

Using tobacco control policies to increase consumer demand for smoking cessation

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Abstract

Population-based indicators of smoking cessation have stalled in recent years. This commentary focuses attention on tobacco control policies that can be used to stimulate renewed consumer demand for smoking cessation. Tobacco use as reflected in population trends is the product of the interaction of three broad categories of factors: agent, host, and environment. Government policies are an important, modifiable environmental influence that can directly or indirectly influence smoking behavior. For example, numerous studies have shown that a hike in tobacco taxes reduces cigarette consumption and encourages smokers to quit.

Recommended Citation

Hyland, A., Cummings, K.M. (2010). Using tobacco control policies to increase consumer demand for smoking cessation. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 38 (Suppl 3), 347-350.

Link To PDF: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20176307>