vapes, Concentrates and more...

By: Officer Jermaine Galloway, the Tall Cop Says Stop

Vape pens are one of the most rapidly evolving drug trends in the United States and around the world. Vapes are sweeping the country, but what we are quickly finding, is that a vape pen can contain much more than just nicotine. This is the main highlight in this article today.

We will review vapes for cannabis (THC and CBD), nicotine vapes and the items inside of the vapes. First, there are no absolutes when referring to vape pens or e- cigarettes. There are vapes that work for nicotine, flavored oils without nicotine, cannabis THC and CBD, and even synthetic drugs. When you see someone vaping, there is a real chance you don't know what they are really vaping. This is also known as "High in Plain Sight". The majority of the vape pens contain the product, that you assume is inside, nicotine. With that being said, we are locating a laundry list of other drugs and items inside of vapes.

Recently, I wrote an article highlighting marijuana concentrates aka dabs, wax, oils and shatter. Marijuana concentrates and vape pens are the perfect combination. Cannabis concentrates come in oil, wax or crystal form, and the current version of vape pens can work for all three. An outsider can't simply look at someone smoking from a vape pen and know what is inside. That is virtually impossible.

*So, how can you figure out what someone is actually smoking?* First, we need to understand these pens a little better. **The baseline when dealing with vape pens is there are NO ABSOLUTES.** Many of the pens that you see that are being used for nicotine look similar to some of the pens in the drug world and vice / versa. Also, the vape pen market is flooded and is very hard to keep up with. For example, I do frequent community scans all across the US and Canada. During these scans I see various forms of vapes that look slightly different, are different sizes, work for different products and vary in price points from \$5-\$400. Although a common price point for a popular cannabis vape is around \$15-\$45.

Over the last few years, vape pens for various drug use have continued to gain in popularity. As mentioned earlier these pens can look like nicotine-based pens. Since they are new, colorful, small and can be very discrete,

with the latter being a large selling point to these various pens, I expect popularity will continue to rise.

Through my own personal experience as a former police officer, or from the over 600,000 class attendees I have trained, here is what we seem to be coming across the most as far as vapes (with non-nicotine substances) on our streets: dry herbal cannabis, cannabis wax THC and CBD, cannabis oil and other oil forms of synthetic drugs.

Basically, we are still in the very early stages of the vape pen movement and I expect to see these trends continue to rapidly evolve. With that being said, vape pens are hard to identify, offer a new way of use, are VERY discrete, produce less of an odor and therefore can make some means of drug use easier and more mobile.

\*\*\*