



EUPHA's response to European Commission's call for evidence on smoke-free environments

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To support the call for evidence from the European Commission, EUPHA presents relevant scientific publications from the [European Journal of Public Health](#). This overview document presents a selection of peer-reviewed articles on outdoor smoking regulations and on emerging products, such as e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products. The key results and conclusions are presented in bullet points, including the implications for policy and the European Commission recommendations (indicated with an arrow →).

- Kenndey et al. (2012) studied outdoor smoking behaviour and support for outdoor smoking restrictions before and after France's national smoking ban. The French indoor smoking ban (2008) is associated with increased non-smoking behaviour. At the same time, this indoor ban moved smoking to outdoor spaces. A majority of respondents support outdoor smoking restrictions in patio environments.
 - ➔ From this study we may conclude that in order to protect people from exposure to second-hand smoke, indoor bans should be accompanied with outdoor bans.
 - ➔ Furthermore, policies that restrict outdoor smoking in hospitality settings such as the patios/terraces of restaurants or bars may expect support from the general public.

- Internationally, the spread of outdoor school ground smoking bans could be further promoted, Rozema et al. (2018) conclude. Once implemented, the ban has become 'normal' practice and investments tend to endure. Moreover, involvement of all staff is important for sustainability as they function as role models, have an interrelationship with students, and share responsibility for enforcement.
 - ➔ These findings are promising for the sustainability of future tobacco control initiatives to further protect against the morbidity/mortality associated with smoking.

- Smoking in bars was studied in 16 cities in 8 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany and the Netherlands) by Beek et al. (2019). Whereas comprehensive smoke-free legislation resulted in high compliance, smoking increased in bars in countries with partial or no smoke-free legislation.

- This study confirms that comprehensive smoke-free legislation, including outdoor spaces, is needed to protect customers and personnel against second-hand-smoke exposure in all bars.

- Brown et al. (2022) report on a comprehensive smoke-free prison policy that was introduced in Scottish prisons in November 2018, including both indoor and outdoor spaces. This policy allowed persons in custody to use e-cigarettes in designated areas. The use of e-cigarettes by staff on prison ground was already prohibited since 2008. The new restrictions on smoking had been widely accepted by people in custody, after a period of adjustment which was less troublesome than participants had anticipated. Benefits of the smoke-free prison policy for the safety and comfort of staff and people in custody who were no longer exposed to second-hand smoke, and additionally for the health of people in custody who were now smoking-abstinent, were widely acknowledged. Drawbacks of the smoke-free prison policy, such as difficulties managing without tobacco and use of alternatives (e.g. e-cigarettes and changes in use of illegal drugs), were also reported. Contraband tobacco was not reported to be a major problem following prisons becoming smoke-free. In conclusion, the findings strengthen evidence that smoke-free prison policies can be implemented without causing major disruption and highlight the need for removal of tobacco to be underpinned by careful planning, partnership working and ensuring the availability of support for smokers. Experiences from Scotland may be of interest internationally for jurisdictions considering smoke-free rules in prisons.
 - The wide acceptance of implementing the smoke-free prison policy in Scotland seem encouraging for implementing comprehensive smoke-free policies, including both indoor and outdoor areas, also in settings other than prisons.

- Brose et al. (2017) surveyed 11,389 adults in Great Britain and found that just over half (52.2%) supported an extension of smoke-free laws to include the use of e-cigarettes and a fifth (20.7%) were opposed to an extension.
 - This study leads the way to expect that there will be support from a majority of the public for extending smoke free regulations to include vaping.

- Tarasenko et al. (2022) studied the latest state of e-cigarette use in youth in 17 European study sites using the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS). They found that in the last 4–6 years, the percentage of students aged 11–17 years currently using e-cigarettes had doubled in Georgia and Italy, and nearly doubled in Latvia. The prevalence of current e-cigarette use increased in Romania and San Marino. The finding of upward trend is similar to reports from other countries.
 - Growing numbers of e-cigarette use in children and youth underline the urgency to incorporate e-cigarette in smoke-free policies.

Learn more about e-cigarettes in the [EUPHA Facts and fiction on e-cigs](#)¹.

In sum, the evidence is supportive of expanding the 2009 recommendations on smoke-free environments with outdoor spaces and emerging products, including electronic cigarettes and heated tobacco products.



References

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¹ Available here: https://eupha.org/repository/advocacy/EUPHA_facts_and_fiction_on_e-cigs.pdf



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