



Impact of price on the smoking behaviour of young people

- Smoking is a significant contributor to preventable illness and premature death. It has also been shown to be a major contributor to social inequalities in health.
- Deterring non-smokers starting to smoke and encouraging young smokers to quit is a serious public health issue that has long term consequences in terms of future health gains and associated costs to the NHS and the wider economy.
- Many different interventions have been proposed, developed, evaluated and implemented to deter smoking among young people.
- This systematic review of 45 studies represents the most comprehensive review to date examining the impact of price on cigarette smoking in young people aged 25 years or under.
- The existing evidence, albeit methodologically limited, suggests that price is an effective instrument in modifying the smoking behaviour of young people, though the size of effect is less clear.
- Increases in price appear to reduce smoking participation and prevalence, as well as the level of smoking. Increased price also appears to lead to reductions in smoking initiation and increases in quit rates.
- Price should be viewed as a legitimate instrument to be used alongside other policies aimed at reducing cigarette consumption among young people.

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About PHRC: The Public Health Research Consortium (PHRC) is funded by the Department of Health Policy Research Programme. The PHRC brings together researchers from 11 UK institutions and aims to strengthen the evidence base for public health, with a strong emphasis on tackling socioeconomic inequalities in health. For more information, visit: www.york.ac.uk/phrc/index.htm

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