

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SB 5025

Concerning the Age of Individuals at Which Sale or Distribution of Tobacco and Vapor Products May be Made (2018 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that SB 5025 would likely decrease use of tobacco and vapor products among youth and young adults, thereby improving health outcomes. It is unclear how the bill would impact health disparities, though some evidence suggests that the effect on disparities may be neutral.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Senators Miloscia, Walsh, O’Ban, Darneille, Cleveland, King, Keiser, Pedersen, Frockt, Lias, Hunt, Chase, Kuderer

Summary of Bill:

- Prohibits selling or giving tobacco or vapor products to a person under the age of 21.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in SB 5025:

- A fair amount of evidence that changing the minimum age for purchase of tobacco and vapor products from 18 years to 21 years of age will likely decrease use of tobacco and vapor products among youth and young adults.
- Very strong evidence that decreasing use of tobacco and vapor products among youth and young adults will likely improve health outcomes.
- Unclear evidence for the bill’s impacts on health disparities. Some evidence indicates that increasing the minimum purchase age is associated with decreased smoking rates across income, race and ethnicity, and grade level—indicating that the impacts of the bill on health disparities is potentially neutral. However this is only preliminary evidence and a large body of evidence has not yet been established. Other factors may also influence how this bill impacts disparities such as access to tobacco on tribal lands and military bases, the potential disparate impacts of possession laws on youth and young adults of color, and smoking rates during pregnancy. Each of these factors is analyzed in more detail in the full Health Impact Review.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2018-13-SB5025.pdf>

For more information contact:
(360)-236-4109 | hir@sboh.wa.gov
or go to sboh.wa.gov