



Reducing NHS Costs Associated with Smoking

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Policy Context: The UK government has pledged a smoke-free England by 2030, urging a commitment to lowering smoking rates and associated costs

Key research findings: If half of the smoking population were to transition to reduced-risk products like e-cigarettes and heated tobacco, there would be a 13% decrease in hospital admissions. This reduction translates in over half billion savings for the NHS

Key policy recommendations: Encouraging people who smoke to switch to e-cigarettes and heated tobacco can strategically free up healthcare resources, allowing for their reallocation to more pressing health issues

Key research findings

- > In a scenario where 10% of smokers transition to reduced-risk products such as e-cigarettes and heated tobacco, assuming a 70% risk reduction for smoking-related diseases, a 2.6% decrease in total admissions and a 2.5% reduction in health expenditure for specific diseases were estimated. These modest reductions would yield **savings exceeding £103 million**, with the most significant impact observed in the Midlands and North East/Yorkshire regions. Notably, £26 million in savings would be attributed to lung cancer care alone
- > In a scenario where 50% of people who smoke switched to reduced-risk products, the analysis projected a 13.0% reduction in hospital admissions and a 12.36% reduction in health expenditure across the five diseases categories. These reductions would deliver **savings of £518 million**, with **£131 million** of attributable to lung cancer savings.

[Link to paper](#)

Policy recommendations

- > **Implementation of alternative innovative products for risk reduction.** The "swap to stop" policy should encompass both heated tobacco and e-cigarettes.
- > **Creating an incentive program to promote smoking reduction.** Provide incentives, such as raising taxes on traditional cigarettes, for substituting combustible products with alternatives that pose lower risks
- > **Local policy.** Greatest overall benefit will be derived from focussing attention on regions with highest rates of smoking
- > **Commissioning research.** A crucial assumption in the literature posits that the decrease in risk associated with switching to reduced-risk products is linked to a reduction in exposure to chemicals. While changing to e-cigarettes and heated tobacco will reduce disease, further work should be commissioned to better evaluate the full extent of risk reduction
- > **Generational Sales Ban.** The Generational Sales Ban should exclude e-cigarettes and Heated Tobacco Product alternatives

Work with me

Professor Francesco Moscone's research spans health economics and healthcare management, providing valuable insights into the financial aspects of healthcare and social care systems. He contributes to evidence-based policymaking and the advancement of efficient, sustainable healthcare systems in these domains.

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If you would like to learn more about my research, invite me to speak to your team, or ask for advice or guidance in sustainable health systems.