# Harm Reduction 101: Applying Harm Reduction to Smoking

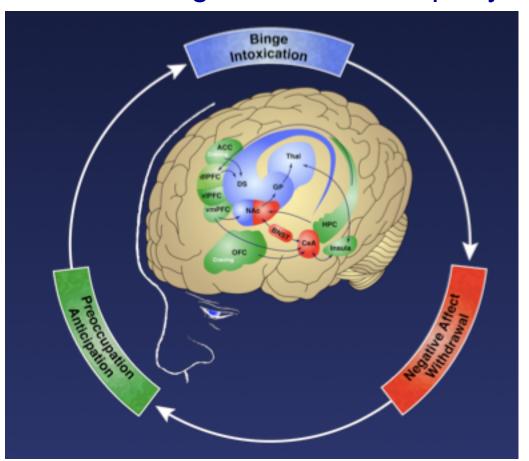


Carrie L Wade R Street Institute

## **Cost and Scope of Addiction**

### 22.9 million showed dependence on cigarettes

\$155 billion per year 443,000 smoking-related deaths per year



# Harm Reduction Introduction

### **Harm Reduction Perspectives**

Problem is not the drug use *per se* but the consequences associated with drug use

**Reduction of drug use** is one possible means to address public health goals

Pragmatic approach to consequences of risk behaviors

**Person-centered** 

Stigma of drug use is a major barrier to care

**Examples** 

Seat Belts
Syringe Access Programs

**Potential** 

Cigarette smoking is down, but almost

American adults still smoke

### Cigarette smoking remains high among certain groups



Men



Adults 25-64 years old



Lower education



Below poverty level



Midwest and South







Serious psychological distress



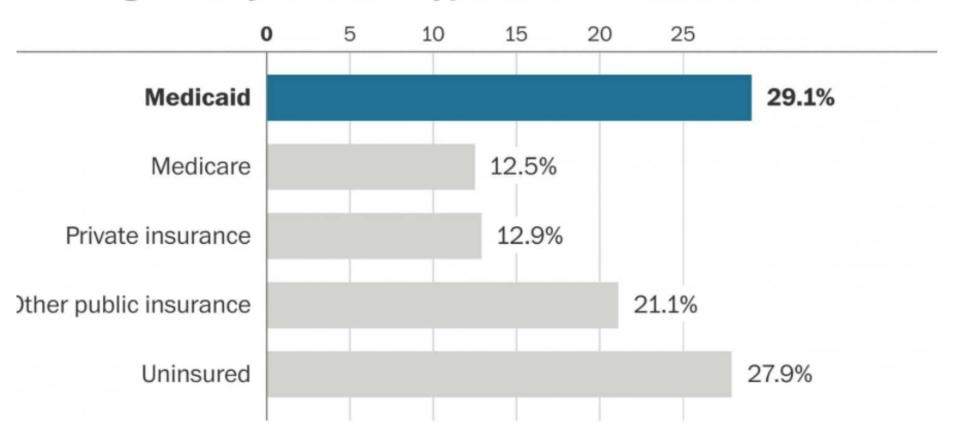
American Indians. Alaska Natives and Multiracial



