

Beyond the Smoke

Tobacco/ Nicotine Research,
Policies and Recommendations
9/23/22

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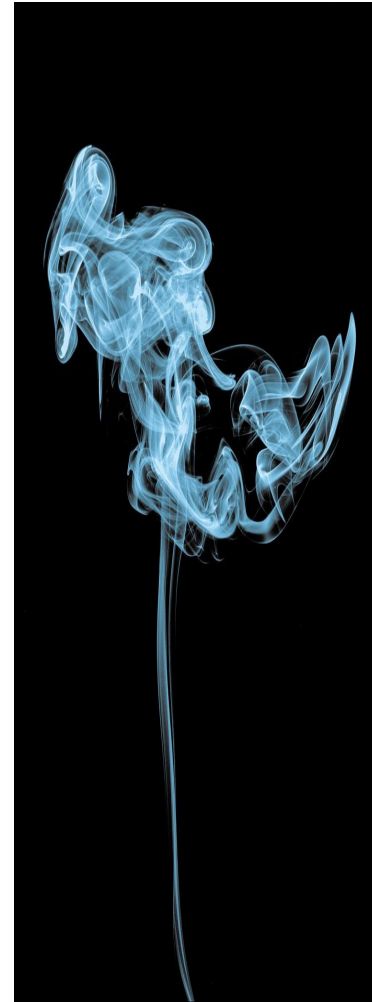


Impacts of Nicotine Products (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, etc..)

Smoking leads to disease and disability and harms nearly every organ of the body.

More than 16 million Americans are living with a **disease** caused by smoking. Smoking causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Smoking also increases risk for tuberculosis, certain eye diseases, and problems of the immune system, including rheumatoid arthritis.

Secondhand smoke exposure contributes to approximately 41,000 deaths among nonsmoking adults and 400 deaths in infants each year. Secondhand smoke causes stroke, lung cancer, and coronary heart disease in adults. Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, middle ear disease, more severe asthma, respiratory symptoms, and slowed lung growth.



Placement - Visible/Easy to See Displays - Akeem

Placement – Placement is where tobacco & nicotine products are placed in a store, gas station, bodega, etc. or anywhere that sells those products.

Current Policy - There are no current policies or laws in place that addresses the placement of tobacco and nicotine products.

What I see / What I believe - In many stores or establishments, tobacco and nicotine products are placed near or next to items that are for children and are placed where everyone can see them on display. Placement of tobacco products next to products that children purchase or need, can negatively affect the lives of children because being constantly introduced to these products or by simply seeing them in stores may allow it to become part of their reality. Because seeing the products as “normal”, children may not realize the negative impacts of the product. Also, consistently seeing the product can make young customers curious and make them want to try the product.

Placement - Visible/Easy to See Displays - Continued

Policy Recommendations

Tobacco and nicotine products shouldn't be easily visible to customers.

- They should be placed under the counter.
- They should not be placed next to products that are purchased or used by children/youth frequently (candy, cookies, pampers, baby formula, etc.)

Pro: If you don't see the products you might not buy or be tempted to try to buy out of curiosity. This can decrease the number of African Americans that purchase tobacco products, then there would be less usage and a decrease in deaths from illnesses.

Cons: Merchants will not want to move placement of these products. They will say it will lead to decrease in sales.

Decision: Yes/ No

Placement - Point of Sale -Akeem

Definition - Point of Sale (POS) is wherever a customer can be rung or checked out when making a purchase at a business.

Current Policy - There are no current policies or laws in place that addresses the placement of tobacco or nicotine products in a business. No policy about placement at point of sale.

What I See/ What I believe- Tobacco and Nicotine products are placed near where you check out. In bodegas they are placed on a shelf behind near where the cash register is located so you see them as you are checking out.

Policy recommendation- Tobacco and nicotine products should be sold in a location or area within the store away instead of near the cash register for everyone to see them.

Pros – Everyone checks out their purchases but if the products are not visible when checking out, it might decrease purchases cause customers won't have the constant reminder to purchase at the last minute when checking out.

Cons - Stores are small and space store owners use the space to the best of their ability. Most stores only have one check out location.

Decision: Yes/No

Advertising /Signage - Akelia

Definition- Advertising is the techniques and practices used to bring products, services, opinions, or causes to public notice to persuade the public to respond in a certain way toward what is advertised, normally a **specific product** or idea.

Signage is a term that is defined as all of the visual graphics (public advertisements, billboards, etc..) or groups of graphics that communicate information to the public.

Businesses can advertise a product in different ways such as awnings, wall sign, and canopy signs but our focus is on window signs. A window sign can be a poster, cut out, paintings, and digital signs that is exposed to the public view.

Current Policy – Hartford has a policy.

Only a continuous window can be covered 30% and a business with one window can't be 50% covered while a small square window should not be more than 10% covered.

Depending on the number of building stories/floors there really isn't a quantity limit but if its a story building each floor are allowed the same requirements.

Advertising / Signage Continued- Akelia

What I See ? When I'm going to school or my programs many corner stores, grocery markets, and gas stations advertise Tobacco, Nicotine, and Alcohol products on big cut outs and posters. They are being advertised boldly to draw your attention to them. You might go in to buy some food or snacks but you see these ads so you now think of them as something you should purchase also.

Policy recommendation: My recommendation is that all harmful products such as Tobacco, Nicotine, and Alcohol should not be advertised in the window for the public view .

