



# Health Impact Review

HB1932, Concerning vapor products (2019 Legislative Session)

October 9, 2019

# Outline

- Health Impact Reviews (HIRs)
- House Bill 1932, Concerning vapor products (2019 Legislative Session)
- HIR findings



# Health Impact Reviews

Framework, process, and strength-of-evidence criteria

# HIR overview

HIRs can be requested for any bill topic.

A HIR is an objective, non-partisan, evidence-based analysis to determine how a legislative or budgetary change will likely impact health and health equity in Washington State.

HIRs can be requested by any legislator or the Governor.

(RCW 43.20.285)



# HIR Process

## Review Bill

Analysts determine how provisions in the bill would change the status quo by reviewing the bill language and interviewing staff at agencies responsible for implementing the proposed policy



## Explore Pathways

Analysts explore potential connections to health by:

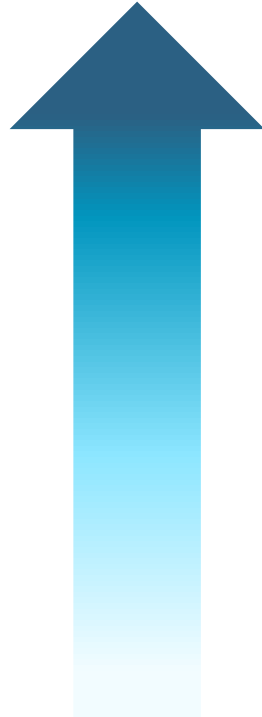
- Conducting initial literature reviews
- Reviewing public testimony and documents relevant to the bill
- Drafting a logic model for review by subject matter experts and key informants



## Review Literature

Analysts conduct specific reviews of literature to determine how the provisions may impact health and which populations are most likely to be impacted by the proposed change

# Strength-of-Evidence Criteria



VERY STRONG EVIDENCE  
STRONG EVIDENCE  
A FAIR AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE  
EXPERT OPINION  
INFORMED ASSUMPTION  
NOT WELL RESEARCHED  
UNCLEAR

# **HIR of HB 1932**

Concerning vapor products (2019 Legislative Session)