Lesbians, gays, and bisexuals

**Potential** 

### **Smoking rates by insurance type**

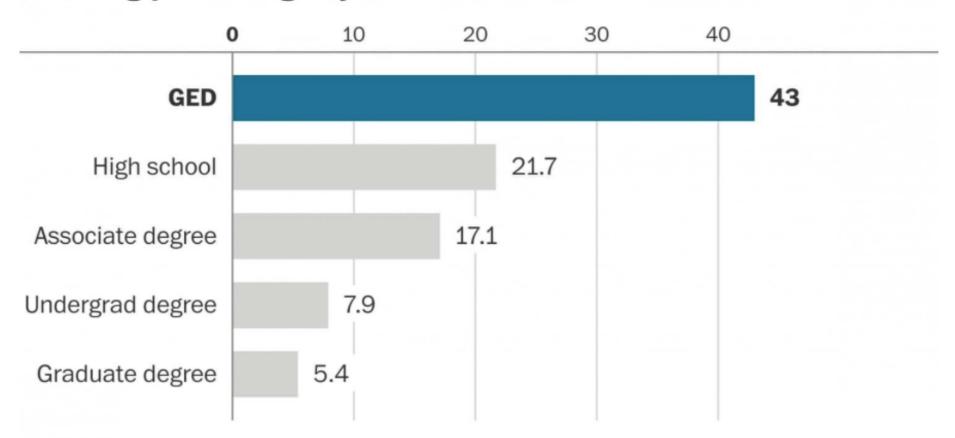


Source: CDC

THE WASHINGTON POST

**Potential** 

### Smoking percentage by education level

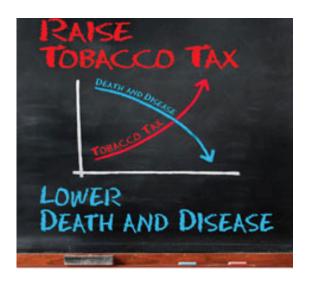


Source: CDC

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## **Tobacco Control Policies**

### **Taxation**



### Cessation







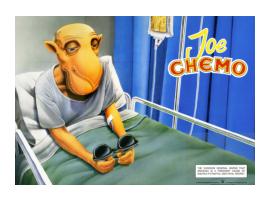
### Bans

# Tobacco-free Campus

For better health, smoking and use of tobacco products are prohibited everywhere on our property.



### Warn



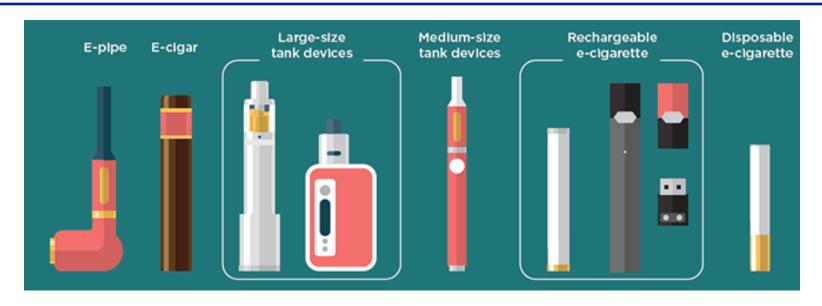
**Potential** 



# "People Smoke for the nicotine but die from the tar"

(1976)

Russell MJ. Low-tar medium nicotine cigarettes: a new approach to safer smoking. BMJ. 1976; 1:1430-3.



**E-cigarettes** 



**Heat-not-Burn** 



**Smokeless** 

## Harm Reduction

### Concerns

### **Tobacco Harm Reduction**

Why it might not be a good idea

- Nicotine is addictive
- Gateway Concerns
- Toxicity concerns
- Tacit approval of use
- Industry support
- Diverted attention from prevention programs
- Decreased quitting

What has more Toxins: E-cig Vapor or Cigarette Smoke? Acetaldehyde 1:450 NNN 1:380 Toulene 1:120 NNK 1:40 Acrolein 1:15 Formaldehyde 1:9 Ratio (vape:cig) Street

**Outcomes** 

**Outcomes** 

### **Combustible Use**

## Japan - Heat-not-Burn

- 14% rate of decline in combustible sales in 1 year
- 27% decrease in smoking rates in 2 years

### **Sweden - Smokeless**

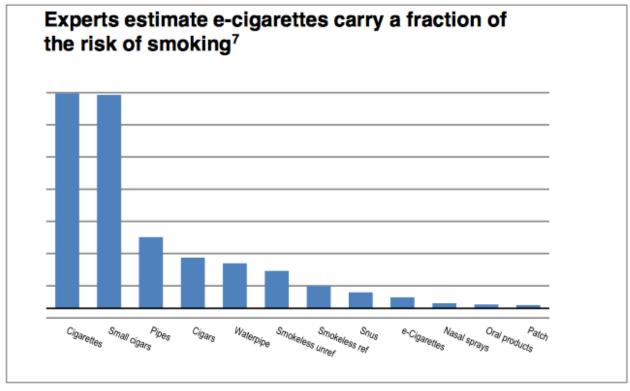
- Smoking rates below 5% in 2017
  - Lowest rate of CV disease and smoking-related cancer in EU
- EU smoking rate average 24%

