Youth Smoking & Cigarette Prices

- Economists suggest negative effect of price on current smoking.
- Few studies have examined smoking onset—with mixed results.
- Can economic factors stop the transition from experimenting to established smoking?
- Which are the most effective public policies for preventing nicotine addiction?

Price & Policy Measures

- Average Perceived Price (Survey)
- State Average Price (Tobacco Institute)
- Smoking Restrictions (State & Local)
- Youth Access Restrictions (Compliance)
- Preemption
- Smuggling

Stages of Smoking Uptake

STAGE 1: No experiment, no intention.
STAGE 2: No experiment, but intention to smoke in the future; or, experimented, but no intention to smoke in the future.
STAGE 3: Experimented and intention to smoke in the future; or, smoked, not recently, and no intention to smoke in the future.
STAGE 4: Smoked, not recently, but intention to smoke in the future; or smoked recently, but < 100 cigarettes.
STAGE 5: Smoked > 100 cigarettes
UPAKE PROGRESS:
Price & Public Policy Effects

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Results

• Higher price slows progress towards cigarette addiction.
• Higher price progressively reduces odds of being in higher uptake stages.
• Youth access restrictions progressively reduce odds of being in higher uptake stages (social v. commercial sources).
• Preemption and smuggling increase odds of being in higher uptake stages.
• Smoking restrictions not significant.

Comments

• Dynamic Process v. Cross Section
• Price is Assumed to be Exogenous (State Sentiment v. Policy Variables; Perceived Price v. Average Price)
• Endogeneity of Public Policies
• Difficulty to Measure Public Policies