

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of HB 1074

Protecting youth from tobacco products and vapor products by increasing the minimum legal age of sale of tobacco and vapor products (2019 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that HB 1074 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: Harris, Orwall, Riccelli, Jinkins, DeBolt, Pollet, Stonier, Stanford, Rude, Davis, Tharinger, Macri

Summary of Bill:

- Prohibits selling or giving tobacco or vapor products to a person under the age of 21.
- Permits the Governor to seek government-to-government consultations with tribes about raising the minimum legal age of sale in cigarette tax compacts.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in HB 1074:

- 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 inequities. Some evidence indicates that increasing the minimum purchase age is associated with decreased smoking rates across income, race/ethnicity, and grade level, indicating that the impacts of the bill on health inequities 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 inequities such as access to tobacco on tribal lands and military bases 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

https://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2019-02_HB1074.pdf

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