
Nicotine Free Generation: March 2026

1 message

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The NFG policy uses a birthdate to set a limit on retailers' ability to sell nicotine products. NFG prevents the creation of future demand for nicotine by preventing sales to anyone born after the designated birth date. Users who currently are legally sold nicotine are NOT affected.

Please invite us to make a presentation about NFG. We have been speaking with boards of health, other government entities, and community groups.

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This month, the Town of Hardwick in Worcester County became the 22nd community to enact Nicotine Free Generation. This brings the total population of NFG cities and towns to over 629,000 people.

This growing list now includes Amherst, Belchertown, Brookline, Chelsea, Concord, Conway, Dover, Hardwick, Hopkinton, Leverett, Malden, Melrose, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Needham, Newton, Pelham, Reading, Somerville, South Hadley, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Winchester. More are on the way!

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There is exciting news about Nicotine Free Generation, both internationally and nationally.

- **The Maldives**, an island archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean, began implementing a smoking ban on anyone born after January 2007, becoming the only country with a generational prohibition on tobacco, according to its health ministry.

The move, which was initiated by the president, Mohamed Muizzu, earlier this year and came into effect on 1 November, will "protect public health and promote a tobacco-free generation", the ministry said.

"Under the new provision, individuals born on or after 1 January 2007 are prohibited from purchasing, using, or being sold tobacco products within the Maldives," it added. -- *The Guardian*,
11/01/25

This means that nicotine cannot be sold to anyone who was 17 years old or under fifteen months ago. In spite of the fact that The Maldives economy depends heavily on tourism, they were not afraid to take this step to save young lives.

- **The United Kingdom**; with separate votes in the parliaments of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland; is very close to enacting their Tobacco and Vapes Bill. It "aims to create the first 'smoke-free generation' by ensuring children turning 15 this year or younger can never be legally sold tobacco. It also seeks to enable product and information requirements to be imposed in connection with tobacco, vapes and other products." -- www.Parliament.UK

The original bill passed the House of Commons with strong support from both the Labour and Conservative Parties, and this month by the House of Lords. Some small changes, approved on Monday by Commons, require approval from Lords. It will then go to King Charles III for Royal Assent, probably in April.

The current population of the UK is over 69 million people. Support across the political spectrum is consistent with what we have experienced here in America, and specifically in Massachusetts.

- **California** has a growing list of cities and towns that are enacting total prohibitions on nicotine sales. (*This obviously goes much further than the Nicotine Free Generation laws in the Maldives, the United Kingdom, and here in Massachusetts.*) The cities of Beverly Hills and Manhattan Beach in southern California were the first in 2021, and recently towns in Marin County, north of San Francisco Bay, have followed. We hear that many other California communities are considering similar regulations.

"Notably, the ban did not lead to a decline in sales of non-tobacco products at convenience, grocery, and drug stores, nor did it increase tobacco sales in stores within the surrounding areas, refuting common claims by opponents that such a ban would cause economic strain on stores adhering to the ban."

-- <https://www.bu.edu/sph/news/articles/2026/first-ever-local-tobacco-sales-ban-nearly-eliminated-tobacco-purchases-in-california-cities/>

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For a serious but readable academic discussion in *The Lancet*:
< [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600\(25\)00400-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600(25)00400-X) >

Nicotine Free Generation has been endorsed by the Massachusetts Medical Society (founded in 1781), representing over 25,000 physicians, residents, and students. NFG has also been endorsed by the American Medical Association (founded in 1847), representing over 271,000 members nationwide. These and other professional societies want what is best for their patients. They review established medical studies before they endorse.

Please [invite us](#) to make a presentation about NFG.