

#### **New Oral Nicotine Products**

**Emerging Issues and Continuing Public Health Concerns** 













#### **Scope and Themes**

**Health Considerations** 

**Availability** 

Placement & Packaging



Promotion

Pricing



#### **Sales and Promotion**

\$1.06 billion (2022)

5.63 billion lozenges, pucks, or pouches





→ Sales increase of **700**% from 2019 to 2022

→ Sales of higher concentration products rose more dramatically



## Health Considerations



#### **Nicotine Concentration and Mode**

- 1.5mg 12mg of nicotine per pouch can also be 25mg +
- ~50% nicotine absorption when ingested (~11% when inhaled)
- Nicotine salts much smoother than freebase nicotine can pack in more nicotine
- May be claimed as chemically synthesizes (synthetic) no neurochemical or physiological differences shown
- Nicotine impact on brain development and cardiovascular health;
  TSNAs

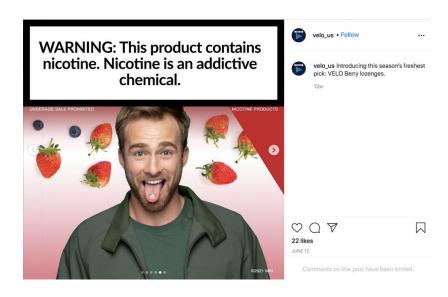


# Availability



#### **Availability**

- Found in age-gated establishments
- Found in all-age entry establishments
  - Gas stations, convenience and grocery stores, etc.
- Sold online





## Placement & Packaging



#### **Placement & Packaging**

- Currently, only cigarettes and smokeless tobacco are prohibited from self-service displays
  - Also lack of parity around pack size regulations, warning statement space on packaging
  - Fewer restrictions around imagery that imitates packaging for food products or are particularly youth-oriented



### Promotion

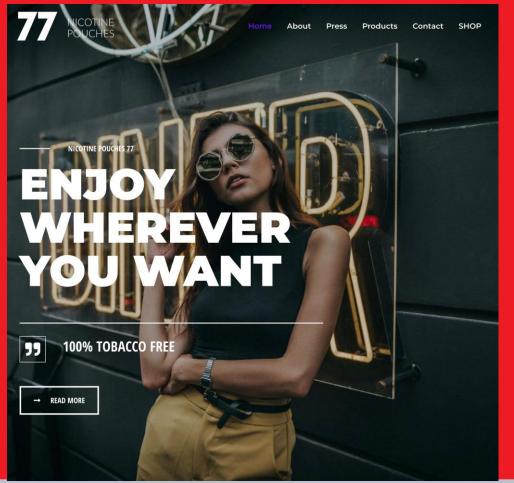




WARNING: This product contains nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive chemical.









# Pricing



#### **Pricing**

- \$4 \$5 = average price (15 pouches)
  - Half to one-third the price of a pack of cigarettes
  - Exempt from certain state taxes
  - Fewer coupon/discount restrictions





## Federal Regulation



#### **Federal Regulation**

- All products are supposed to receive pre-market authorization to be marketed legally
  - Manufacturers have the onus to prove their products are "appropriate for the protection of the public health"
  - As of April 2024, only 4 such product types have been authorized none of which are on the market today
  - Sales of unauthorized products remain widespread
  - FDA issued 100+ warning letters in April 2024 to retailers out of compliance with MLSA
    - Violations occurred over just a five-month period

#### Other issues:

Addressing claims of synthetic nicotine and agency jurisdiction – April 2022



## State Regulation



#### **State Regulation**

- May be outside of state definition of tobacco products
- May be outside of state definition for electronic cigarettes
  - Recognition of non-applicability of tobacco and/or vaping-related retail zoning restrictions, flavored product sales restrictions, discounting policies, taxation, etc.
- Continuing difficulties for states online sales, direct advertisements or indirect product sponsorships
- Lack of nicotine concentration limit at federal level



## **Key Policy Considerations**



#### **Key Policy Considerations**

- Appropriate consideration of definitions and inclusion/exclusion in state or local regulatory frameworks.
  - Regulating "tobacco" / Regulating "nicotine"
- Ensure that there is intentional tax regulatory framework, the funds from which support addiction prevention and cessation.
- Leveraging zoning regulations to restrict the density/proximity of nicotine retailers near youth-serving locations
- Consider how flavored products are targeted in particular communities across the country



# Individual-Level Treatments vs Population-level Policies



# Thank you!

Jacob@countertools.org