**Outcomes** 

### **Combustible Use**

### UK

- E-cigarettes are acknowledged as a harm reduction tool by Public Health England and Royal College of Physicians
- Smoking rates 16% 4% decrease since 2010

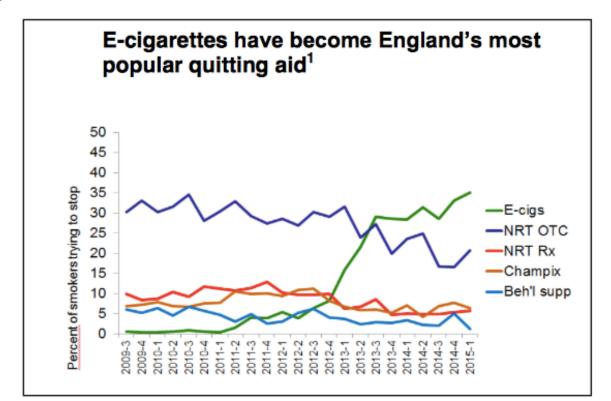


**Outcomes** 

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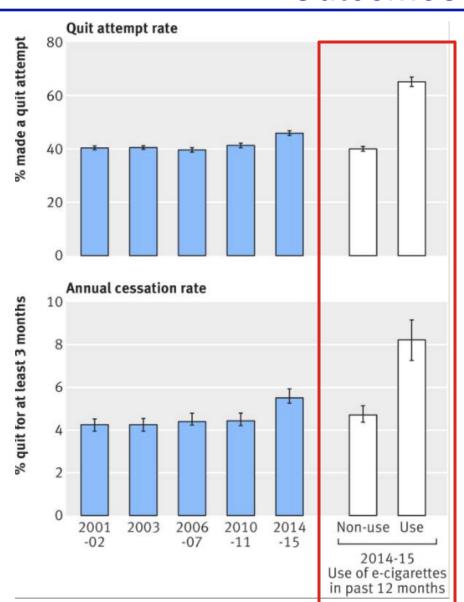


### **Outcomes**

### **Combustible Use**

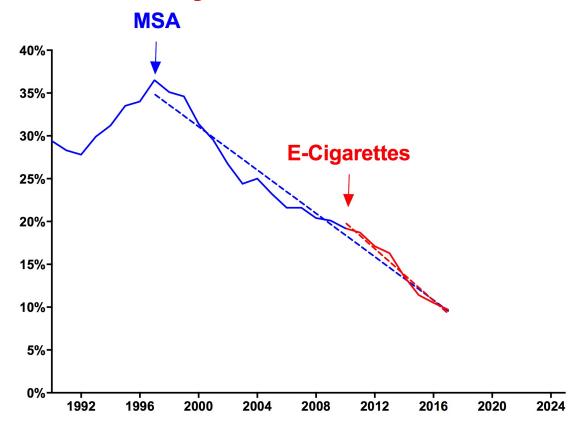
#### **United States**

- Census data
  - 65% vs 40% quit attempts in e-cigarette users
  - 8.2% vs 4.8% success rate



**Outcomes** 

## **Gateway to Combustible Use**



Smoking overwhelmingly preceeds vaping.

Regular vaping is concentrated among adolescents that smoke

Continues to be a rapid decline in smoking

MTF 2016, 2017

Regulation

### What does good state regulation look like?

**Compliance enforcement** 

Treat combustible products differently than non-combustible products

Send a public health message through differential tax rates

**Evaluation of regulations to determine effectiveness** 

### **Eg., Flavors**

Examine unintended consequences of proposed flavor bans

65% of adults use flavored products

Increased combustible use

Decreased quit rates

**DIY flavors** 

# Harm Reduction Conclusion

### Harm Reduction is a public health tool

Decreased risk and disease
Creates more points of intervention
Cost-effective

**Examples** 

Seat Belts
Syringe Access Programs

**Reduced Risk Products** 

## Thank you!



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