



Title	A Systematic Review of Economic Evaluations for Tobacco Control Programs
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Aim

To systematically review economic evaluations of public health tobacco control programs.

Conclusions and results

Thirty-nine publications, describing 38 different studies, qualified for inclusion. They included economic evaluations on tobacco policy, taxation, mass media and telephone quit lines, games and monetary incentive programs, self-help and counselling interventions, school-based health promotion and education, and programs for pregnant women. Several factors limited our ability to draw head-to-head conclusions about the most effective and cost-effective public health tobacco control strategies. One such factor was variability in methodology in terms of whether studies attempted to quantify downstream health costs related to tobacco-related diseases. However, most of the included studies showed that public health tobacco control programs are highly cost effective.

Recommendations

Although the evidence clearly shows that tobacco use interventions are highly cost effective, more work is needed to rigorously evaluate price and tax increases, media campaigns, smoke-free air laws and workplace place interventions, quit lines, youth access enforcement, and school and community-based programs.

Methods

To identify relevant economic studies, we conducted a comprehensive literature search of medical and health technology assessment databases. Identified citations were scanned for relevance using a priori-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria based on the population and intervention. Studies that met the inclusion criteria were quality assessed using the quality appraisal checklist described in Drummond et al (1997). Information regarding study design, methods, and results were extracted into standardised data extraction forms.

Further research/reviews required

Further economic evaluations of tobacco control programs are encouraged.