Pros: The pros of having this policy is that it will not be as convincing to purchase because there will be one advertisement for the product and applying to the public .

Cons: The cons of having this policy is that many people believe that it is a discriminatory to target a specific product because they can say you are targeting the users of those products.

Decision: Yes/No

Proximity

Definition - The state of being near in space or time - How close to a school or recreation center a place to purchase tobacco/nicotine products is located

Current Policy - None for tobacco or nicotine products

But for alcohol: no alcohol can be sold within 500 feet of rec centers and schools in Hartford

What I See/ What I believe - Personally I take the city bus to school every morning and on the way to school I see 2 liquor stores and 2 smoke shops. I also see that the corner stores, bodegas and gas stations selling tobacco/nicotine products which they advertise in their storefronts. None of these are within 500 feet of my school but some are about 2 or 3 blocks from the schools. However, across from the YMCA on Albany Ave, I think the store across the street sells these products and it may be less than 500 feet away. Also Global Communications Academy and Parkville School may have stores across the street from them selling these products and that might be less than 500 feet.

Proximity - Continued

Policy recommendation - I recommend for the 500 feet policy to be adopted for tobacco or nicotine products such as e-cigarettes, etc.. This is the same distance as is in now in place for alcohol sales in Hartford

Pros - If there is a 500 feet limit for the sale of these products, it makes it a bit more difficult to access because you may have to go out of the way. It also reflects the current policy for alcohol sale. Very few businesses, if any, would be impacted by this currently.

Cons - Profit may decrease for store owners within the 500 feet if they have to stop selling these products. Store owners might be opposed to this because they say they make most of their profit from these products.

Decision: Yes/No

Signage - Drug Free School Zone

Definition

Signage that says “Drug Free School Zone” on school grounds

Current Policy - No policy on signage, only on use or sale of drugs near schools.

Current law generally requires a mandatory minimum prison sentence, in addition and consecutive to any prison term imposed for the underlying crime, for drug sales and paraphernalia crimes committed in designated zones (commonly called drug free zones). The mandatory minimum sentences are as follows: 1. three years for selling illegal drugs or committing sale-related crimes within 1,500 feet of property comprising a (a) public or private elementary or secondary school, (b) licensed child day care center identified as such by a sign in a conspicuous place, or (c) public housing project (CGS § 21a-278a(b)); and 2. one year for various drug paraphernalia crimes committed within 1,500 feet of property comprising a public or private elementary or secondary school when the defendant is not a student there (CGS § 21a-267(c)).

What I See/ What I believe: I see kids hanging out sometimes smoking outside buildings.



Signage - Drug Free School Zone

Policy recommendation: We recommend that signage be posted on school and recreation center grounds to inform community that those areas are “drug free” zones. Also want this posted because one thing we heard is that many kids do not smoke or use tobacco products but they do smoke “marijuana”. Signs should be posted near the play area of schools where people normally congregate..

Pros: Reminder that drugs are no allowed in the areas where they signs are posted so people cannot say they did not know.

Cons: Cost to post sign. Some may say it draws attention to issue.

Decision: Yes/No

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/rpt/pdf/2016-R-0199.pdf>



Signage - Smoke Free Zone

Definition - Signage that lets you know that a building or area does not allow smoking, vaping, or use of products that create smoke. (cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, etc..)

Current Policy -

CHAPTER 368m NUISANCES AND PUBLIC PLACES

https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_368m.htm#sec_19a-342a

[Sec. 19a-342. \(Formerly Sec. 1-21b\). Smoking prohibited. Exceptions. Signs required. Penalties.](#)

[Sec. 19a-342a. Use of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product prohibited. Exceptions. Signage required. Penalties.](#)

Sec. 19a-342. (Formerly Sec. 1-21b). Smoking prohibited. Exceptions. Signs required. Penalties. (a) As used in this section, “smoke” or “smoking” means the lighting or carrying of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or similar device.

Sec. 19a-342a. Use of electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product prohibited. Exceptions. Signage required. Penalties. (a) As used in this section and section 2 of public act 15-206*:(1)”



Signage - Smoke Free Zone - Cont.

What I See/ What I believe: I see kids hanging out sometimes smoking outside buildings. We also hear that kids smoke/vape in the bathrooms.

Policy recommendation : These kind of signs be posted at schools and recreation centers to remind users of the buildings and grounds that they cannot smoke in those areas.

Pros: This is a reminder that smoking is not allowed in case someone forgets.

Cons: Cost to place signs is an extra expense and some might say signs are not needed or are ugly.

Decision: Yes/No

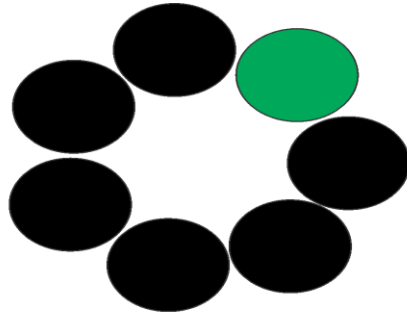
<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Education-Management--Surveillance/Tobacco/Schools>



Need help to stop smoking?

- [1-800-QUIT-NOW](#)
- [1-855-DÉJELO-YA \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Asian Smokers' Quitlineexternal icon](#)
 - [1-800-838-8917](#) (Chinese)
 - [1-800-556-5564](#) (Korean)
 - [1-800-778-8440](#) (Vietnamese)
- [1-855-QUIT-VET](#)

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Advocacy to Legacy

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