

Environmental and Health Challenges of Electronic Cigarettes - Are We Ready



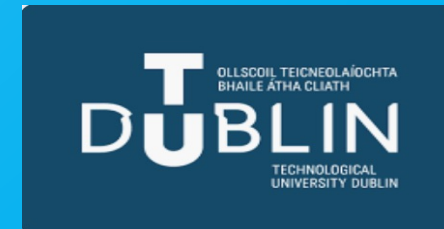
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Environmental Health Association of Ireland Forum 2023.

11:50-13:10, Friday May 19th, Radisson Hotel, Rosses Point, Sligo.



Covid-19 Lockdowns - Economic & Social Costs

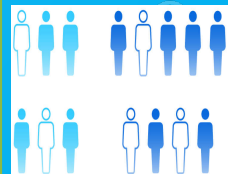
Financial Costs – not yet agreed
but e.g. US\$16 Trillion

\$ € ¥ £

Economic Costs - stopping of
manufacture, distribution and sale
of all but essential goods.



Social Costs – discontinuation
of all but essential services,
closure of entertainment
venues and activities.



Irish Thoracic Society Virtual ASM, Paediatric Forum, 2 December 2020

Worrying Changes in Adolescent E-cigarette Use 2014-2019: A Secondary Analysis of Five Irish Health Datasets



Joan Hanafin, Salome Sunday, Sheila Keogan, Luke Clancy

Tobaccofree Research Institute Ireland

www.tri.ie

SOURCES

Five Irish health datasets, with questions on Irish adolescents' e-cigarette use

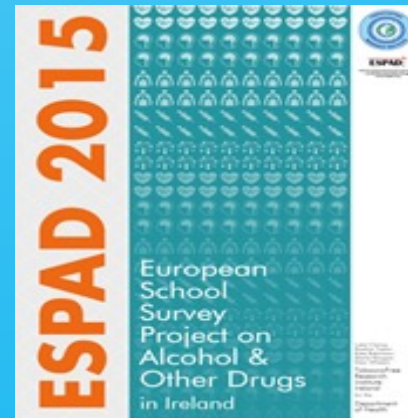


Fig.1 Trend of adolescent e-cigarette prevalence (ever-use) in Ireland 2014-2019



The Tobacco Control Story during Covid

Tobacco Control a largely negative story despite some bold initiatives

Spain - Smokefree laws extended to outside areas

South Africa, India, Botswana - bans on sale of tobacco & nicotine products

WHO MPOWER policy suggestions

But unlikely to be implemented in an emergency when so commonly neglected during regular times.



LOW/NO COST INTERVENTIONS FOR TOBACCO CONTROL DURING COVID-19

Tobacco - Cigarettes

Extend no-smoking law to all outside areas of pubs, clubs, restaurants

Provide drug-free smoking cessation on-line



Electronic Cigarettes

Include e-cigarettes in all tobacco control laws

(Smokefree, Price, Age restriction, Ban advertising including POS, Plain packaging)

Not to be used where smoking forbidden

THE IRISH TIMES


Tue Apr 7 2020

THE IRISH TIMES 15°

Do you smoke or vape? Here's why Covid-19 means you should quit right now

Smoking-damaged lungs leave you at far greater risk from a coronavirus attack

Expand



Studies from Wuhan in China show that smokers with Covid-19 respiratory disease have a poorer prognosis, have more severe disease, a higher need for intensive care, a higher need for ventilation, and are more likely to die. Photograph: Reuters

Prof Luke Clancy
Tue Apr 7 2020 - 06:01

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Covid-19 is changing our lives, maybe for ever, and remarkable efforts are being made to save people's lives. Action on smoking and vaping cessation must become part of these efforts because, already, data clearly show the influence of smoking on the disease caused by Covid-19.

LATEST STORIES >

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- Candidates with terrorist past bring Eta into Spanish campaign
- Irish EU ambassador to Sudan speaks of relief at being unhurt after military 'stormed' home

Do you smoke or vape? Here's why Covid-19 means you should quit right now

Smoking-damaged lungs leave you at far greater risk from a coronavirus attack

*Consultant Respiratory Physician Prof Luke Clancy is
Director General of TobaccoFree Research Institute Ireland*

What happened to Tobacco Control during Covid

- Data collection stalled- poor TC data gathered
- Cessation initially abandoned
- Policy initiatives moth-balled
- Price rises halted or reversed
- In some situations, cigarettes regarded as “essential supplies”
- Reduced enforcement of illicit trade in Tobacco
- WHO – “Meet Florence” MPOWER



What happened to the Tobacco Industry during Covid

The Tobacco Industry saw their opportunity and

- increased their marketing through provision of e.g., items of PPE which were in short supply
- fought to maintain the 'rights' of smokers
- offered 'generous' help to governments
- promoted how 'good' they were for the economy
- Greenwashing & CSR
- Despite : FCTC Article 5.3 , Art.17



COVID-19 Deaths in Ireland

Total number of Covid-19 deaths 8,839 (56/week)

Tobacco Deaths in Ireland

Total number of Tobacco deaths 15,000 (96/week)

1 March 2020 – 30 April 2023



Positive Consequences



Positive less well highlighted



Science & research– extensive data collection & analysis, often in real time



Number, quality & speed of multicentre RCTs & rapid dissemination never seen before



Hugely effective vaccine development and deployment was unprecedented



The economic price agreed was ‘whatever it takes’

WHY

were consequences different for Tobacco Control and TI during Covid-19

- Pre-pandemic failure to have TC needs recognised as essential or even important
- We had no plan for the pandemic
- We had no plan to deal with the TI
- We failed to make an impact on the strategic response to the pandemic
- We had few resources except unappreciated and numerically scant human resources



Tobacco Control

Post Pandemic

Human Rights-

ASH Ireland 2002 - Right to breathe clean air

ENSP 2012- children, gender, race

Children

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including SDG 3 and 4

Environment- electronic cigarette waste

Disposable devices, e-liquid containers, packaging, circuit boards, lithium-ion batteries, and hazardous chemicals



Do Not Accept Framing of E-cigarettes as a Comparison with Cigarettes

and Remember

“Fundamental And Irreconcilable Conflict Between The Tobacco Industry's Interests And Public Health Policy Interests” FCTC Art.5.3

STOP THE PLASTICS

STOP SINGLE USE DEVICES

STOP THE INAPPROPRIATE WASTE DISPOSAL

STOP THE GREENWASHING

STOP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE GETTING ADDICTED

USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO TELL THE TRUTH

GET SERIOUS ABOUT HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT (AGAIN)



Lessons from the Pandemic Experience

What have we learned and can we do better in future?

- We must improve our scientific research
 - Our TC monitoring and data collection was inadequate and not embedded in vital national statistics
 - We were unable to answer the basic question about the importance of smoking and e-cigarettes in Sars-Cov-2 infection
- We must invest in stopping this most preventable loss of health and life
- We must protect the Environment



Unprecedented Societal Responses



safeguarding the health
of the individual and community
placed far ahead of
safeguarding the economy



EXPOSED

Decision makers' standard response - willingness to implement improvements and reforms, but the people would not tolerate the cost