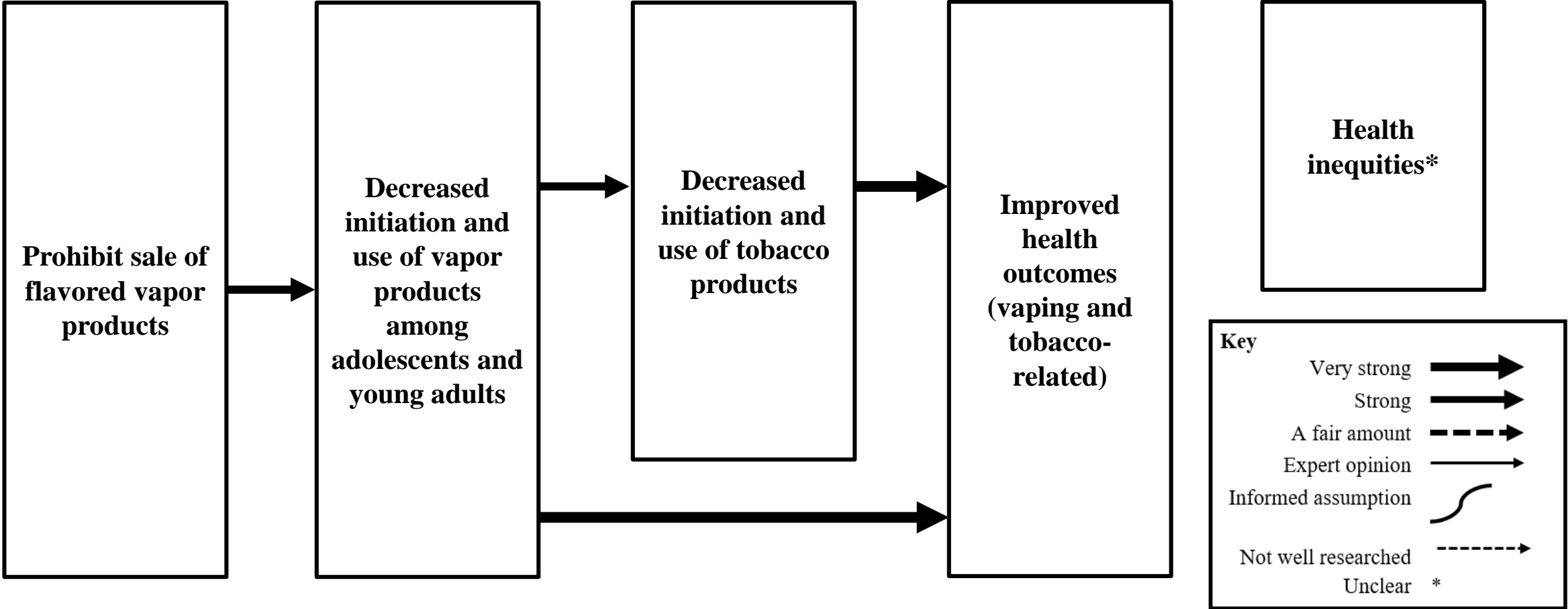
# HB 1932: Relevant Provisions

- Prohibits the sale of flavored vapor products and flavored marijuana vapor products.
- Defines “flavored vapor product” as any vapor product that imparts a characterizing flavor other than tobacco flavor.
- Defines “characterizing flavor” as a distinguishable taste or aroma, or both, other than the taste or aroma of tobacco, imparted by a vapor product.



# HB 1932, Concerning vapor products

Strength of evidence ratings are applicable to nicotine/tobacco vapor products.



# HB 1932: Summary of findings

Evidence related to prohibiting the sale of flavored vapor products



# Flavors

## Key takeaways informed by available literature

- There is **strong evidence** that prohibiting the sale of flavored vapor products will likely decrease initiation and use of vapor products among adolescents and young adults.
- Flavors, and associated advertising, contribute to the appeal, initiation, and use of tobacco products, including vapor products, particularly among adolescents and young adults.
- Most adolescents and young adults do not use e-cigarettes for the purpose of quitting smoking. Additionally, e-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as an aid to quit smoking.
- Adolescents and young adults who start using e-cigarettes may be more likely than their peers to begin using combustible cigarettes and other tobacco products.

# Health outcomes

## Key takeaways informed by available literature

- There is **very strong evidence** that decreasing use of vapor products for adolescents and young adults will likely improve health outcomes for these groups.
- E-cigarette use has numerous negative health impacts, including respiratory, cardiac, and digestive system effects; unintentional and intentional poisonings; and injuries due to explosion.
- Solvents and flavor chemicals in e-cigarettes cause harm at the cellular level and are cytotoxic.
- Flavor chemicals are cytotoxic in both the e-liquid and aerosol form.
- Emerging research also indicates using e-cigarettes is associated with adverse effects such as airway and lung obstruction.

# Other flavored tobacco

## Key takeaways informed by available literature

- Evaluations of regulations restricting flavors in other tobacco products (i.e., cigarettes, menthol cigarettes, and cigars) provide evidence that exemptions for certain flavors and product types reduce the overall effectiveness of these policies.
- Availability of other flavored tobacco/nicotine products may result in consumers substituting their use of restricted products with other products.
- Use of flavored tobacco products by adolescents has been associated with increased risk of multiple tobacco product use (dual and poly tobacco use).
- Due to targeted tobacco marketing to communities of color, LGBTQIA communities, and low-income communities, prohibiting the sale of flavors in vapor products alone may exacerbate existing inequities in tobacco product initiation and use.

# Marijuana

## Key takeaways informed by available literature

- The health impacts of marijuana vapor products and the impacts of the flavors in these products have not been well researched.
- Marijuana vapor products generally get their flavor from naturally derived terpenes that contribute to the flavor profile. However, cannabis oils can have manufactured (e.g., non-cannabis derived) terpenes and terpene additives.
- These additives are typically not well regulated, and may contain contaminants that could pose health risks and/or not be designed for aerosolization.
- The literature pertaining to the appeal of flavors is generalizable, and the presence and advertising of flavored marijuana vapor products increases their appeal to adolescents and young adults.

**Questions?**



# Contact

Lindsay Herendeen (she/her)  
[lindsay.herendeen@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:lindsay.herendeen@sboh.wa.gov)  
360-628-6823

Cait Lang-Perez (she/her)  
[caitlin.lang@sboh.wa.gov](mailto:caitlin.lang@sboh.wa.gov)  
360-628-7342

Completed Health Impact Reviews can be found on the  
Washington State Board of Health website:  
<http://sboh.wa.gov/OurWork/HealthImpactReviews.aspx>



# | THANK YOU