

**From:** [Alex McDonald](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Information for SB24  
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**Attachments:** [Major New WHO Report Highlights Sweden's Smoke Free Success - Smoke Free Sweden 2024.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Please add this back up information for my oral testimony to the documents for SB24. I have included a link as well so committee members can click on the hyperlinks in the article.



Major New WHO Report Highlights Sweden's  
Smoke Free Success  
[smokefreesweden.org](https://smokefreesweden.org)

Thanks,

Alex McDonald  
Fairbanks, AK

## Major New WHO Report Highlights Sweden's Smoke Free Success



January 16, 2024

Stockholm, 16 January – A MAJOR new report from the World Health Organization (WHO) highlights Sweden's success in going smoke-free with the help of less harmful cigarette alternatives.

The WHO global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco use 2002-2030, released today, shows Sweden will have by far the lowest smoking rates in Europe by 2030 – along with the United Kingdom and Iceland, which also have progressive policies on modern nicotine products. Other nations on the continent will have smoking rates which are up to FOUR TIMES higher than that of Sweden.

Alarmingly, there has been a decline in the number of countries on track to meet the WHO's targets for smoking reduction, the report concludes.

Tobacco harm reduction experts are now calling on policymakers worldwide to follow Sweden's roadmap for quitting deadly cigarettes for ever.

Dr Delon Human, president of Health Diplomats and leader of the Smoke Free Sweden movement, says: "The latest official WHO figures are clear confirmation that reduced-risk alternatives, such as oral pouches and vapes, are helping adult smokers to kick their lethal habit.

"Vapes and pouches offer a 'fire exit' away from toxic combustible cigarettes and are the key to saving millions of lives across the globe."

Sweden is now within touching distance of the WHO's target smoke rate at which a country can officially declare itself smoke-free. It will be the first developed nation in the world to achieve this, thanks to policies that have made alternative nicotine products acceptable, accessible and affordable for adult smokers.

The public health benefits are remarkable. Compared with the rest of the European Union, Sweden has 44% fewer tobacco-related deaths, a cancer rate that is 41% lower, and 36% fewer deaths attributable to any cancer.

Today's WHO report estimates that by 2025 the UK will have reduced its smoking rates by 48% since 2010. Its progressive policies include its government's 'swap to stop' scheme, in which smokers are given free vapes to help them quit. The rapid decline in smoking in Iceland has also been credited to an increased use of vapes.

"These are the sort of outcomes that all nations should be striving for," Dr Human said. "The WHO's latest statistics set out who's winning the war against smoking and it's clear that Sweden is leading the charge.

"Today's report underscores the importance of providing smokers with access to less harmful alternatives. As more countries are evidently failing to reach the WHO's targets for smoking reduction, the message couldn't be simpler: follow the science and act upon the evidence that shows alternative nicotine products are the key to a smoke-free future."

The WHO report comes less than a week after a new Cochrane review found yet again that nicotine e-cigarettes are more effective in helping people quit smoking than conventional nicotine-replacement therapy (NRT).

This week, Bloomberg TV examined the issue in a piece entitled [Why No One Smokes In Sweden](#).

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About Smoke Free Sweden

Smoke Free Sweden is a campaign which encourages other countries to follow the Swedish model when it comes to Tobacco Harm Reduction. Sweden is about to become the first 'smoke-free' European country, with a smoking rate of below 5 percent. This remarkable achievement can be attributed to Sweden's open attitude towards alternative products.

For more information on Sweden's successful approach to becoming a smoke-free nation, please visit [www.smokefreesweden.org](http://www.smokefreesweden.org).

Contact

Smoke Free Sweden

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