Expert Elicitation on the Effects of a Federal Menthol Ban

Christopher Cadham
University of Michigan
This project was funded through National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) grant U54CA229974.

The opinions expressed in this presentation are the authors’ own and do not reflect the views of the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Health and Human Services, or the United States government.

Study team reports no conflicts of interest.
FDA announced its intention to ban menthol in cigarettes, effects remain unknown

Expert Elicitation can be used to quantify uncertainty

Has been used by FDA, EPA, NASA, and IPCC among others
Methods

• Invited 12 experts based on publication record
  • 11 accepted

• Considered three ban scenarios vs. Status Quo:
  • Menthol cigarettes and cigars
  • Menthol cigarettes only
  • All flavors (including menthol) of cigarettes, cigars, and e-cigarettes

• Behaviors:
  • Initiation, product switching and cessation

• Age groups, both overall and African Americans:
  • 12-24, 18-24, 35-54
## Results – Initiation (ages 12-24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Status Quo</th>
<th>Overall Population</th>
<th>African Americans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Net Effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total combustible use (status quo all menthol cigarettes)</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>-58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become exclusive smokeless tobacco or other oral tobacco product users</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become novel nicotine delivery product users (NNDP), such as e-cigarettes or heated tobacco products</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No tobacco or novel nicotine delivery product (NNDP) use</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Results – Switching (ages 35-54)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Overall Population</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>African Americans</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Status Quo</td>
<td>Menthol Ban</td>
<td>Net Effects</td>
<td>Status Quo</td>
<td>Menthol Ban</td>
<td>Net Effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Combustible Use</td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>50.5</td>
<td>-30.1</td>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>-45.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch to exclusive smokeless tobacco or other oral tobacco products</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch to novel nicotine delivery products (NNDP), such as e-cigarettes or heated tobacco products</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quit regular use of all tobacco or novel nicotine delivery products</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion

- A national menthol ban in cigarettes and cigars is expected to reduce combustible tobacco initiation and use
- The ban is expected to increase NNDP use among tobacco initiates and prior menthol users
- The ban may reduce tobacco related disparities from lower initiation and greater cessation among African Americans
Thank you!

Collaborators:
Georgetown University
  • David T. Levy, Luz Maria Sanchez-Romero, Marie Knoll, Nargiz Travis, Zhe Yuan, Yameng Li

Yale University
  • Jamie Tam

Email:
ccadham@umich.edu

University of Michigan
  • Ritesh Mistry, Cliff Douglas, Jamie Tam, Aylin Sertkaya, Kenneth E. Warner, Rafael Meza

ERG
  • Aylin Sertkaya