

The tobacco endgame and priority populations: A scoping review

CHENEAL PULJEVIC,^{1,2} LEAH FEULNER¹, MARIA HOBBS¹, BILLIE BONEVSKI^{1,3}, CATHERINE SEGAN^{1,4,5}, AMANDA L BAKER^{1,6}, MARITA HEFLER^{1,7}, DANIEL ERKU^{1,8,9}, ARA CHO¹, CORAL GARTNER¹

¹NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence on Achieving the Tobacco Endgame, School of Public Health, The University of Queensland, Queensland, Australia; ² Centre for Health Services Research, The University of Queensland, Queensland, Australia ³ College for Medicine & Public Health, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia; ⁴ Cancer Council Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; ⁵ Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia; ⁶ School of Medicine and Public Health, The University of Newcastle, Newcastle, Australia; ⁷ Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University, Casuarina, Australia; ⁸ Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University, Gold Coast, QLD, Australia ; ⁹ Centre for Applied Health Economics, Griffith University, Nathan, QLD, Australia

Presenter's email: c.puljevic@uq.edu.au

Introduction and Aims: We aimed to summarise the research literature on the impacts or perceptions of policies to end tobacco use at a population level (i.e., tobacco endgame) among people from eight priority population groups (experiencing mental illness, substance use disorders, HIV, homelessness, unemployment, low incomes, who identify as LGBTQI+, or who have experienced incarceration).

Design and Methods: Guided by JBI scoping review methodology, we searched six databases for original research examining the impacts or perceptions of 12 tobacco endgame policies among eight priority populations published since 2000, complemented with a review of included articles by tobacco endgame experts. We report the results according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews checklist.

Results: Of the 18 included studies: one described perceptions of five endgame strategies among people on low incomes in New Zealand, and 17 focused on the effectiveness or impacts of a very low nicotine content (VLNC) standard among people experiencing mental illness (n=14), substance use disorders (n=8), low incomes (n=6), unemployment (n=1) or who identify as LGBTQI+ (n=1) in the USA. These studies provide evidence that VLNC cigarettes can reduce tobacco smoking, cigarette cravings, nicotine withdrawal, and nicotine dependence among these populations.

Discussions and Conclusions: Most of the tobacco control literature related to these priority populations focuses on VLNC cigarettes. Further research with these populations on the effectiveness, impacts (both expected and unexpected) and perceptions of other tobacco endgame strategies is needed.

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