

# E-Cigarettes: the debate

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# Agenda

- Background
- The debate
- Next steps

# Background

- At the Capetown meeting, a small group was charged with developing information regarding the use and effects of e-cigarettes
  - Attached to the agenda for Budapest MWG meeting is a draft report, authored by Sam Gutterman, with input from Ewa Dylewska, Al Klein and Brian Ridsdale
- Electronic-cigarettes use, also known as vaping
  - An electronic nicotine-delivery system
  - Less chemicals than tobacco cigarettes
  - Produces an aerosol by heating a liquid that contains a solvent, one or more flavorings, and usually nicotine
- Basically introduced in 2008
  - Use has grown rapidly:
    - In 2015, 12.6% of U.S. adults had tried an e-cigarette at least once and 3.7% were currently use e-cigarettes;
    - In 2014, about a quarter of the French between 15 and 75 have tried them
  - Has been touted as an approach to wean individuals away from tobacco smoking

# The debate

- Whether its use should be promoted or discouraged
- A wide difference in opinion
  - Certainly between regulators in the United Kingdom (in favor) and the United States (opposed)
  - The WHO (2014) indicated
    - Important for countries to regulate e-cigarettes as a potential health hazard
    - Insufficient evidence to consider e-cigarettes a therapeutic option

# The debate

- In favor
  - Effective means of weaning individuals off tobacco smoking
    - U.K. indicates the most effective method used
  - Fewer chemicals mean they are 95% safer than tobacco cigarettes
- Opposed
  - Flavors can attract new smokers and can lead to tobacco smoking, especially by the young
  - Remains dangerous and those containing nicotine can be addictive
  - Several recent studies have found more adverse concerns
  - Poor quality production control in some cases, especially early on
- Clearly needs further research

# Next steps

- Initial version of a report drafted by Sam Gutterman
- What should IAA next steps be?