

From "Stephen Helfer" <shelfer@gmail.com>
To belmonte@doverma.gov; mdisciullo@doverma.gov;
mblanchard@doverma.gov
Date 2025-04-06 02:10:33+00:00
Subject GENERATIONAL TOBACCO & NICOTINE PRODUCT BAN

To the Board of Health, Selectman, & Selectmen:

On September 5, 2024 the FDA reported that teen smoking is at an all-time low & teen vaping is at a ten-year low. On January 16 of this year, the Agency authorized 20 different kinds of ZYN nicotine pouches & announced that, despite the product's popularity, teen use remains low. If the tobacco industry is trying to attract youth, it is not succeeding. Teens are not using these products & retailers are fined if they sell to persons under 21.

Adults 21 & over in Massachusetts may use their judgment regarding alcohol & marijuana--both intoxicants. Should they not be free to do so regarding tobacco & nicotine products, which, in fact, enhance cognition & motor skills?

Almost all stores selling nicotine & tobacco products are owned by immigrants of color. Adding new burdensome restrictions on their businesses may not shut them down, but it will hurt and devalue them.

Please do not impose more burdensome new tobacco or nicotine restrictions.

Stephen Helfer
Cambridge Citizens for Smokers' Rights
(We receive no funds from any source whatsoever)

Cigarette smoking reached the lowest level ever recorded by the survey, with only 1.4% of students reporting current use in 2024.

FDA Newsroom, October 17, 2024

<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/ctp-newsroom/youth-tobacco-product-use-25-year-low-yet-disparities-persist>

“Youth E-Cigarette Use Drops to Lowest Level in a Decade: Youth Use of Nicotine Pouches Remains Low”

FDA News Release, Sept 5, 2024

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/youth-e-cigarette-use-drops-lowest-level-decade>

The significant effects of nicotine on motor abilities, attention, and memory likely represent true performance enhancement because they are not confounded by withdrawal relief.

"Meta-analysis of the acute effects of nicotine and smoking on human performance," Stephen J Heishman, Psychopharmacology, July, 2010

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3151730/>